



D i g e s t e r

o v e r t h e s p i l l w a y

"for optimum operation/maintenance of all water and wastewater facilities"

Coming Soon for Permit Holders: Electronic Monitoring Reporting

Regulated sector indicates strong support for paperless data submittals.

Each month, each of the more than 2,600 holders of basic permits to discharge to state waters must submit to the Illinois EPA discharge monitoring reports including sample analyses required by those permits.

The eDMR system has been designed so that permittees with a computer and an Internet connection will be able to complete, sign, submit, edit and re-submit eDMR forms online.

Soon, using a system being implemented through federal grants from U.S. EPA, those permit holders will have the option of entering the data into an online form and submitting it electronically to the Agency. Utilizing Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) and digital certification provided through the Illinois Certificate Authority, the electronic data will provide security

and procedures that ensure the data remains unaltered during transmission over the Internet, storage and retrieval. The data submitted through the web-based DMR form will be posted into the federal permit compliance system where it will be accessible for compliance processing.

Participation will be entirely voluntary, but the IEPA will be strongly encouraging NPDES permittees to consider using the electronic reporting method when it becomes available. At this time, it is expected it should be available as soon as next July. The IEPA did a survey of permit holders, and received positive responses indicating 78 percent of the NPDES permit holders were interested in using such a system.

The eDMR system has been designed so that permittees with a computer and an Internet connection will be able to complete, sign, submit, edit and re-submit eDMR forms online. Once access has been gained to the system, using the state's PKI mechanism, the eDMR for a specific permit, discharge location and monitoring period can be selected for completion. Forms may be completed by entering the data directly into the forms, or by importing a standard file generated by the permit holder's existing computer system. If permittees choose the

import option, they will be responsible for all necessary programming to their existing systems to produce the standard file. To assist in accurate and complete reporting, various quality assurance checks will be performed during completion of the eDMRs. The authorized facility representative will sign the completed eDMR using a digital signature and the state's PKI process. The completed and signed reports will be processed by the IEPA which will provide an acknowledgment of the date and time of the report's receipt.

IN THIS ISSUE

Bureau of Water Annual Hearing	2
Vulnerability Assessment Workshops Held	2
U.S. EPA Focuses on Safety of Private Household Water Wells.....	2
Operator News	3
Koepsel Re-Named Chair	4
Radionuclide	4
Giant City Small Systems Conference..	5
Contaminated Surface Waters	5
Potable Water Operator Exams	6
Arsenic Standard Confirmed	7

Bureau of Water Annual Hearing

The Illinois EPA Bureau of Water will hold its 2002 annual hearing at 10 a.m. Tuesday, August 13, at the Illinois EPA headquarters offices, located at 1021 North Grand Avenue East, in Springfield. The public will have an opportunity to comment on the following programs:

- Revolving Loan Funds for Wastewater and Drinking water.
- Water Quality Management Plan Update.

Additional information will be posted on the Agency web page at www.epa.state.il.us or can be obtained from Public Information Officer Joan Muraro at 217-785-7209.

Vulnerability Assessment Workshops Held

More than 500 attended joint IEPA- ERTC security training workshops

As an outgrowth of the events of Sept. 11, 2001, a series of 12 workshops was held around Illinois during January and February. The four hour sessions brought together water plant operators, supervisors and municipal utility officials to assess the potential vulnerability of their facilities to attack by bio-terrorists.

Immediately following the terrorist attacks last fall, IEPA regional field staff, as well as headquarters personnel, began working with local officials for enhanced protection of the state's pub-

lic water supplies. The subsequent series of workshops allowed a more in-depth approach to identified needs for security as well as emergency responses, threat classifications and security methods. Security training materials were provided to attendees to assist them in doing vulnerability assessments at their own facilities. Preliminary unofficial totals indicate 513 operators attended the sessions.

The Environmental Resources Training Center at Southern Illinois University/Edwardsville since 1977 has

been the designated Illinois center for continuing education of personnel involved in the operation, maintenance and management of drinking water and wastewater treatment systems. Completion of training at ERTC qualifies students to take Illinois certification examinations administered by the IEPA.

The vulnerability sessions were offered in East Peoria, Springfield, Rockford, Moline, Peru, Urbana, Effingham, Carbondale, ERTC, Crystal Lake, Aurora and Joliet.

U.S. EPA Focuses on Safety of Private Household Water Wells

New publication available for downloading

In early March, U.S. EPA added a new booklet, "*Drinking Water From Household Wells*," to its website. The 20 page booklet offers a comprehensive guide to things the owner of a private, unregulated drinking water well should consider. While such wells in Illinois are under the jurisdiction of the Illinois Department of Public Health rather than the Illinois EPA, operators of community water supplies might find it a helpful reference for acquaintances and neighbors who rely on private wells.

The brochure deals with types of groundwater pollution and their sources, naturally occurring pollution sources compared to contamination resulting from human activities. It offers suggestions for properly opening, modifying or closing a well, preventing problems, and

proper maintenance. Ways to identify potential problems are covered as well as 16 conditions or nearby activities that suggest the owner should have the well tested, and likely causes for each of the suspect conditions.

The booklet can be viewed, or downloaded, from the U.S. EPA's webpage at www.epa.gov/safewater/consumer/wells/household_wells.pdf

Since many of the same things that threaten public water supply wells pose threats to private wells, the booklet can serve as a handy educational tool for consumers interested in drinking water safety, groundwater protection, and the importance for everyone of plentiful, safe drinking water.



Operator News

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Wastewater Operator Certificate of Technical Competency Examination Schedule

January 1, 2002 - December 31, 2002

The examination locations and dates for gaining certifications of technical competency as wastewater operators have been scheduled. As a convenience, they are listed here. For specific locations or additional information, or to obtain application forms to take the exams, contact the Operator Certification Unit at least two weeks prior to the date of the exam.

Rockford:

May 7
July 2
Sept. 3
Nov. 2

North Riverside

April 2
May 7
June 4
July 2
Aug. 6
Sept. 3
Oct. 1
Nov. 12
Dec. 3

Peoria

April 2
June 4
August 6
Oct. 1
Dec. 3

Champaign

April 2
June 4
August 6
Oct. 1
Dec. 3

Springfield

April 25
(At the end of the IAWPCO Annual Conference)
May 7
July 2
Sept. 3
Nov. 6

Edwardsville

April 2
June 4
August 6
Oct. 1
Dec. 3

Marion

May 8
July 3
Sept. 4
Nov. 6

A completed application must be submitted if you are a first time applicant or if you wish to be examined for a certificate of a higher level. To allow sufficient time for review and processing, applications should be submitted so that they are received by the Operator Certification Unit at least two weeks prior to the desired examination date.

Those wishing to repeat an examination previously failed may reschedule either by telephone or by completing and submitting the application form.

NOTE: Space constraints limit the number of persons who can be scheduled at each examination location. Therefore, the earlier you apply, the better chance you have to be scheduled for your choice of examination location and date.

Mid-Central WPCOA

The Mid-Central WPCOA has published its schedule of meetings for this year.

On March 26, in Carrollton, Bill Atwood will speak on "The Importance of Proper Wastewater Sampling." The remaining scheduled meetings include

- May 28 at Mt. Olive, with a speaker to be announced;
- July 26 the annual picnic will be held at Hillsboro Lake;
- Sept. 24 at Tower Hill/Herrick, speaker to be announced;
- and Nov. 26 at Stonington, with a presentation on electrical equipment and pump maintenance.

The annual Christmas dinner was tentatively set for either Dec. 6 or Dec. 13, at Taylor Springs.

Membership in the Mid-Central group is open to wastewater operators in Cass, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Logan, Macoupin, Mason, Menard, Montgomery, Morgan, Sangamon, Scott and nearby counties. Meetings are usually held at 1 p.m., following a noon lunch. Operators with an interest in a specific topic for a future meeting can contact any of the group's officers. Mark Odorizzi, Van Devanter Engineering, is president; Ron Merriman, Hillsboro STP is secretary treasurer. Suggestions or questions can also be sent to John Wells in the Springfield regional office of the IEPA, at 217-786-6892.

Koepsel Re-Named Chair For Advisory Board

William (Burr) Koepsel has agreed to serve as chairperson for the Water Supply Operator's Advisory Board for the second year. The nomination was accepted at the Oct. 18, 2001, meeting of the advisory board held at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Springfield headquarters.

The five-member, Governor-appointed advisory board assists in the formulation and review of policies and program changes developed under the authority of the Public Water Supply Operations Act. The board makes recommendations on program enhancements and provides the IEPA with technical advice and assistance as may be requested.

Koepsel, director of operations at

the Central Lake County Joint Action Water Agency, has been a certified water treatment operator for 22 years. For 18 years he has taught the Basic Waterworks Operations course at the College of Lake County in Grayslake.

In addition to his Class A Water Operator certification, he also possesses a Class I Wastewater Operator certification. In 1993 he was named Operator of the Year by the Illinois Potable Water Supply Operators Association. He is an active member of this association, serving as the chair of their Operator of the Year committee, as well as other professional organizations: College of Lake County Water/Wastewater Advisory Board since 1983, Water Environment

Federation since 1988, and American Water Works Association since 1984. He was appointed president of the North Suburban Water Works Association in 1980 and again in 1982.

He serves as a part-time consultant to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, doing so since 1989. He works with the Illinois Department of Public Health when called upon to present the mathematics of chemical feeding at their fluoridation seminars.

His enthusiasm for and knowledge of the water industry make him a much sought-after presenter at various conferences. He and his family make their home in Winthrop Harbor.

- Remember - Supplies Must Meet Radionuclide MCLs by Dec. 8, 2003

Deadline is drawing near to meet revised standards.

Revisions to the 1976 radionuclide regulations were finalized by U.S. EPA on Dec. 7, 2000, retaining the existing MCLs of five picoCuries per liter for combined radium, and 15 picoCuries per liter for gross alpha particle activity.

Supplies in noncompliance with the MCLs are expected to achieve compliance as soon as possible, but the deadline is Dec. 8, 2003. The IEPA is providing an opportunity for supplies to demonstrate a "good faith effort" for achieving compliance by submitting a signed radionuclide compliance commitment (RCC) that basically identifies activities needed to achieve compliance and offers a tentative schedule with interim milestones for completing these activities.

Whether or not a supply submits a RCC, compliance by Dec. 8, 2003, is required to avoid possible sanctions for failing to meet the regulations.

**More supplies are expected
to exceed the standards.**

The new rule changes the sample collection location from the distribution to the entry point. As a result, even some supplies currently in compliance are likely to exceed the standards when the new rules go into effect.

Giant City Small Systems Conference

The 14th annual Southern Illinois Small Systems Conference was held at Giant City State Park last Oct. 17 and 18. A golf outing sponsored by the Southern and Southwest Central Water Plant Operators Associations preceded the conference.

Approximately 90 people attended the evening session, which focused on financial issues and compliance challenges for water supplies. Jack Kiefer, a specialist in water pricing who works as a planning and management consultant, provided information regarding water usage, rates, rights, issues and resolutions. Gary Blumenstock, Illinois Rural Water Association, discussed management and operation of a water supply in compliance now and in the future, emphasizing assistance which the IRWA can provide to public water supplies. Tom Bic, Illinois State Water Survey, reviewed the results of a study funded by the Midwest Technology Assistance Center that included several Illinois water supplies. The evening program ended with a regulatory discussion, in which all Illinois EPA personnel present participated.

The Thursday program was attended by approximately 135 persons. Jerry Kuhn, manager of the Division of Public Water Supplies permit section, reviewed drinking water permit requirements, discussed the process which should be used to handle problems both in the design phase and during construction, and explained procedures which must be followed prior to start-up of a project. Ukanno Foxworth, Water Pollution Control permits section, described the procedures required to obtain wastewater permits, and explained how the drinking water and wastewater permit sections work together. Bob Whitworth, acting director of the Environmental Resources Training Center, told participants of the goals and new avenues of education which ERTC hopes to pursue, and asked participants for input.

John Schilling, Black & Veatch, St. Louis, provided insight into the new filter operation, profiling and compliance regulations which are part of the Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule, phases I and II. Mike Crumly followed with a Compliance Assurance Water Quality Unit update,

discussing new requirements and procedures, and responding to questions regarding the arsenic and radiological rules. A very popular session followed, consisting of an operator input panel and forum. Several water operators described situations which they had experienced with the Agency, asked questions, and recommended changes to procedures. Illinois EPA personnel present responded with information and data when possible, and carried recommendations back to Springfield for further consideration.

Following the traditional Giant City fried chicken luncheon, participants listened as Mike Curry, of Curry and Associates, described the best methods of obtaining disinfection residuals in the distribution system, and monitoring for those residuals. Joe Stuart ended the day with a presentation on "Common Myths and Misconceptions Regarding Water Supply Regulations and Requirements," in which he reviewed several regulations which are frequently implemented improperly by operators and engineers.

Public Hearing on Contaminated Surface Waters

Under the Clean Water Act, Section 303(d), the Illinois EPA is required to:

- a) identify water quality limited waters;
- b) establish priority rankings for waters identified in (a); and
- c) target watersheds for development of Total Maximum Daily Loads.

The Agency is required to provide an opportunity for public input and has tentatively scheduled a public hearing at the Illinois EPA headquarters in Springfield in July or August 2002. Additional information will be posted on the Agency web page at www.epa.state.il.us or can be obtained from Public Information Officer Joan Muraro at 217-785-7209.

Digester/Over the Spillway

Published by the Bureau of Water,
Division of Public Water Supplies and
Division of Water Pollution Control.

Editor.....Joan Muraro

Candidates Successfully Pass Potable Water Operator Exams

In drinking water operator certification tests given Oct. 1, Nov. 5, Dec. 5 and Dec. 17, 2001, these candidates successfully completed the examinations. Where known, their facilities are identified. Since some operators may have tested for more advanced ratings, some names may appear more than once.

Class A

Arentsen, Gary J.	Germantown
Beckwith, Gregory A.	Brighton
Challacombe, Kevin M.	Brimfield
Crow, Timothy P.	Chester
Dominquez, Antonio	North Chicago
Drackley, Richard G. Jr.	Ottawa
Heberling, Samuel R.	White Hall
Hempen, Anthony J.	Highland
Holmes, William J.	Northbrook
Jones, Thomas D.	Evanston
Kress, Dennis W.	Collinsville
Leahr, Terry	Pittsfield
Milano, Julia	FMC Water Co.
Schaefer, Elmer L.	Bloomington
Sherer, Brian A.	Roxana
Shull, Bob L.	North Henderson
Strong, James M.	Citizens W. Suburban
Waugh, Mike K.	Greenville

Class B

Hubbard, Curt L.	Nebo
Jayne, Denny L.	Ivesdale
Leija, Mark A.	Arlington
Lemrise, Marc J.	Tonica
Schlenker, Andre J.	Lake Barrington Shores
Schweda, Scott	Lake Zurich
Thurm, Martin L.	Rock Falls
Wells, Danny R.	DeKalb

Class C

Anderson, Matt A.	DeKalb
Babcock, Eric A.	Lake in the Hills
Behm, Charlton F.	West Dundee
Childress, James A.	Geneva
Cooke, Robert D.	Elk Grove
Enright, Nathan J.	North Aurora
Heberlein, Joseph B.	Clayton/Camp Point
Henn, Andrew R.	Kansas
Hill, Clinton M.	Macomb
Jackson, Ronnie T.	Markham
McMillen, Albert L.	Wheaton
Mebust, David J.	Arlington Park Race Track
Michalec, John W.	Romeoville
Moore, Josh P.	Oregon
Murray, Joel R.	U.S. Penitentiary/Marion
Owens, Perry L.	Ottawa
Pehlke, Todd A.	Shorewood
Turley, Robert M.	New Lenox
VanGyseghem, Robert	Geneva
Vanover, Darrel J. III.	American Water/Champaign
Wells, S. Fletcher	Ottawa
Zaczmarek, Michael T.	Woodridge

Class D

Allsop, Bennie L. Jr.	Ewing-Ina
Behm, Charlton F.	West Dundee
Berner, W. Michael	Greenwood-Creek
Blaylock, Steve C.	Northbrook
Leaf, Mike D.	Rock Falls
Milano, Phillip D.	Sandoval
Poci, Tony S.	Rock Falls

New Standard for Arsenic In Drinking Water Confirmed

Supplies must meet limit of 10 parts per billion by January 2006

After months of controversy and re-study, U.S. EPA has announced that 10 parts per billion (ppb) will be the new standard for arsenic in drinking water, a maximum contaminant level that must be met by January 2006.

A standard of 10 ppb was announced in January 2001, then suspended by U.S. EPA to allow additional independent reviews. The decision to remain with the 10 ppb limit was announced by U.S. EPA last Oct. 31. The previous MCL for arsenic, 50 ppb, was set in 1975.

Nationwide, there are approximately 74,000 community water systems that must meet arsenic standards, with about 4,000 of them expected to exceed the new standard and install treatment or take other steps to comply.

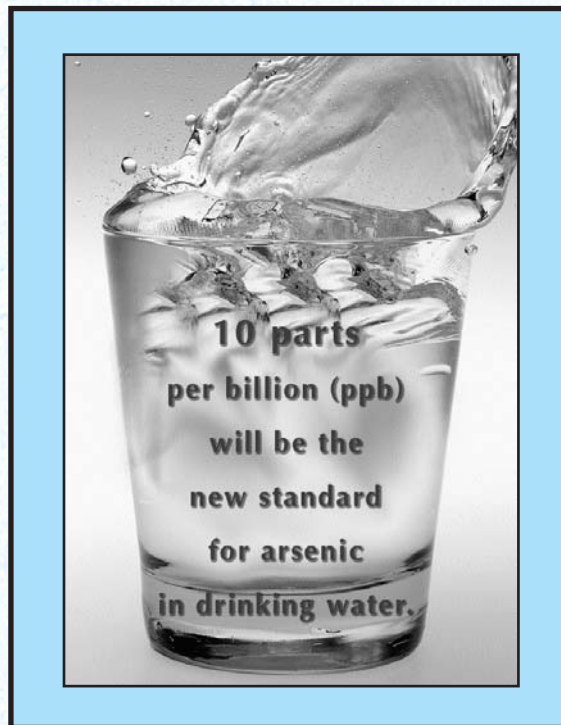
In Illinois, naturally occurring arsenic is found at levels above 10 ppb in 54 community water supplies.

U.S. EPA estimates that average annual household water bills may increase by \$32 a year as a result of treatment or other costs associated with reducing the arsenic levels below 10 ppb. However, costs are expected to be substantially higher, ranging from

\$58 to \$327, for supplies that serve 3,300 persons, or fewer. Nearly 97 percent of the water systems nationwide affected by the new rule are small systems serving less than 10,000 people. Of the 54 Illinois supplies where arsenic levels exceed 10 ppb, all but seven are rated as "small" and serve fewer than 3,300 users.

Because of the significant financial burden on smaller systems, U.S. EPA announced it will provide up to \$20 million over the next two years to research and develop more cost-effective technologies to help small systems meet the 10 ppb standard. It also will provide technical assistance and training to small system operators. Funding may be available to water systems for infrastructure improvements under state drinking water revolving loan funds that are supported by matching federal and state funds.

In announcing the 10 ppb standard, U.S. EPA Administrator Christie Whitman said the reduced standard will "improve the safety of drinking water for millions of Americans, and better protect against the risk of cancer, heart disease and diabetes. "



Illinois EPA Headquarters Office
1021 North Grand Avenue East
Springfield, IL

Tuesday, August 13 10:00 a.m.

**Bureau of Water
Annual Hearing**

Digester/Over the Spillway

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