



Digester/Over the Spillway

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

The Colors of Security

Drinking water utilities are high on the list of priority operations for protection against attack or disruption of service, under a five-tiered, color-coded national security advisory system that has been developed by the Office of Homeland Security. While recognizing that many supplies have already stepped up security and evaluation protocols, to

support the state and the IEPA's commitment to assist water supplies in continuing to deliver safe and adequate water to the citizens of Illinois, the Agency has encouraged certain supplies to increase "detection monitoring" in the distribution system and raw sourcewater when the level of security is raised to Level Orange.

Alert Levels

The threat levels start with green, and increase in severity through blue, yellow, orange and red. Threat conditions are general for the population, but specific responses are recommended for those charged with operating the nation's sources

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Don't Forget the IAWPCO Conference

Russell Baker, chair of the public relations committee for the Illinois Association of Water Pollution Control Operators (IAWPCO) wants to remind waste treatment plant operators that the Association's 68th annual conference will be held from April 21 to 24 at the Crowne Plaza Exhibition and Convention Center in Springfield.

A three and a half day conference will include two and a half days of technical sessions with emphasis on wastewater treatment plant operations and maintenance, a first day wastewater treatment plant operations workshop on sludge wastewater processes, and the annual awards for the IAWPCO plant and operator-of-the-year.

IAWPCO is a non-profit professional association promoting clean water and environmental control.

Additional information about the organization or the annual conference can be obtained from Ralph E. Pfister, IAWPCO executive director at P.O. Box 175, Yorkville IL 60560, 630-553-3418, or by e-mail at www.ralph@ameritechn.net

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of community drinking water.

Response measures are planned to build on responses to previous levels, so that responses at higher threat levels assume continued use of measures adopted at the previous level, while implementing stronger responses as threat level designations increase. Responses at all levels are designed to provide for maximum detection, preparedness, prevention and protection.

Level Green

This level relies on monitoring and operational practices plants should already routinely be doing to comply with existing regulations—monitoring water quality at the source, as it leaves the plant and in the distribution and storage systems. Disinfectant residuals, by regulation, should be maintained at specified levels, and best management practices should be implemented.

Emergency response plans should be developed and tested to ensure continuity of operations, as well as communication and coordination protocols with local authorities including local emergency planning agencies, fire and police departments, HAZMAT teams, hospitals and other first responders. Appropriate background checks of staff, operators, contractors and others with access to the facility should be conducted.

Emergency evacuation plans should be posted, and building plans should be placed in secure but accessible locations near the entrance for immediate access by first responders. Critical files such as plans and drawings, sampling results, billing and other key information should be backed up.

Operators should prepare vul-

nerability assessments, train staff in safety procedures including handling hazardous materials and maintaining and using self-contained breathing equipment, and all vehicles and spare parts should be secured.

Positive control should be maintained of all those entering critical areas, all chemical deliveries should be checked for driver identification and verification of load, and suspicious activity should be identified and reported.

Level Blue

At this second level of detection, appropriate staff should increase review of data with an emphasis on detecting unusual or unexpected changes in the product, eliminating variations due to natural or routine operations first. Increase surveillance in source water areas.

Supplies should increase unannounced security spot checks at access control points, review public notification protocols with employees, and instruct customer service and water quality staff to monitor customer complaints for unusual notices or requests. Inventory spare parts and on-hand chemicals, back-up critical computer files and maintain back-up tapes for an increased period of time before destroying or overwriting. For extended alerts, employee reminders should be posted monthly about what constitutes security violations and what notification protocols should be followed if a security breach occurs.

Prevention at the Blue Level calls for securing buildings, rooms and storage areas not in regular use, maintaining a list of secured areas and monitoring activity in those areas, as well as monitoring

requests for potentially sensitive information. For protection, access to critical sites should be limited.

Level Yellow

The frequency and extent of monitoring activities should be increased, and baseline monitoring results should be established.

Communication protocols with local authorities should be practiced, weekly employee reminders should be posted, and personnel should be informed of the general situation and periodically updated as the situation changes. Security audits of physical assets such as fencing and lighting should be conducted and missing or broken assets should be repaired or replaced. Debris that could be stacked to facilitate scaling should be removed from fence lines, and staff should physically render all equipment and vehicles inoperable when not in use, increase liaison with local authorities and request increased awareness from any existing neighborhood watch programs. Operators should identify sensitive populations within the service area, such as hospitals, schools, nursing homes and the like for notification if necessary in the event of a specific threat.

Requests for tours should be carefully reviewed and when allowed, should have security measures in place to identify participants prior to the tour, request verification at the start of the tour, and ban backpacks, duffle bags, cameras or packages. Both the interior and exterior of all buildings should be inspected on a daily basis for suspicious activity or items, and mailroom security procedures should be implemented, following

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Drinking Water Operator Exam Schedule Announced

A schedule of monthly examination dates has been announced for candidates for certification as drinking water operators.

Staff from the Illinois EPA will conduct the exams on April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, Aug. 4, Sept. 8, Oct. 6, Nov. 3 and Dec. 1, 2003. Unless otherwise indicated, all exams are scheduled for the first Monday in each month. Special exams may be given from time to time for colleges or large groups of examinees by contacting the appropriate regional office or Jewel Emerson, Acting Coordinator for the operator certification unit at the Springfield headquarters, at 217-785-0561.

The names of candidates who pass the examinations are listed in Digester/Over the Spillway as quickly as possible after the exams were graded. This

issue includes the passes from the tests in January, February and March, 2003, as well as tests given in the final months of 2002. If you successfully took the test and your name has not been listed, please contact Jewel Emerson, 217-785-0561.

Examination centers are the Illinois EPA's regional offices. They are located at:

Elgin: 595 S. State St., 847-608-3131

Rockford: 4302 N. Main St., 815-987-7760

Marion: 2309 W. Main St., 618-993-7200

Champaign: 2125 S. First St., 217-278-5800

Springfield: 4500 S. Sixth Street Road, 217-786-6892

Collinsville: 2009 Mall St., 618-346-5120.

Wastewater Operators Exam Schedule Announced

Examination dates have been scheduled for candidates for certification as wastewater operators.

The tests are given at the Illinois EPA's regional offices and several other designated locations. They are generally offered on the first Tuesday of the months in which they are scheduled. Since space constraints limit the number of persons who can take the exam each time, candidates are urged to submit completed applications as soon as possible before they examination date they prefer. To allow sufficient time for processing, applications should be submitted to the Operator Certification Unit at least two weeks prior to the desired examination date.

Tests currently scheduled for the remainder of the year include:

Rockford regional office:

4302 N. Main St., 815-987-7760

May 6, July 1, Sept. 2, and Nov. 4

North Riverside:

April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, Aug. 5,

Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4 and Dec. 2

Peoria regional office:

April 1, June 3, Aug. 5, Oct. 7, and

Dec. 2

Champaign regional office:

2125 S. First St., 217-278-5800

April 1, June 3, Aug. 5, Oct. 7, and

Dec. 2

Springfield regional office:

4500 S. Sixth Street Road, 217-786-6892

April 24 (at the close of the IAWP-

CO conference), May 6, July 1, Sept.

2 and Nov. 4

Edwardsville:

April 1, June 3, Aug. 5, Oct. 7 and
Dec. 2

Marion regional office:

2309 W. Main St., 618-993-7200

May 7, July 2, Sept. 3 and Nov. 5

Additional examination dates and/or locations may be offered as required at the discretion of the Operator Certification Unit.

Necessary application forms, examination schedules and other information can be obtained by contacting the Operator Certification Unit at the IEPA, Bureau of Water, Compliance Assurance Section, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, IL 62794-9276, phone 217-782-9720.

Operator News

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Central Illinois Professional Wastewater Operators

The Central Illinois Professional Wastewater Operators (CIPWO) held their winter meeting at the Hawthorn Conference Center on Jan. 9, 2003. More than a hundred members and guests attended to hear Mike Gasvoda of Gasvoda and Associates talk about "Pump, Pumps and Pumps." Coordinator Tony Hall of the Westville-Belgium Sanitary District was in charge of arranging the informative meeting.

A buffet lunch was followed by drawings for numerous door prizes. Winners are listed in the CIPWO Spring Newsletter. The group named their officers for 2003. New officers are President Don Jordan of Paris, Vice President Frank McPherson of Fairbury, Treasurer Dave Miller of Rantoul and Past-President Dave Sullivan of Pontiac. CIPWO's next meeting is July 30, 2003, at a location to be announced.



Lunchtime gives members and guests the chance to kick back and relax.



New CIPWO President Don Jordan, left, receives the coveted CIPWO hard hat from Dave Sullivan, past president. They seem to be having conflicting emotions about the unique headgear.

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Operator News

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Candidates Successfully Pass Potable Water Operator Exams

The following candidates successfully passed the examination for certified water treatment operators in exams given on Nov. 4, 2002, and Jan. 22, Feb. 3, and March 3, 2003. Some operators may have taken exams for more than one classification, so some names may appear more than once. The listing includes the operator's facility, if known; -0- indicates the information was not available.

We are including all candidates who passed the exam given Nov 4, 2002, since we recently learned some applicants had been incorrectly listed in a recent issue of Digester/Over the Spillway. We apologize to those whose status was carried inaccurately.

Class A

Anderson, Tony - Stronghurst
Conover, Kevin - Clark-Edgar Rural Water Association
DeRose, Anthony - Harvard
Harding, Jeffrey - Highwood
Henry, Emmanuel - North Chicago
McCart, Kenneth - Athens
McMillen, Albert - Wheaton
Reed, James - Dwight
Richards, Frances - Consumers Illinois Water Co./Vermilion
Riipi, Steven - DeKalb
Thurman, Anthony - Chrisman
Vanover, Darrel - Illinois-American Water/Champaign
Wilken, Eugene - SLM Water Commission

Class B

Castillo, John - Consumers Illinois Water Co./Candlewick
Differding, Christopher - Harvard
Hogue, Ronald - S. Roxana Public Works
Hopper, William - Clinton
King, Jeffrey - Otter Creek Lake Utility
Park, Gary - Findlay
Reynolds, Richard Jr. - Windsor

Class C

Anderson, Kelly - Suburban Heights Subdivision
Baader, Mark - Elmhurst

Brandkamp, Terry - U.S. Federal Penitentiary/Marion
Buckholtz, Barry - Moline
Carriger, Laurence - Franklin
Cawthorn, Dwayne - Bluffs
Coffman, Earl - East Moline
D'Angelo, Anthony - Oakbrook Terrace
Forney, Jon - Flanagan
Gedde, Mark - Wauconda
Getty, Damon - Colfax
Grant, James - Harvard
Haas, Raymond - El Paso
Hall, Mark - Cropsey Mutual Water Association
Helm, Robert - Milan
Hosbrough, David - Creve Coeur
Johnson, Gregory - Moline
Koelling, Albert - Bradford
Lee, Bruce - Embarrass Area Water Dist.
McGeehon, Robert - Port Byron - EMC
Mullen, Jr., Stephen - Coal Valley
Perrin, Steven - McCook Water
Reininger, Jeffrey - Poplar Grove
Rice, Edward - Rockton
Rust, Mark - Forreston
Rutherford, Greg - McLean
Schmidt, Chad - Milledgeville
Stanley, Ronald - Bloomington
Strackbein, Eric - Fulton
Strasser, Steve - Cherry Valley
Thompson, Eric - Princeton
Wikoff, Paul - DeLand

Class D

Colford, Patrick - West Chicago
Douglas, Terry - Sparta
Gier, Daniel - Montgomery
Helm, Robert - Milan
Insko, Chad - Pecatonica
Murphy, John - Mount Prospect Public Works
Page, Todd - Gillespie
Parks, David - Summerfield
Raymond, Chad - Augusta
Ready, Kevin - Olney
White, Jason - City Water, Light and Power

Mid-Central Water Pollution Control Operators Association

The Mid-Central Water Pollution Control Operators Association (MCWPCOA) has established the following

schedule for its meetings to be held in 2003:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>SPEAKER - EVENT</u>
May 27	Riverton	Illinois Department of Labor- Safety Issues
July 25	Taylor Springs	Annual Picnic - no speaker
September 30	Girard	Joe Walker, Severn Trent Laboratories - Wastewater Laboratory Issues
November 25	Auburn	Mike Wren, Van Devanter Engineering - Electrical Controls Seminar (extended meeting, morning and afternoon)
January 9, 2004	Taylor Springs	Winter Holiday Dinner - no speaker

Meetings are generally held at 1 p.m., with a meal and other refreshments provided by the host facility at noon. Meeting topics and further details will be provided in meeting announcements to members, or one of the officers below can be contacted as meeting times approach. Those interested in specific subjects should contact association officers to suggest topics and/or speakers for upcoming meetings.

Wastewater operators in Cass, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Logan, Macoupin, Mason, Menard, Montgomery,

Morgan, Sangamon, Scott, and nearby counties are invited to join the MCWPCOA. For membership or other information, contact one of the following:

Mark Odorizzi, Van Devanter Engineering, president
636-343-8880
Ron Merriman, Hillsboro STP, secretary/treasurer
217-532-2951
John Wells, IEPA/DWPC/FOS-Springfield
217-786-6892

BANK ON IT - *June Is Rivers Month*

Just a reminder — again this year, June will be celebrated as Illinois Rivers Appreciation Month.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for many years has set June as a time to promote increased public education on the value of rivers and streams and the need for their continuing protection. As part of that effort, IDNR encourages participation in river-related recreational use of streams as a way of maintaining interest in the health and welfare of streams and rivers in Illinois.

Groups of supporters of local rivers and streams, where clean-ups or other “appreciation” events have

been sponsored in the past are being encouraged to organize an appropriate event for the coming June, either individually or by coordinating an “appreciation activity” with some other community event already being planned for June 2003.

Additional information can be obtained from Lynnette Mick, in the fisheries outreach section of IDNR’s Division of Fisheries at 217-524-4162 or at www.lmick@dnrmail.state.il.us

The Colors of Security (Continued from page 2)

guidance provided by the U.S. Postal Service.

Identity of all personnel entering the utility should be verified, random checks of identification for those on the premises should be implemented, and at the discretion of the manager or security director, vehicles and objects such as trash containers should be moved more than 25 meters from sensitive locations.

Level Orange

This designation level has been activated at least twice in 2003. Under it, water supply operators should confirm that county and state health officials will inform them promptly of any potential waterborne illnesses. Staff and contractor notices should be posted daily, criminal threats, suspicious behavior or attacks on water utilities should be immediately reported to local law enforcement officials as well as state health authorities and others identified in the facility's emergency response plan. The

need for opening an emergency operations center should be evaluated.

At this level, tours and public access should be discontinued, and consideration should be given to increased law enforcement surveillance. The facility's treatment and production operations should be staffed at all times, consideration should be given to prohibiting all recreational use of surface water reservoirs, and access to critical facility areas should be limited to essential employees and contractors. The broadest possible prosecution should be sought against all intruders, trespassers or persons detained for tampering.

Level Red

This highest level of security calls for ensuring that lists of sensitive populations are accurate and have been shared with appropriate public health officials. Verification should be made that critical replacement parts are available and accessible, key utility personnel should be

on duty, and, where appropriate, back-up operational activities should be placed on line (plant filters, turbines, etc.) If needed, issue public notification for citizens to store emergency water supplies or implement other preparatory measures. Access should be limited to essential personnel, and management should consider whether National Guard assistance is needed.

At Level Red, emergency operations centers should be opened and local law enforcement and emergency services centers notified. Security on all on-site chemical storage and utilization areas should be rechecked. If deemed necessary and useful after consultation with local law enforcement and the local FBI, barriers should be installed to block access.

The suggested responses have been described as "common sense" activities, and drinking water utility sources have said they believe utilities are already implementing the bulk of the suggested responses.



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