Funding Opportunities for Wellhead Protection

By Scott Rodeheaver

A sub-recipient grant program, initiated in 2006 to financially support community water systems’ Wellhead Protection (WHP) projects will be continued for 2007. Four community water supply WHP projects, totaling over $50,000 were selected to be funded during 2007.

The 2008 WHP grant application package will be available in the spring of 2007 with applications due by mid summer.

- Systems can propose two types of projects: 1) WHP Project (e.g. WHP Area delineation, potential contaminant sources assessment, implementation of source water protection, community awareness and involvement, or emergency response planning), and/or 2) Security Projects (i.e. implementation of physical measures to protect the wellhead).

- Grants are for a project period of one (1) year and may be awarded $15,000 for WHP Project, $10,000 for Security Projects, or a total of $25,000 for a system proposing both types of projects.

- Assessment projects should indicate a clear path toward implementation of a WHP program.

- Funds cannot be awarded for work already completed.

- Grantees can reapply and be awarded future grants after three (3) years.

For more information call Scott Rodeheaver at 304-558-6713.

WVRWA, assisted by OEHS staff, is planning to conduct workshops at various locations across West Virginia to assist potential applicants with questions and completion of the application package.

Certification & Training Unit Staff

Dawn Newell, 558-6993
Program Manager I

Phillip Martino, 558-6986
Environmental Resource Specialist III

Mary Lowe, 558-6988
OAIII (Water)

Elizabeth Gallaher, 558-6987
Environmental Resource Specialist II

Cheryl Sizemore, 558-6991
OAII (Wastewater)

http://www.wvdhhr.org/oehs/eed/

WV Bureau for Public Health Training Schedule

April 2007
18 Class 1-D training and testing, Hedgesville
26 Class 1-D training and testing, Wheeling

June 2007
6 Fluoride Training & Testing, Clarksburg
7 Monitoring Well Driller training and examination, Charleston

Remember to check the website at http://www.wvdhhr.org/oehs/eed/swap/training&certification/training.asp

For additional training opportunities, contact:

WV Rural Water Association (WVRWA)
100 Young Street
Scott Depot, WV 25560
Phone: 1-800-339-4513
http://www.wvrwa.org/

WV Environmental Training Center
Cedar Lakes Conference Center
Ripley, WV 25271
Phone: (304) 372-7878
http://www.wvetc.org/

WV Public Service Commission
201 Brooks Street
Charleston, WV 25301
Phone: 1-800-344-5113
http://www.pcs.state.wv.us/

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Source Water Educational Posters

WVDHHR has four new educational posters on farming, living, working and potential impacts to your source of drinking water to provide information on how to protect our water resources. Uses for the posters may include:

- Educating customers
- Employee education
- Workplace displays

Posters are available on the DHHR website or by contacting our office at 304-558-6991.

http://www.wvdhhr.org/oehs/eed/

Capacity Assistance Partnership Developing Essential Viability (CAPDEV) Initiative

By Jan Griffith

The Capacity Assistance Partnership Developing Essential Viability (CADEV) outreach initiative was created to provide managerial, financial, and technical assistance to West Virginia drinking water staff. CAPDEV is the second phase of the Drinking Water Capacity Development Program. CAPDEV held its first meeting September 10, 2006, at Canaan Valley State Park in conjunction with the West Virginia Rural Water Association’s conference. The meeting was open to all drinking water personnel and was announced through a mass mailing prior to the meeting. All drinking water personnel statewide are welcome and encouraged to join. Meeting sign in sheets will be maintained.

This year’s theme is Getting To Know Your Neighbor. The meeting was designed to be informal, gather general CAPDEV initiative support, discuss drinking water issues, and get to know your drinking water neighbors. Attendants indicated this effort would lead to a valuable group for the state of West Virginia and they can only benefit from it.

Goals and objectives discussed at the first meeting included:

- Create a place on the OEHS/EED webpage honoring drinking water awardees and nominees;
- Include CAPDEV activities on the OEHS/EED webpage;
- Develop a public notification template for drinking water system personnel use if they are required to perform public notification activities;
- Progress report on the Public Service Commission’s and the Bureau for Public Health’s effort establishing a professional utility management certification program;
- Determine if continuing education hours may be granted for attending CAPDEV meetings;
- Community Drinking Water System Managers and/or Operators Benefit Survey discussion.

The group plans to meet every three or four months (depending on group interest and activity). State workers will facilitate the meetings. The following two questions will be asked at each meeting:

What assistance tools can OEHS’s Capacity Development Program develop to help their drinking water system achieve and maintain managerial and financial capacity?

How can viable drinking water system personnel help drinking water systems in need of assistance?

A December 6, 2006 meeting was held in Flatwoods. Meetings, agendas and attendance sheets are located on our OEHS website, CAPDEV page.

If you are interested in attending or using information obtained from CAPDEV, please contact Jan Griffith at 304-558-6762 or e-mail at jgriffith@wvdhhr.org.

“This year’s theme is getting to know your neighbor. The meeting was designed to be informal…”
Employee Spotlight
Phil Martino

In the “Employee Spotlight” section, we’ll highlight an Environmental Engineering Division staff person.

Phil Martino has worked with the Certification and Training Unit since February 15, 2002 and has been a state employee for over 29 years. He is a member of numerous committees and works mainly with water operators across the state. He’s been married for 26 years, has two children attending West Virginia University, and two dogs living at home.

Q. What do you do within Certification and Training?
A. I do various things: my main focus is being the exam coordinator. I teach the Fluoride Certification class and review files for both water operators and backflow-prevention installers. Also, I’m a member of the water exam committee and the CEH review committee.

Q. What do you most enjoy about your job?
A. Interacting with the public.

Q. What’s one of the most challenging things with your job?
A. Actually, interacting with the public is the most challenging. Sometimes it seems that I spend most of the day on the phone dealing with water operator issues.

District Offices
Beckley District Office
100 East Prince Street
Beckley, WV 25801
(304) 256-6666

Kearneysville District Office
1948 Wiltshire Road Suite 6
Kearneysville, WV 25430
(304) 725-0348

Philippi District Office
209 South Main Street
Philippi, WV 26416
(304) 457-2296

St. Albans District Office
808 Main Street Suite G
St. Albans, WV 25177
(304) 722-0611

Wheeling District Office
Methodist Building Suite 117
1060 Chapline Street
Wheeling, WV 25003
(304) 238-1145

Our New Program Manager
Dawn Newell

By Elizabeth Gallaher

Certification and Training is proud to announce our “new” manager, Dawn Newell. We say “new” because she’s been with our section since Spring 2006, but our Drips and Drops newsletter hasn’t been published since her arrival.

Dawn has a BS and MS in Geology from WVU and a MA in Education from Marshall University Graduate College. Her career history includes work with the WV Geologic Survey and the Environmental Engineering’s Source Water Assessment Program.

As unit manager of Certification & Training, Dawn has several duties on her plate. She is the database administrator for all of our programs that track operator and driller certifications, works on numerous state and federal program reports, oversees a variety of new and ongoing contracts, trainer for monitoring well drillers, water and wastewater operators, and sanitarians, and a member of several review committees.

Outside of work, Dawn enjoys time with her family (husband Lee, son Thomas, and dog Sweet Pea), photography, traveling and scuba diving with sea turtles.

Q. What do you feel is most important when dealing with the public?
A. I joke around a lot at work, but I feel that everyone should be treated the same. That’s why I try to follow the rules and regulations so closely.

Q. How have things changed with Certification and Training in the past few years?
Exam question validation has become a very important issue. Automating the exam grading system helped things out greatly. And, we are putting more emphasis on operator education.

Q. What do you do within Certification and Training?
A. I do various things: my main focus is being the exam coordinator. I teach the Fluoride Certification class and review files for both water operators and backflow-prevention installers. Also, I’m a member of the water exam committee and the CEH review committee.

Q. What do you most enjoy about your job?
A. Interacting with the public.

Q. What’s one of the most challenging things with your job?
Actually, interacting with the public is the most challenging. Sometimes it seems that I spend most of the day on the phone dealing with water operator issues.
The Monthly Operational Report (MOR) contains some of the most important information regarding the monthly operations of a water treatment system. This article will provide insight on what priority information the health department requires in the MOR and why this information is so critical to the water system as well as the health department. We continually try to enter water system data accurately to prevent you from receiving unwarranted violation notices, but if you can help us out by entering the following information accurately and legibly, we will all benefit.

System Name – You should legibly print the correct name of the water system on all pages of the MOR.

Month/Year – You should be entering the month and year of the sampling. Do not enter the month and year you sent the report in.

Phone Number – Make sure you place the correct phone number on the MOR. If we have questions, it is critical that we are able to make contact with someone from your water system as quickly as possible.

County – Make sure you have printed the correct county where the water system is physically located. If there are a couple of water systems with the same name and the PWSID number is not legible, we may be able to locate your system by the county name.

“Certified By” space – The MOR is a legal document and the certified operator of the system must legibly print and sign their name in this space. Note: This space must not be left blank!

Certification Number – The Operator Certification Number, which is on the certificate from the state health department, which must be hanging in your place of employment. Note: Do not put your driver’s license, hunting license, or any number other than YOUR OPERATOR CERTIFICATION NUMBER!

Expiration Date - Look on your operator certificate – This is the date your operator certification expires.

Certification Class - This is your operator classification. It will be Class (1D, 1, 2, 3, or 4).

Date - On the left side of the MOR you see the numbers listed 1 through 31. Those are the days of the month. To the right and across the page from each consecutive date number, you should be entering the information for that specific day of sampling and treatment. If no pumping occurred or the system was closed during specific dates, you must indicate that to the right of the specific date.

Chlorine Residual - Community systems are required to report the Plant Free chlorine and the System Total chlorine each day of the month. Non-Community and Transient Systems must report the chlorine residual for each day of operation.

Sampling Location (chlorine residual) – Be very specific regarding the location. For example, “Kitchen Sink” or “Basement Sink”. Don’t just say “Sink”.

Sampler’s Initials – The person taking the daily sample must enter their initials in this space.

Total - The daily total # of gallons of treated or filtered water.

Average - Daily average number of gallons treated or filtered. The average of the monthly total divided by the number of days plant is operational.

Highest Reading – The highest daily reading (gallons) of water, treated and/or filtered.

Lowest Reading – The lowest daily reading (gallons) of water, treated and/or filtered.

Turbidity Reports – Enter ≤ 0.3, ≥ 0.3, Total # of Samples, Readings >1 NTU

For Purchaser Systems Only

System Water is Purchased From- Only Purchaser Systems will enter information here.

County – Name of the county, where the water system is located that you purchase your water from.

Water Purchased For the Month Provide the total gallons of water purchased for the month.
Class 1 and 2 operators of Water Treatment plants servicing a population of 3,300 or less, are eligible to receive internet based training and use the training towards renewal of their certification. We have renewed a contract with 360 Water Inc. to provide this training. All you need to do is register on their website and take the training!!!!

We will pay for the number of classroom hours you need to help meet your renewal requirements. Just follow the outlined procedures and you will soon have training at your fingertips. It’s that simple!

1. On Internet Explorer (IE) go to www.360water.com, click on the “login” at the navigation bar. Below “New to 360water, Inc.”? click the “here” link to create a new user account.

2. Register by completing the information, but make sure the plant name is WVDHHR and the state you register from is WV. This tells 360water to invoice our office. The wrong information here could cause an invoice to be sent to you.

3. When you see your name in the upper right hand corner, you know you have properly registered.

4. Go to “Operator Education”, click a course title and select an approved course.

5. Click “Audit”—this will allow you to receive an audit certificate once you have completed and passed the exam.

6. Once per month 360water will notify us of who audited their classes. We will verify the eligibility of the Class 1 and Class 2 operators and then 360water will bill WVDHHR for classes the eligible operators have taken, to the limits of their renewal requirement.

7. Once WVDHHR pays the invoice, the operator may print a Valid Certificate to be used for renewal period.

8. Submit copies of valid certificates with your application for renewal.

9. These classes can only be used once. We will not pay for duplicate classes. Also, the same classes CANNOT be used each year.

NOTE: You should allow 60-90 days lead time from taking the class to receiving a valid certificate since billing occurs only once per month. In other words, take these classes at least 60 days prior to the expiration date of your certification.

If you need further help or login assistance, contact 360 Water, Inc. directly at (866) 923-3600.
Disinfection By-Products and EPA's Rationale in Establishing Standards for Carcinogenic Chemicals

By Craig Cobb, P.E.

There has been much discussion in the past several years about disinfection by-products (DBPs), particularly since a majority of our community and non-transient, non-community water systems have been required to begin monitoring for these contaminants since January 1, 2004, under the Stage 1 Disinfectants/Disinfection By-Products Rule (S1D/DBPR). Several systems around the state have recently been required to issue public notices because their water supplies have exceeded the maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for either or both of the currently regulated DBPs: total trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and haloacetic acids (HAA5s). So I hope that the following information will be helpful to those reading this article, in understanding at least a little better, this issue of disinfection by-products.

I recently received a phone call from a distraught water system operator, who had just published his mandated public notice (PN), to advise his customers that the running annual average (RAA) of his TTHMs and HAA5s had exceeded the MCL. The mandatory wording of the PN included the fact that persons drinking the water could get cancer. The distraught operator had already received complaints and threats from some of his customers who had read the PN, and wanted him to guarantee that they wouldn’t get cancer. Attacks on the operator’s general intelligence, certification status and professional credibility were also lodged by several irate customers.

I commented to the beleaguered operator that I had recollected attending an EPA seminar back in 1986, where EPA officials explained the philosophy they use to set standards (i.e., MCLs) for most cancer-causing chemicals. The standard is referred to as the “One-In-A-Million-Over-70-Years” Rule. In other words, the MCLs for most carcinogenic (i.e., cancer-causing) chemicals are set at the level where one person in a million (0.0001%) who drinks a particular water supply with the specified level of contaminant for 70 years may develop cancer (including consideration of those who may be more susceptible). That standard is usually set based on two-year studies with laboratory animals, since human data are rarely available. In my efforts to confirm my memory of a seminar some 20 years ago, I contacted the EPA Hotline, and they confirmed my recollection about the “one-in-a-million-rule” for many carcinogens, and, that the standard set for disinfection by-products was set with full consideration of the benefits and necessity of disinfection used to control disease-causing microorganisms (pathogens) such as bacteria, viruses, Giardia and Cryptosporidium and the high costs and possible downsides of alternative pathogen control strategies without a corresponding increase in benefits. The resulting DBP risks are somewhat higher than the level EPA usually sets, but are more than balanced by the benefits of pathogen control by disinfection. This risk-trade off strategy is specifically authorized in the Safe Drinking Water Act. EPA also emphasized that the risks associated with disinfection by-products were not determined using studies of laboratory animals, but were instead determined by using actual human epidemiological data.

There is still much to learn on this topic. However, I am confident that we will have more answers in the next several years, as the emphasis of another EPA program, the “Area Wide Optimization Program” (AWOP), begins to focus on this new priority of reducing the formation of disinfection by-products, while not undercutting pathogen control.

Certified Operators are one of the cornerstones in protecting Public Health by providing safe drinking water to the citizens of West Virginia. The operators should receive more credit and recognition for the valuable work they perform in protecting Public Health.

It takes a properly trained, committed, motivated, resolved and ethical person to work as a certified operator. I am grateful to the men and women who take on the challenge of protecting Public Health by working as certified drinking water operators.

Walt Ivey
EED Director

Ecoli

is the abbreviated name of the bacterium Escherichia (genus) coli (species). The genus Escherichia (pronounced esh-arick-eh) is named for Dr. Theodore Escherich, an Austrian pediatrician (1857-1911) who originally described the bacterium in 1885.

Safe Drinking Water Hotline

For general information on drinking water call:
1-800-426-4791
Monday—Friday, 9 am—5 pm EST (excluding Federal Holidays)
Or
Contact EPA’s Safe Drinking Water web site at:
www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline/
Water Operators Service Recognition

We’d like to recognize the following water operators for their years of dedicated service to clean water operations in West Virginia.

30 years Experience

Ronald L. Boggess
Glen H. Ellison
William A. Henry
Daniel W. Linn
Grover C. Moore, Jr.
John R. Tinney

Jon L. Bonnell
William Fauber
Cline E. Larch
David A. McCoy
Bernard L. Snyder
Delmas H. Whetzel

40 years Experience

Homer D. Clark

If we have missed your name, please give us a call and we would be happy to add you to the list and recognize you in our next issue!

Delving through old wastewater records is much more labor intensive. And, since many operators never advance from their 1-S, Class 1 or Class 2 certifications, it makes the research much more difficult. We apologize for not recognizing these folks for all their hard work and dedication.

If you are a wastewater operator who has worked for over 30 years in the industry, please give us a call and we’ll recognize you in the next issue as well. This will also enable us to update SWOCS with more accurate information.

In 1945, the total number of certified water operators in West Virginia was 24.
To date, there are approximately 2,500 water operators and 1,200 wastewater operators.
West Virginia Rural Water Association, in conjunction with OEHS, will offer a series of **FREE** Threat Management workshops. These workshops are approved for both water and wastewater CEH’s (6).

All sessions are from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Lunch will be provided at no cost. Advance registration is required and space is limited to 25 participants.

Call WVRWA at 1-800-339-4513 to enroll today.

Free lunch, 6 CEH’s, and useful information. What’s keeping you from attending?

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

April 12th: OEHS District Office Kearneysville, WV
April 19th: WVRWA Office Scott Depot, WV
Additional dates TBA