



Drinking Water Academy Bulletin



Public Notification Handbook Published by EPA and ASDWA

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EPA and the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) co-developed the *Public Notification Handbook* to assist public water system owners and operators in preparing and distributing effective public notices.


The *Handbook* is a useful tool to assist operators in complying with EPA's recently revised Public Notification (PN) Rule (65 *FR* 25981, May 4, 2000), which requires public water systems to notify their consumers when they violate EPA or State drinking water standards. The *Handbook*, along with other information about the PN rule, is available on the Web at www.epa.gov/safewater/pn.html or by contacting the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or hotline-sdwa@epa.gov. EPA will conduct training on the PN rule in August and September (see the Training Course Schedule on pages 3 and 4).

The "how to" handbook, developed in a question-and-answer format, gives step-by-step instructions for preparing and distributing public notices. The centerpiece of the *Handbook* is a set of templates that provide examples of effective public notices, along with instructions specific to the type of violation.

Suggestions on how operators can better interact with the news media to prevent public overreaction to public notices will help operators improve their effectiveness. The *Handbook* also provides guidance on meeting the multilingual notification requirements of the PN rule and includes full Spanish translations of two templates and an appendix containing useful phrases in a variety of languages.

The *Handbook* is designed to meet the needs of public water systems of all sizes—it is filled with suggestions and instructions targeted to very

small community systems. In addition, an entire chapter is devoted to the requirements for and needs of non-community systems.

EPA intends to update the *Handbook* and provide additional public notice templates periodically as new and revised drinking water standards that have a public notification component are published. 

EPA Makes Available the *Troubleshooting Guide* For Small Ground Water Systems With Hypochlorination

The Troubleshooting Guide is a tool to help operators of small ground water systems that use hypochlorination identify and resolve operational problems. The Guide was developed by the University of Florida's Training, Research and Education for Environmental Occupations Center under a grant from EPA.

The Guide follows a systematic approach to identifying the components of a water system and suggesting steps to resolve problems. Each of the main physical components of a system is explained in a chapter: wells, pumps, disinfection, hydropneumatic tanks, distribution systems, cross connections, and sampling and monitoring. Each chapter contains a troubleshooting table that lists problems, possible causes of each problem, and solutions for each possible cause.

The Guide comes on a CD-ROM that can be obtained free from the EPA Drinking Water

EPA Proposes New Arsenic Standard

On June 22, 2000, EPA proposed a new primary drinking water standard for arsenic (see www.epa.gov/safewater/ars/proposalfs.html). EPA proposes to lower the drinking water standard or MCL for arsenic from 50 µg/L to 5 µg/L (3 µg/L is technically feasible). At that level, the rule would provide additional protection for 22 million Americans from cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, anemia, and other health problems.

The 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Amendments require EPA to determine whether the health risk reduction benefits derived from the proposed maximum contaminant level (MCL) justify the cost. The arsenic rule is the first time EPA has proposed to set a standard that is higher than what is technically feasible because EPA determined that the costs of a more stringent standard would not justify the benefits.

The rule would require community water systems serving more than 10,000 people to be in compliance 3 years after promulgation of the final rule. (SDWA requires EPA to promulgate a final arsenic rule by January 1, 2001.) Community water systems serving 25 to 10,000 people would be required to be in compliance 5 years after promulgation of the final rule. Non-transient, non-community water systems would be required to monitor for arsenic and report exceedances of the MCL within 3 years after promulgation of the final rule. Before the effective date, all community water systems will begin disclosing health information and arsenic concentrations in their annual Consumer Confidence Reports for water that exceeds the new standard.

EPA is requesting comments on the proposed rule and alternative standards of 3 µg/L, 10 µg/L, and 20 µg/L. Comments must be received by September 20, 2000. Written comments may be sent to the W-99-16 Arsenic Comments Clerk, Water Docket (MC 4101), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460, (202) 260-3027 between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time,

Trouble-shooting Guide (Continued from Page 1)

Resource Center in October (ask for EPA publication number EPA 816-C-00-002). You can request the Guide by e-mail (center.water-resource@epa.gov). (Be sure to include your address when contacting the Resource Center, telephone (202)260-7786, or fax (202) 260-0386.) The Guide is an Adobe Acrobat file on CD-ROM. You can also download the Guide from the DWA Web site at www.epa.gov/safewater/dwa/electronic/gwtsg.pdf.

Monday through Friday. Comments may also be submitted electronically to owdocket@epa.gov.

EPA held a 1-day stakeholders' meeting on Wednesday, August 9, 2000, in Reno, NV. For more information, visit the OGWDW arsenic Web page at <http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw/arsenic.html>.

DWA Readies New Courses for Fall 2000

The Drinking Water Academy is preparing three new courses that will be ready for delivery in late fall. These courses were identified by the DWA work group as priorities during a meeting in September 1999. Work on the courses has been proceeding since then.

- *From Risk to Rule: How EPA Develops Risk-Based Drinking Water Regulations* provides an understanding of the basis for EPA's primary drinking water regulations. It is intended for EPA Regional and State staff who implement the rules. The course explains the historical context of the public health protection basis for regulating drinking water; presents an overview of the risk reduction objectives of the Safe Drinking Water Act; explains how EPA considers risk and integrates costs and benefits in developing regulatory alternatives; and explains the principles of risk communication.
- *Public Water System Supervision (PWSS) State Oversight* is a course for EPA and State staff who oversee or implement State drinking water primacy programs. The course provides an understanding of the grants management aspects of State oversight and discusses activities that must be carried out by the EPA Region, including regulatory interpretation, technical assistance, dealing with the public, and State program reviews.
- *Introduction to Underground Injection Control (UIC) Permitting* is for UIC permit writers. It explains the technical aspects of permit writing and covers topics such as site evaluation, monitoring and mechanical integrity testing, injection dynamics, well construction, financial assurance, and public participation.

These courses will be piloted in the fall and will be ready for delivery to EPA Regional and State audiences in the winter.

EPA is asking for comments on the proposed arsenic standard and alternatives by September 20, 2000

Training Course Schedule

Course Title	Audience	Date Scheduled	Location	Contact
Sanitary Survey Training	Alaska State drinking water staff	Sept. 26-29, 2000 Oct. 17-20,2000	Sitka, AK Anchorage, AK	Lee Michalsky State of Alaska (907) 747-7755
Introduction to SDWA, PWSS, SWP	Louisiana State staff	Sept. 18-20, 2000	New Orleans, LA	Bill Davis EPA Region 6 (214) 665-7536 davis.williamh@epa.gov
Introduction to SDWA, PWSS, and Source Water Protection, SDWA Compliance for Small Systems	Minnesota State drinking water staff	Sept. 26-28, 2000	Minneapolis, MN	Stew Thornley MN Dept. of Health (651) 215-0771 stew.thornley@health.state.mn.us
Source Water Protection Conference	Region 1 State and EPA staff	Sept. 28, 2000	China Lake, ME	Jackie LeClair EPA Region 1 (617) 918-1549 leclair.jackie@epa.gov
SETS Training	Federal and State staff whose responsibilities include retrieving enforcement-sensitive data or accessing the SETS data from SDWIS/FED (must have completed beginner's and intermediate courses)	Sept. 2000*	Washington, DC	Michelle Stoner EPA HQ (202) 260-2798 stoner.michelle@epa.gov
UIC Inspector Training	All State and Federal drinking water staff	Oct. 2-6, 2000	West Palm Beach, FL	Steve Platt EPA Region 3 (215) 814-5464 platt.steve@epa.gov
Capacity Development and Sanitary Surveys	State drinking water staff	Oct. 5, 2000	Portland, OR	James Bourne EPA HQ (202) 260-5557 bourne.james@epa.gov
Sanitary Survey Training	State drinking water staff	Oct. 17-20, 2000 November 2000** Apr. 23-27, 2001	Little Rock, AR Louisiana Albuquerque, NM	Bill Davis EPA Region 6 (214) 665-7536 davis.williamh@epa.gov
Introduction to the PWSS Program and Sanitary Survey Training	Connecticut drinking water staff and Connecticut health department staff	Oct. 24-26, 2000	Hartford, CT	Mark Sceery EPA Region 1 (617) 918-1559 sceery.mark@epa.gov
Multimedia Mitigation Workshop (Radon Rule)	State and EPA staff: Regions 5, 6, and 7 Regions 1 and 2 Regions 8, 9, and 10 Regions 3 and 4	Oct. 26 & 27, 2000 Nov. 2 & 3, 2000 Nov. 8 & 9, 2000 Nov. 14 & 15, 2000	Milwaukee, WI New Haven, CT Las Vegas, NV Washington, DC	Nicole Foley EPA HQ (202) 260-0875 foley.nicole@epa.gov

Notes:

*Final dates and locations will be posted on the DWA Web site as soon as they are available (www.epa.gov/safewater/dwa/calendar.html)

The following courses may be presented as requested: Comprehensive Performance Evaluations (Introduction); Comprehensive Performance Evaluations (Progressive); Sanitary Survey Training; Consumer Confidence Rule; Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule. See the course catalog on the DWA Web site for more information (www.epa.gov/safewater/dwa/course.html).

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EPA Supports NRWA In-Service Training

The National Rural Water Association (NRWA) is a national organization with 48 State affiliates whose primary mission is to work with rural and small drinking water system personnel to improve drinking water facility operations. NRWA State affiliates work with State drinking water programs to address concerns and problems at small systems that States have indicated are most in need of assistance.

NRWA annually provides in-service training for its nationwide staff. This year, from July 15-19, EPA sent seven regulatory and implementation managers to train NRWA's field representatives. EPA provided experts on the following proposed and final rules:


- Radon
- Arsenic
- Radionuclides
- Ground Water
- Public Notification
- Lead and Copper
- Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts
- Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment.

EPA also conducted a training session on capacity development for small systems.

The NRWA representatives work in all 48 contiguous States. NRWA has circuit riders who travel to various sites; ground water technicians who assist in developing wellhead protection programs; and training specialists who conduct and facilitate training. The training specialists will develop State-specific training based on EPA's presentations. Other NRWA staff will use their increased knowledge of the Federal regulations to better assist the personnel at rural and small water systems. 

Interactive Web-Based Training Under Development

Development of the DWA's first interactive Web-based training course is well under way. The first module to go on the Web will be *Introduction to EPA's Drinking Water Source Protection Programs*.

The training will feature animation, quizzes, a built-in glossary, links to reference materials, and a feedback mechanism. A test version will be ready in November, and DWA expects the final version will go online in the fall. 



Training Course Schedule (Continued)

Course Title	Audience	Date Scheduled	Location	Contact
Introduction to the Safe Drinking Water Act	Puerto Rico drinking water staff	Dec. 2000**	San Juan, PR	Norma Ortega EPA Region 2 (212) 637-4234 ortega.norma@epa.gov
Sanitary Survey Troubleshooter's Training	EPA Region 3 Federal and State drinking water staff	TBD*	Region 3*	Rick Rogers EPA Region 3 (215) 814-5711 rogers.rick@epa.gov

Notes:

*Final dates and locations will be posted on the DWA Web site as soon as they are available (www.epa.gov/safewater/dwa/calendar.html)

**Tentatively scheduled

The following courses may be presented as requested: Comprehensive Performance Evaluations (Introduction); Comprehensive Performance Evaluations (Progressive); Sanitary Survey Training; Consumer Confidence Rule; Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule. See the course catalog on the DWA Web site for more information (www.epa.gov/safewater/dwa/course.html).

The Drinking Water Academy Tailors Training Courses to Meet the Needs of Different Audiences


Too often training courses are presented straight off-the-shelf. They're generic courses that fit everyone somewhat, but don't fit anyone perfectly. The DWA is trying to address this dilemma by tailoring training courses to better fit the needs of the individual audience. Although this can't be done in every case, several recent efforts have been very well received.

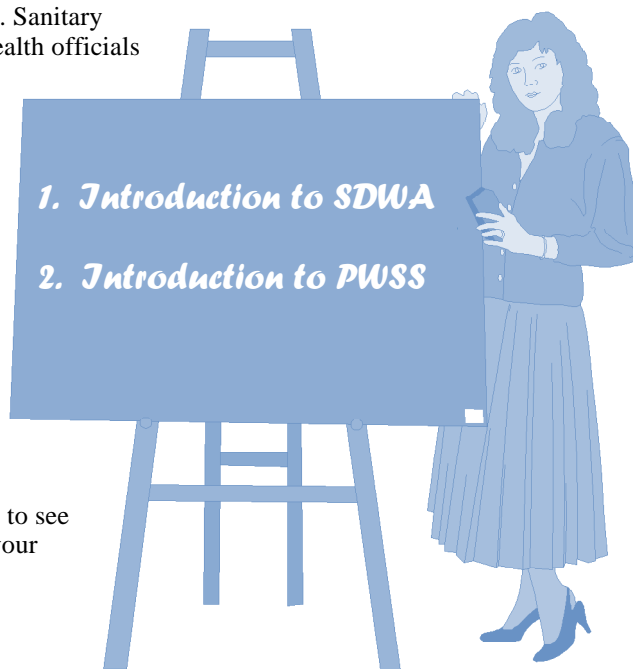
The DWA presented a 3-day training course in Idaho that addressed three of the audience's particular needs:

- The training combined the *Introduction to the Public Water System Supervision Program* and sanitary survey training into a three-day course.
- The PWSS segment focused particular attention on two of the "older" rules (total coliform and surface water treatment) in order to provide a good foundation for new staff.
- The sanitary survey segment focused on small ground water systems, since those are prevalent in Idaho.

The DWA also presented sanitary survey training in Alaska, which focused on State-specific issues and integrated the State's sanitary survey forms into the course. The training will be presented in three more locations throughout the State during the summer.

The DWA has several more tailored training deliveries planned. Sanitary survey training for local health officials in Connecticut will be tailored to give more emphasis to enforcement issues. Training scheduled for Minnesota will combine two modules, *Introduction to SDWA* and *Introduction to PWSS*, into a 1-day session.

When thinking about presenting training in your EPA Region or State, contact a DWA representative listed below to see how we can help address your training needs. 



Drinking Water Academy Contacts

Contact	Location	Telephone	E-mail
MaryJo Feuerbach	EPA Region 1	(617) 918-1578	feuerbach.maryjo@epa.gov
Norma Ortega	EPA Region 2	(212) 637-4234	ortega.norma@epa.gov
Rick Rogers	EPA Region 3	(215) 814-5711	rogers.rick@epa.gov
Janine Morris	EPA Region 4	(404) 562-9480	morris.janine@epa.gov
Bill Spaulding	EPA Region 5	(312) 886-9262	spaulding.william@epa.gov
Bill Davis	EPA Region 6	(214) 665-7536	davis.williamh@epa.gov
Stephanie Lindberg	EPA Region 7	(913) 551-7423	lindberg.stephanie@epa.gov
Dan Jackson	EPA Region 8	(303) 312-6155	jackson.dan@epa.gov
Barry Pollock	EPA Region 9	(415) 744-1854	pollock.barry@epa.gov
Mike Cox	EPA Region 10	(206) 553-1893	cox.mike@epa.gov
Mark Anderson	Virginia	(804) 786-5569	manderson@vdh.state.va.us
Carole Limaye	Texas	(512) 239-6120	climaye@tnrcc.state.tx.us
Stew Thornley	Minnesota	(651) 215-0771	stew.thornley@health.state.mn.us
Murlene Lash	EPA HQ	(202) 260-7197	lash.murlene@epa.gov
Mario Salazar	EPA HQ	(202) 260-2363	salazar.mario@epa.gov
James Bourne	EPA HQ	(202) 260-5557	bourne.james@epa.gov


Status of State Source Water Assessment Programs

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Amendments of 1996 developed a new tool for the protection of drinking water: the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP). Through this program, State governments assess the threats to each public drinking water supply so that the communities and public water systems can work together to decide how best to protect drinking water sources.

Congress requested that States submit to EPA source water assessment programs that outline their approaches to completing assessments of all their public drinking water sources. State source water assessments include delineating the source water protection area; inventorying the potential contaminant sources in the area; determining the susceptibility of the public water supply to contamination; and releasing the results of the assessments to the public. As of August 3, 2000, EPA had approved the approaches of 48 States,

Washington, D. C., and Puerto Rico. The approaches of Kansas and Wyoming remain under EPA review.

Most States expect to complete all of their assessments by May 2003, using up to 10 percent of their 1997 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund allocation. As follow-up, States may spend up to 10 percent of their Drinking Water State Revolving Fund grants to administer or provide technical assistance through source water protection programs.

For further information on the national drinking water source protection program, please contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or send an e-mail to hotline-sdwa@epa.gov. For information on individual State SWAPs, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw/source/contacts.html> for a list of State source water protection contacts and Web pages. 

DWA Spanish Language Training A Success

Under the auspices of EPA Region 2 and the Drinking Water Academy, the Underground Injection Control (UIC) Inspectors Training was held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on August 9-11, 2000. The training was taught entirely in Spanish.

The 100 participants represented Puerto Rico's Environmental Quality Board, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Health, and other agencies. In addition, representatives from several municipalities throughout the island, 3 employees of the U.S. Navy, and 3 EPA staff people attended.



The Inspectors training was presented by a team of professors from two universities on the island: the University of Puerto Rico and the Interamerican University in San Germán.

Of the 100 people registered for the course, 91 completed the necessary requirements and were certified as UIC Inspectors. The participants were very enthusiastic about this training, which some had to travel long distances to attend.

The students expressed a strong interest in participating in future courses in Spanish offered by the Academy. 