

The Idaho Drinking Water Newsletter

Department of Environmental Quality Idaho Drinking Water Program

www.deq.idaho.gov/water/prog_issues.cfm

February 2011, Number 59

Idaho drinking water operator training status changes

Many classes will now require a fee / Brown Environmental does not renew contract

Training update. In December 2010, Brown Environmental, Inc. announced that it would not be renewing its contract in January with DEQ to provide operator training.

Over the years, federal funding was available for operator training classes, which were offered free of charge to Idaho's drinking water and wastewater operators.

Now due to reduced federal funding, paying fees for most classes will become necessary.

As a result of these two circumstances, DEQ will continue to provide information to public drinking water operators regarding available training. The quarterly *Idaho Drinking Water Newsletter* will continue to carry the "Training Schedule" section of available training classes (see *Training Insert – Side B in this issue*). In addition, a mutual multi-agency online training calendar is currently available at www.smallwatersupply.org. Choose "calendars" then select "Idaho."

Finding available approved training classes with CEUs.

On its website, the Idaho Bureau of Occupational Licenses (IBOL) provides a list of classes that are approved for CEUs (Continuing Education Units) and a list of trainers that provide classes.

The Idaho Rural Water Association (IRWA) is offering a wide variety of training classes some of which are free, as well as *online classes* approved for CEUs. The American Water Works Association (AWWA), through five regional sections, offers classes for the Pacific Northwest.

The following general list of training information will help operators locate approved drinking water and wastewater classes.

☐ Idaho Bureau of Occupational Licenses (IBOL)

▶ List of IBOL approved classes:

<https://secure.ibol.idaho.gov/eibolpublic/cecousebrowser.aspx?bureau=wwp>

▶ List of trainers:

ibol.idaho.gov/IBOL/BoardAdditional.aspx?Bureau=WWP&BureauLinkID=140

☐ Idaho Rural Water Association (IRWA)

▶ List of training classes:

irwa.web.officelive.com/Training.aspx

▶ List of online classes:

irwa.web.officelive.com/OnlineClasses.aspx

☐ American Water Works Association (AWWA)

(See IBOL site for more information and web address for each section below)

▶ Blue Mountain Operator Section

▶ Southeast Idaho Intermountain Operator Section

▶ Southwest Idaho Operator Section

▶ Subsections Website ■

Sign up now to continue to receive the newsletter online

Idaho Drinking Water Newsletter changing to electronic format

As announced in the last newsletter (# 58), the quarterly Idaho Drinking Water Newsletter, is switching from postal delivery of a printed newsletter solely to electronic delivery. *This current issue will be the last newsletter to be mailed.* The first electronic issue will be # 60 due out in May of this year.

To sign up for the "e-Newsletter," which will have the same format and look as the current newsletter, go to www.deq.idaho.gov and click on the box entitled "Sign Up for E-mail Updates." ■

Autodialing update

DEQ continues automated telephone-email monitoring reminders statewide

DEQ continues to notify systems (now statewide) of monitoring data due through its automated telephone-email program. The autodialing messages are sent when database records indicate that DEQ has not received laboratory results of required monitoring.

Currently, the service is being used to notify systems that their quarterly samples are now due. No automated messages are sent when systems sample early in the monitoring period, and forward the lab results to their regional DEQ office.

Use the Public Switchboard to review monitoring schedules. Remember to use the Drinking Water Program's Public Switchboard at www.deq.idaho.gov/Applications/SDWISReports/pws_index.cfm to check your monitoring schedules. ■

EPA's voluntary monitoring guidance for chromium-6

Chromium-6 could pose health concerns

EPA has issued guidance recommending how water systems might develop monitoring programs specifically for hexavalent chromium, also known as chromium-6. This guidance is based on emerging scientific evidence showing that chromium-6 could pose health concerns if consumed over long periods of time.

Currently, national primary drinking water regulations require monitoring for total chromium (which includes chromium-6) with the maximum contaminant level (MCL) set at 0.1 mg/L. Testing is not required, however, to distinguish what percentage of the total chromium is chromium-6.

When EPA finalizes its human health assessment on chromium-6 later this year, it will determine whether a separate standard is necessary for chromium-6. In the interim, EPA is providing guidance to water systems on how they may monitor, *on a voluntary basis*, for chromium-6 in addition to the monitoring they are now required to perform for total chromium.

For more information on the new guidance for public drinking water systems, see water.epa.gov/drink/info/chromium/guidance.cfm. ■



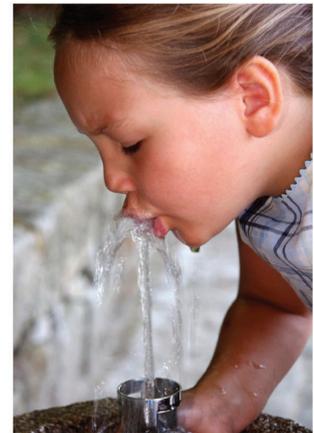
Source Water Protection Grants Now Available

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Source Water Protection Program

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality is pleased to announce the availability of Source Water Protection Grant Funding.

Grants are available to implement projects to protect sources of public drinking water including:

- Contaminant source identification (research)
- Contaminant pathway removal (closure of abandoned or unused wells)
- Contaminant removal (hazardous waste collection, pollution prevention, and waste reduction)
- Contaminant management (implementation of best management practices (BMPs), development and implementation of a source water protection plan, structures to divert contaminated runoff from the source)
- Education and information sharing (brochures, workshops, media campaigns)



Eligible applicants include:

- Public Water Systems
- Local Government
- Special Districts
- Associations
- Educational Institutions
- Non-Profit Organizations

Applications are now available online.

For more information or to apply for funding, please visit:

www.deq.idaho.gov/swpGrant/

EPA to review existing fluoride standard

Agencies evaluate new scientific assessments

In January 2011, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced new scientific assessments of fluoride with the intent to review the existing fluoride standard.

HHS proposes a recommended standard of 0.7 mg/L (milligrams per liter) *for optimal oral health*, which is different than EPA's current maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 4.0 mg/L. (MCLs are set by EPA to address adverse health effects.)

The current MCL of 4 mg/L is for community public water systems, but there is no drinking water standard for fluoride for non-community public water systems.

EPA is initiating a review of fluoride based on new scientific assessments of the health effects of too much fluoride, but EPA has not yet decided whether the MCL should be revised; no timeframe has been identified. For further information, go to www.deq.idaho.gov/water/prog_issues/drinking_water/fluoride.cfm to see links listed below.

- [EPA's questions and answers regarding fluoride](#)
- [EPA and HHS January 7, 2011 press release](#)
- [EPA's information on the review of the fluoride drinking water standard](#) ■

Free drinking water documents available from NESCC

The National Environmental Services Center (NESCC) has developed an online "shopping cart" that will allow users to download free PDFs of selected products that are useful for the drinking water and wastewater communities – especially those that are designated as "small systems."

NESCC currently maintains more than 1,000 free and low-cost products related to small community water and wastewater issues. More than 300 products are currently available online, including case studies, design manuals, and NESCC's popular Tech Briefs. View the shopping cart by going to www.nesc.wvu.edu/ecommerce/. ■

How to save your water system some money

New EPA guidance addresses water losses in public water systems



In November 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released the guidance document, *Control and Mitigation of Drinking Water Losses in Distribution Systems*, which provides information on tailoring a program to help prevent the loss of water, and hence the loss of revenue, in public drinking water systems.

The AWWA (American Water Works Association) estimates that there are close to 237,600 breaks per year in the US leading to approximately \$2.8 billion lost in yearly revenue.

Basically, the document provides guidance in four main areas:

- Water audits**, which analyze a facility's water use and identify ways to make it more efficient
- Water metering** to record actual usage and make customers aware of the amount of water they use (some small systems have not installed meters)
- Leak detection techniques** currently available to water systems
- System maintenance** and preventative measures to control water losses

The document stresses the many advantages of a water loss program, such as recovering costs because lost or unaccounted for water can be equated with lost or unaccounted for revenue; protecting public health through reduction in potential system entry points of disease-causing pathogens; and helping systems to conserve water.

Obtaining a copy of the guidance. Interested parties may download an electronic version of the *176-page* guidance document at EPA's website water.epa.gov/type/drink/pws/smallsystems/technical_help.cfm.

Hard copies (Document No. EPA 816-R-10-019) are available by contacting **National Service Center for Environmental Publication 1-800-490-9198** (toll free), or the **Water Resource Center 202-566-1729** (non-toll free). ■

Operator reimbursement funding program nears completion

System operators should seek reimbursement as soon as possible after completing a class, or incurring a licensing expense because funds will soon run out

Through a one-time Operator Certification Expense Reimbursement grant from EPA, DEQ has operated the Idaho Drinking Water Operator Reimbursement Program since 2004. The program provides funding for licensing and training for operators of small public drinking water systems serving 3,300 persons or fewer.

Now, however, the funds from the limited EPA grant are almost completely used up. The program will continue to reimburse operators or systems for training until the remaining funds run out.

DEQ recommends that system operators seeking reimbursement for training, or licensing expenses, should file for reimbursement as soon as possible even though there is a 90-day period to submit documentation. Operators waiting to file may find that funds for reimbursement have been exhausted. This program will closeout September 2011 if available funding is not exhausted prior to that date.

To obtain copies of the reimbursement form and a "W-9 Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification" form, go to www.idahocertificationtraining.com/forms.htm#reimbursement.

Questions? See Q&As at www.idahocertificationtraining.com/reimbursement.htm or contact Don Lee at (208) 373-0289 or don.lee@deq.idaho.gov. ■

February 25

Drinking Water Disinfection Training in Meridian

The Idaho Southwest Sub-Section of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) is offering a **one-day training workshop**, entitled "Drinking Water Disinfection," in Meridian, Idaho, for drinking water operators **on February 25th**.

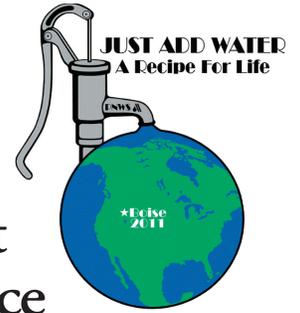
Training: The Drinking Water Disinfection training will consist of five presentations plus a site tour.

Cost: \$20 per person.

Lunch: Lunch is provided.

Earn CEUs

2011 AWWA Pacific Northwest Section Conference to be held in Boise May 4-6



Make plans now to have your water system department managers, engineers, supervisors, and operators attend the Pacific Northwest Section of the American Water Works Association (PNWS-AWWA) 2011 Annual Conference in **Boise May 4-6 at the Boise Centre on the Grove**.

CEU's and program topics. The annual conference will feature numerous opportunities for you to earn CEU credits to meet professional certification requirements *at a reasonable cost*. Scheduled technical program topics include: compliance with Drinking Water Regulations for small systems, using tracer field testing for mobile calibration, and discussions of telemetry and SCADA systems, among many more. You can find out more about the technical program by viewing the schedule at www.pnws-awwa.org. The conference features over 100 vendor exhibits, with the latest equipment and resources for water systems of all sizes.

Registration for the PNWS-AWWA Annual Conference is now underway. You can register online by visiting www.pnws-awwa.org/Page.asp?NavID=219 and clicking on the link for the 2011 conference.

Four scholarships available. If you are interested in applying for one of the four scholarships AWWA is offering to attend the Pacific NorthWest Section Conference in Boise, please email Randy Zollinger at rzollinger@pnws-awwa.org for an application. All applications are due by March 1. ■

CEUs: 0.6 Water CEUs (Continuing Education Units).

Location: City of Meridian, new City Hall Building located at [33 East Broadway Avenue](#) in the first floor Conference Room A/B.

Date/Time: February 25, 2011. Registration is from 7:30-8:00 a.m. and the training is scheduled from 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. with facility tours after the class.

Making reservations: *The class is limited to 40 participants.* Make reservation with Wally Hammons at [208-455-4790](tel:208-455-4790) or via email at whammons@ci.caldwell.id.us. ■

2011 Idaho Water Reuse Conference in Boise May 24-25

CEUs for drinking water and wastewater are pending

The 2011 Idaho Water Reuse Conference, sponsored by DEQ, will be held May 24-25 at the DoubleTree Hotel Boise Riverside in Boise.

The two-day conference enables operators, government agencies, consultants, developers, and other professionals to network and discuss key issues related to water reuse in Idaho and the West.

- ❑ **Topics relevant to drinking water operators** include indicator organisms, indirect potable reuse, operator forums on real experiences with various filtration technologies, and using vocabulary and images that support informed decisions about water reuse.
- ❑ **Registration Fee:** \$145 before May 7; \$195 after May 7.
- ❑ **CEUs:** CEUs, as approved by the Idaho Bureau of Licensing (IBOL), are pending for both drinking water and wastewater participants.
- ❑ **Breakfast/Lunch:** Breakfast and a lunch buffet for both days are included with the registration fee.
- ❑ **For additional information:** For more details regarding registration and accommodations, log on to: www.deq.idaho.gov/2011IdahoWaterReuseConference. ■



In Idaho, there are a wide variety of training classes available, and some at no charge.

Training Schedule

Class/Sponsor	Location/Date
Basic Cross Connection (IRWA) - W	Coeur d'Alene, 2/9/11
Confined Space Entry Training (IRWA) - W/WW	Coeur d'Alene, 2/10/11
Variable Frequency Drives (IRWA) - W/WW (FULL)	Garden City, 2/17/11
Variable Frequency Drives (IRWA) - W/WW (FULL)	Garden City, 2/18/11
Confined Space Entry Training (IRWA) - W/WW	McCall, 2/24/11
Drinking Water Disinfection (AWWA-SW Idaho Sub-Section/Pacific Northwest) - W	Meridian, 2/25/11
IRWA Annual Conference - W/WW	Idaho Falls, 3/16-18/11
Competent Person Training (IRWA) - W/WW	Coeur d'Alene, 4/6/11
Basic Cross Connection (IRWA) - W	Meridian, 4/19/11
Basic Cross Connection (IRWA) - W	Burley, 4/20/11
2011 AWWA Pacific Northwest Section Conference (PNWS - AWWA) - W/WW	Boise, 5/4-6/11
Troubleshooting Wastewater Lagoons (IRWA) - WW	Idaho Falls, 5/10/11
Troubleshooting Wastewater Lagoons (IRWA) - WW	Pocatello, 5/11/11
Troubleshooting Wastewater Lagoons (IRWA) - WW	Jerome, 5/12/11
Troubleshooting Wastewater Lagoons (IRWA) - WW	Fruitland, 5/13/11
O&M for Storage Tanks & Valves (IRWA) - W	Boise, 5/19/11
Water Meter Applications & Advanced Metering Applications (IRWA) - W	Meridian, 05/24/11
2011 Idaho Water Reuse Conference (DEQ) - W/WW	Boise, 5/24-25/11
Water Meter Applications & Advanced Metering Applications (IRWA) - W	Lewiston, 05/26/11

Idaho Rural Water Association (IRWA)

1-800-962-3257 or 208-343-7001, or 208-582-0592

Email: bburke@idahoruralwater.com

Website: www.idahoruralwater.com/

AWWA - SW Idaho Sub-Section/Pacific Northwest

For more information, contact Wally Hammonds at

whammonds@ci.caldwell.id.us

or 208-455-4790.

PNWS-AWWA Section Conference

For more information go to

www.pnws-awwa.org/Page.asp?NavID=219

DEQ - 2011 Idaho Water Reuse Conference

For more information log on to

www.deq.idaho.gov/2011IdahoWaterReuseConference

www.smallwatersupply.org

This site lists available training classes in Idaho by the month.

■ Well maintenance reminder

In the spring, with increased demands of water, some systems are activating their reserve wells. Remember, wells that have been inactive during the winter months should be “pumped-to-waste” in order to flush any rust and bacteria that may have developed in the pipes. Chlorinators should also be prepared for use, or turned on. Some preventive maintenance now can save expenses later.

■ Safe Drinking Water Hotline

For general information on drinking water, contact EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. The Safe Drinking Water Hotline is open Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Eastern Time. You can also contact EPA’s Safe Drinking Water web site at water.epa.gov/drink/hotline/index.cfm.

A reminder to all community water systems:

Calendar Year 2010 CCRs are due July 1, 2011

The updated Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) templates and instructions are available on the DEQ web sites below:

■ General instructions are located at www.deq.idaho.gov/water/assist_business/pws/ccr.cfm.

■ 2010 templates (DEQ or EPA), the CCR Report Writing Assistance Tool, and your system’s sampling and violation records for 2010 are at www.deq.idaho.gov/water/prog_issues/drinking_water/ccr2/ccrwip.cfm.

DEQ will mail a CCR reminder postcard to all community water system owners in March 2011.