



the Pipeline

Volume 27 • April 2012

Oregon Drinking Water News

Program update

by Dave Leland

The 2012 Legislature adjourned March 5 after passing two landmark health care reform bills. SB 1580 implemented Coordinated Care Organizations, and HB 4164 established the Health Insurance Exchange. In addition, the Legislature passed a rebalance of the 2011-2013 budget to account for revenue reductions after the budget was approved in the 2011 session. There were a small number of legislative bills introduced relating to water, none directly relating to drinking water.

On March 14, 2012, OHA issued a Final Order granting the City of Portland a variance from Cryptosporidium treatment requirements for the unfiltered Bull Run water source. This is the first such variance issued under the Safe Drinking Water Act anywhere in the country. The final order was issued by OHA after a nearly ten month review process and sets rigorous variance conditions that the City must meet to assure

Continued on page 2

Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts Rule:

Compliance monitoring for Schedule 1 water systems begins April 1, 2012

by Gregg Baird

As a reminder, compliance monitoring under the Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts Rule (DBPR) begins April 1, 2012, for Schedule 1 water systems (i.e. Community water systems serving $\geq 100,000$ population and systems that are part of their combined distribution system). All 30 Schedule 1 systems in the state should have received a letter from the Drinking Water Program (DWP) indicating when and where (according to our information) the sampling will take place. Let us know if you did not receive a letter or the information in the letter was inaccurate. The Stage 2 DBPR applies to all Community and Non-transient Non-community (NTNC) water systems that add a primary or residual disinfectant other than ultraviolet light (UV) or deliver water that has been treated with

Continued on page 6

What's in the Pipeline

Program update	1	Start-up tips for seasonal groundwater systems	9
Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts Rule:.....	1	Handy tips for lead and copper sampling!	10
Congratulations to our "Outstanding Performers"!.....	3	Meeting calendar.....	11
Operator Certification Corner.....	3	Training calendar	11
It's coming! Mark your calendars!	4		
Advanced small water system training course rides again in 2012	8		

Visit the Oregon Drinking Water program at <http://healthoregon.org/dwp>

that public health is protected. See our website (under “Hot Topics”) for the proposed and final variance orders, the public comments received, and OHAs responses to those comments.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) recently released its Semiannual Regulatory Agenda. USEPA’s major drinking water regulatory initiatives are:

- Lead and Copper: Regulatory Revisions (Proposed Rule October 2012, Final Rule December 2013);
- Revisions to Total Coliform Rule (Final Rule June 2012);
- Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 3 (Final Rule March 2012);
- Perchlorate Rule (Proposed Rule March 2013, Final Rule May 2015);
- Carcinogenic Volatile Organic Compound Rule (Proposed Rule October 2013, Final Rule Apr 2015).

The program and our partners at Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority recently were recognized by USEPA-Region X for outstanding performance in disbursing safe drinking water revolving loan assistance to Oregon communities under both the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the base State Revolving Fund (SRF) program. Since 1998, the SRF has provided assistance totaling more than \$250 million to more than 100 Oregon communities to construct safe drinking water projects. Congratulations to the entire Oregon SRF team!

Finally, we recognize the recent passing of Gail Achterman, an outstanding natural resources leader of our times. We were privileged to work with Gail directly when she served as natural

resources advisor to Governor Goldschmidt from 1986–1991. During that time, she provided key leadership for safe drinking water in Oregon on assuming Primacy for the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, implementing the 1986 Safe Drinking Water Act amendments, and advocating for safe drinking water infrastructure financing through the Task Force on Drinking Water Construction Funding and Financing under the auspices of the Governor’s Strategic Water Management Group. The task force report “Safety on Tap (1991)” laid out a bold plan for state financing assistance for safe drinking water construction projects. Although the plan was not funded because of state budget shortfalls at that time, legal authorities enacted by the Legislature for this plan allowed for seamless adoption of the federal Safe Drinking Water Revolving Fund in Oregon in 1997.

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Bob Fuller receives recognition from Beth Myers, Vice Chair of the Drinking Water Advisory Committee, for serving six years on the committee.

Congratulations to our “Outstanding Performers”!

Jobs well done by the operators of these systems:

Water system name	County served
Beverly Beach Water District	Lincoln
Central Point, City of	Jackson
Century Farm Court	Marion
Goodens Trailer Court	Lane
Green Meadows Wtr Corporation	Umatilla
Halsey, City of	Linn
Hubbard, City of	Marion
Joint Water Commission	Washington
Lamontai Improvement Wtr Dist	Lane
Monmouth, City of	Polk
Raleigh Water District	Washington
Rufus Public Works	Sherman
Salem Mobile Estates/Shady Acres	Marion
Shady Rest Mobile Court	Umatilla

These are the public water systems that have most recently met the established criteria for outstanding performance.

Outstanding performers are systems with no significant deficiencies identified, as well as no unresolved violations. All systems are evaluated during their routine Water System Survey, and those that meet the outstanding performer criteria have their survey frequency (and fee!) reduced from every three years to every five years. To find out how to qualify, visit <http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater/Partners/Pages/osp.aspx>.

Operator Certification Corner

Exam qualifications and pre-requisites

by Dottie Reynolds

The purpose of the certification program is to improve the quality of drinking water by having skilled operators who know how to operate distribution systems and treatment processes to obtain the best quality water possible; and to protect the public’s health and to make wise and efficient use of their investment.

You should be aware of the certification requirements before you apply for the next grade level so you can look for experience and educational opportunities that will enable you to qualify for the exam. Education must be in subject areas related to the operation,

maintenance or management of a water system. These include basic science; math; equipment operation and maintenance; treatment processes; resource protection; water quality standards; measurements and testing; and public health regulations.

Keeping the intent of the certification program in mind should help you make sure your education is relevant, and ensure that when you are ready to take the next step, you have the needed prerequisites and education to help you pass the exam.

Dottie Reynolds is the Operator Certification Unit coordinator in the Drinking Water Program / 971-673-0426 or dottie.e.reynolds@state.or.us

IT'S COMING! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

by Adam DeSemp

The “**2013 Funding**” Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRLF) Letter of Interest (LOI) will be released in July 2012.

Who is eligible for the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund?

- Public water systems that are classified as “community” and/or “non-transient non-community” are eligible to receive funding for projects necessary to comply with public drinking water standards specified within the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) amendments. A portion of the State Revolving Loan Fund targets systems serving fewer than 10,000 individuals.

What is offered?

- Loan rates from 1 percent to 4 percent depending on water system type and status; plus, repayment terms from 20 to 30 years.
- Additional subsidies (i.e., principal forgiveness) of at least 20, but no greater than 30 percent of the overall capitalization grant amount (i.e. \$8,975,000), with an emphasis on “disadvantaged communities” and water systems that need to maintain or achieve compliance set forth by the US-EPA’s SDWA.
- Loan servicing by Business Oregon, Infrastructure Finance Authority.
- Loans tailored to meet the specific funding and affordability repayment requirements of the water system.

What to do?

When the Letter of Interest (LOI) is released in July 2012, submit an LOI for your water system postmarked no later than the deadline date (i.e., probably in September 2012). Here’s how:

- Go to the Drinking Water Program’s website at <http://healthoregon.org/dwp>
- Click on the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund category on the left-side column. This will take you directly to the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund webpage. When available, a direct link to the “2013 Funding” LOI materials will appear there (mid-to-late July 2012).
- Complete and return a LOI, the preliminary data collection tool for the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund program. The LOI packet is designed for easy use and will walk you through the necessary information (mostly check-off boxes and short narrative answers). The LOI can cover any one phase or a combination of phases for a project (e.g., planning, engineering, construction).
- Drinking Water Program circuit riders can assist eligible small water systems (i.e., those serving under 10,000 individuals) with completing the LOI and other funding applications. If interested, please contact Robert Henry of HBH Consulting Engineers, Inc. at 503-625-8065 or 1-866-669-6603, or by email at rhenry@hbh-consulting.com.

Another great resource for information and/or finding other funding options is the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) Oregon Water & Wastewater Funding and Resource Guide at www.rcac.org/assets/Oregon/ORresourceGd-4-11.pdf.

Need more information?

It's as easy as:

Visiting the Drinking Water Program's website at <http://healthoregon.org/dwp>.

Calling our State Revolving Loan Fund Program Coordinator, Adam DeSemple, at 971-673-0422, or emailing him at adam.desemple@state.or.us.

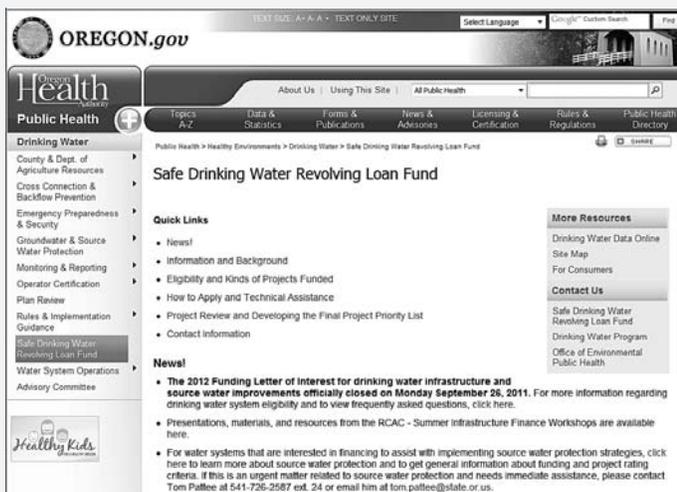
Contacting Business Oregon, Infrastructure Finance Authority at 503-986-0123 or 1-800-233-3306 or online at www.oinfrastructure.org/Learn-About-Infrastructure-Programs/Interested-in-a-Water-or-Wastewater-Improvement-Project/Safe-drinking-water-revolving-loan-fund/.

Final Note:

There are two state agencies involved in the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund Program. The Drinking Water Program's staff review and rank the incoming Letters of Interest against standard criteria for State Revolving Loan Funds. They also coordinate, prepare, and submit the annual Capitalization Grant application to the US-EPA. Business Oregon, Infrastructure Finance Authority handles "loan servicing;" they act as the "bank" for these loan funds and determine what water systems qualify for. You may contact either agency using the information listed.

Adam DeSemple is the State Revolving Loan Fund Program Coordinator for the Drinking Water Program located in Portland. Phone: 971-673-0422 / Email: adam.desemple@state.or.us

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a primary or residual disinfectant other than UV. Systems that purchase disinfected water are included in this rule. *Keep in mind that quarterly results must be reported to the DWP within 10 days after the end of the quarter. If you are required to sample during March/June/September/December, remember to sample early in those months to have time to get the results turned in!*

For Schedule 1 systems with a completed Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE):

After April 1, 2012, you will switch from Stage 1 monitoring locations and dates to the new Stage 2 compliance monitoring locations and dates identified in your IDSE report. These systems will start *quarterly* sampling in April, May or June 2012, and every 90 days thereafter, making sure to sample in their peak historical month. **You are not required to sample during a specific week of the month; sampling anytime within**

the correct month is adequate. A dual sample set (two samples collected at the same time and same location, with one analyzed for TTHM and one analyzed for HAA5) must be collected at each location. These results must be reported within 10 days after the end of the quarter.

Three surface water systems with a population of 500 to 3,300 did an IDSE and are required to take individual TTHM and HAA5 samples (instead of a dual sample set) at the locations with the highest TTHM and HAA5 concentrations, respectively, on a quarterly basis. Three other surface water systems with a population of 500 to 3,300 did an IDSE and identified one location as both the high TTHM site and the high HAA5. These systems can collect a dual sample set at that one location on a quarterly basis.

continued on next page



For Schedule 1 systems that DID NOT

require an IDSE: If you were not required to do an IDSE because you received a Very Small System waiver, you must use your existing Stage 1 data to determine your Stage 2 compliance monitoring location(s) and date(s). These systems are required to take individual TTHM and HAA5 samples (instead of a dual sample set) at the locations with the highest TTHM and HAA5 concentrations, respectively. However, you may collect one dual sample set per monitoring period if the highest TTHM and HAA5 concentrations occur at the same location and month. **In the absence of Stage 1 data from multiple monitoring locations within your system, your Stage 1 site could be considered both the high TTHM & HAA5 site and allowed to collect one dual sample at that location.** These systems will start *annual* sampling during their peak historical month within 12 months after April 1, 2012.

Compliance with the Stage 2 DBPR will be tracked by the Drinking Water Program and is based on a Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) rather than a system-wide Running Annual Average (RAA).

The next group of systems (nine in state) that begin Stage 2 compliance monitoring this year are the Schedule 2 systems (CWS serving 50,000-99,999 population and systems in their combined distribution system). Letters will go out this summer reminding these systems that Stage 2 compliance monitoring begins October 1, 2012. *Seven of those systems received an exemption from the IDSE requirements (surface water systems with populations over 3,300), and are required to submit their Compliance Monitoring Plans for review and approval prior to beginning compliance monitoring.*

More information about the Stage 2 DBPR including guidance for creating Compliance Monitoring Plans and answers to some frequently asked questions can be found on our website at: <http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater/Rules/Stage2/Pages/index.aspx>.

The DWP also plans on adding Stage 2 monitoring schedules to our Data Online page for each system in the near future.

Schedule 3 systems (CWS serving 10,000-49,999 population and systems in their combined distribution system) and Schedule 4 systems (CWS and NTNC water systems serving < 10,000 population) will begin compliance monitoring on October 1, 2013. The DWP plans to send reminder letters to these systems sometime during summer 2013. We will also have a Pipeline article to help guide these systems when we get closer to the date, so stay tuned!

Questions? Call your technical services contact at the Drinking Water Program, or call 971-673-0405.

Gregg Baird is an environmental specialist in the Technical Services Unit of the Drinking Water Program / 971-673-0410 or gregg.c.baird@state.or.us

Advanced small water system training course rides again in 2012

Last year, the Drinking Water Program (DWP) developed a new, advanced course to satisfy the recertification requirement for operators of small ground water systems (<150 connections). We appreciate the 74 operators that participated during the “pilot year” and provided feedback to help us to refine the course! After retooling the content, the DWP will again offer this class four times in 2012.

For years, there was only one course operators of small community and non-transient non-community groundwater systems could take to meet the recertification requirement. This free course was the Basics for Small Water Systems (SWS) training course, taught recently by OAWU, or the equivalent training offered online. Operators may still take the Basics course to recertify, however, if operators have completed the Basics course two or more times, we encourage them to take the advanced course.

This free one-day course is designed with an interactive format for a smaller group of participants. It will be taught by DWP technical staff and cover topics not addressed in the original Small Water System class, such as:

- How to properly disinfect the wells, lines, and storage tanks (“shock chlorination”) at **your** water system;
- Operator responsibilities under the Groundwater Rule; and
- Determining appropriate management practices to protect the quality of your drinking water source.

The dates and places of the four 2012 classes are on our Operator Certification website (<http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater/OperatorCertification/SmallWaterSystems/Pages/index.aspx>). If you need to renew in 2012 or 2013, check to see whether any of these are convenient for you; the locations will vary from year to year. For example, one of the four classes in 2012 will be held in northeast Oregon (Pendleton), but probably not in that area in 2013.

Keep in mind:

- Class size will be limited to allow for the hands-on activities. There is an earlier registration cutoff date than for most classes because the instructors need lead time to prepare materials specific to the systems that will be represented in the classroom.
- To register, contact Drue Edney at 541-726-2587 ext. 25, or drue.edney@state.or.us.
- For other questions about the advanced course, call Betsy Parry at 541-726-2587, Ext. 30, or betsy.l.parry@state.or.us.
- For operator certification questions, go to the website mentioned above, or call Dottie Reynolds or Lee Keyes at 971-673-0413, or 1-800-422-6012.

Start-up tips for seasonal groundwater systems

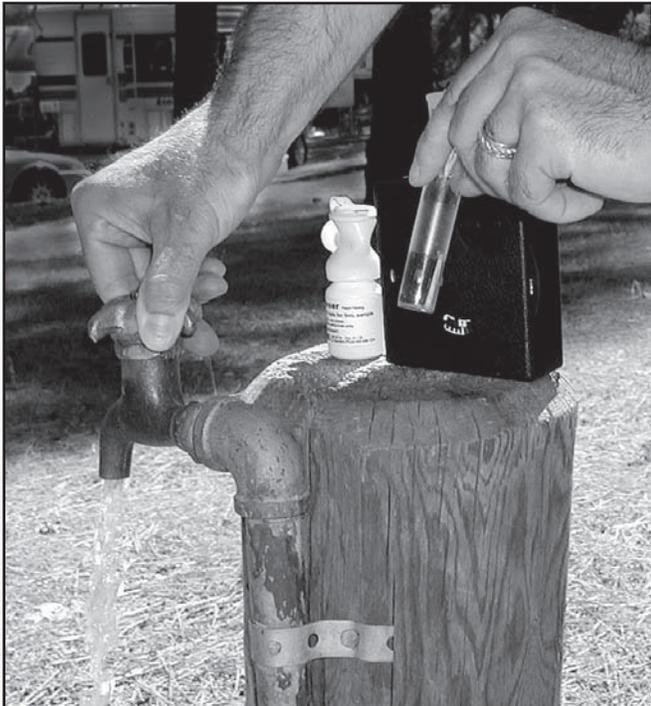
Have you noticed the days getting longer? That means it is time to reactivate seasonal water systems! The Drinking Water Program has a new website that details the proper steps, dosage tables for disinfection, precautions and even photos to help start your season off right. The new website content is aimed at groundwater systems, but many steps would apply to surface water-based systems as well. The bottom line is it pays to do a thorough job with preventive maintenance at the start of the season because it can save you headaches and a great deal of customer inconvenience later on.

For starters, don't wait until the last minute. Begin preparations a few weeks before you plan to serve water to customers. You will need that time to: evaluate the condition of your water

Make your start up trouble-free by ensuring your system is clear of coliform bacteria before you begin serving water to the public.

system, make repairs, activate the water source, perform annual maintenance on pumps and components, start up treatment (if applicable), flush and disinfect all components (well or spring box, all tanks and distribution lines), take samples to make sure the water system is free of coliform bacteria, correct problems and re-test if necessary, and update your system's contacts and ongoing sampling dates.

You can find this information on our website by going to "Water System Operations," then "Fact Sheets & Best Management Practices," or: <http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater/Operations/Pages/startup.aspx>.



After disinfecting, make sure the chlorine residual level is no longer elevated before taking coliform samples or serving the water.

Photo courtesy: US Forest Service

Handy tips for lead and copper sampling!

by Amy Word

When you collect lead and copper samples, please keep the following in mind. There are seasonal collection dates associated with your samples. The samples need to be collected between June 1 and Sept. 30. If samples are collected outside of this time frame – THEY WILL NOT COUNT for compliance!

A HUGE reminder for those of you who are a seasonal facility (i.e., schools): **do not** take samples from locations that have not been used for a long time. If there are no students in the summer, take the samples when students are in school (early June or September). There have been many cases where improper sample collection resulted in an exceedance of lead or copper. Remember, the idea is to collect water that is representative of use.



Here are some other tips for collecting lead and copper samples:

1. Collect samples prior to the facility opening for the day. Ideally, water is to be stagnant in the pipes for between eight and 18 hours.
2. Make sure sample taps are ones that are used by customers, such as a kitchen or bathroom tap or drinking fountain, and not one that is limited to one or two people (i.e., a janitor's closet).
3. Samples are to be first draw, so do not run the water prior to collection. If in a residence, water is not to be used in the house prior to collection. *Do not use a location that has not been in use for an extended period (i.e., the homeowner has been on vacation for a month).*
4. Collect samples from the same set of taps, if possible, every time lead and copper samples are due. Over time this will create a long-term history for individual sampling locations. If you must use a new site, you must notify your drinking water program regulator of the change.
5. When collecting from private residences, you should consider having at least one extra residence collect a sample in the event one of your primary sites does not work out. Better to have too many than not enough!

Amy Word is an environmental specialist in the Technical Services Unit of the Drinking Water Program / 541-966-0901 or amelia.a.word@state.or.us

MEETING CALENDAR

Drinking Water Advisory Committee

Oregon Health Authority
Public Health Division
Diane Weis / 971-673-0427

July 18, 2012

All meetings are held at the Public Utility Commission Office, 550 Capitol St. N.E., Salem, Oregon, 97310

Cross Connection Advisory Board

Go to: public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater/CrossConnection/Pages/advisoryboard.aspx.

Oregon Environmental Services Advisory Council

Go to: www.oesac.org/meeting_schedule.aspx.

TRAINING CALENDAR

CEUs for Water System Operators

Check www.oesac.com for new offerings approved for drinking water.

OAWU

503-837-1212

Apr. 24-26	Water (WT/WD) Certification Review
May 8-10	Water (WT/WD) Certification Review
May 15	Safe Drinking Water Act Update
May 22	Excavation Safety
May 24	Developing Your O&M Manual
May 30	Control Valves by GC Systems
May 31	Advanced Control Valve
June 12	Safe Drinking Water Act Update
June 20	Developing Your O&M Manual
July 11	Hydrants and Valves
July 19	Developing Your O&M Manual
Aug. 9	Hydrants and Valves
Aug. 20	Developing Your O&M Manual
Aug. 20-23	Summer Classic Conference

Cross Connection/Backflow Courses

Backflow Management Inc. (B)
503-255-1619
Clackamas Community College (C)
503-594-3345

Backflow Assembly Tester Course

May 7-11	Portland (B)
June 14-18	Oregon City (C)

Backflow Assembly Tester Recertification

May 4	Oregon City (C)
May 17-18	Oregon City (C)
June 8	Oregon City (C)

Cross Connection Inspector Recertification

May 11	Oregon City (C)
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Small Water System Training Course

503-837-1212

May 8	Coos Bay
May 10	Springfield
June 19	Pendleton
July*	Newport
July*	Klamath Falls
Aug.*	Bend
Aug.*	Eagle Point
Aug.*	Seaside

* Dates to be determined

Small Water System Advanced Course

Contact the Springfield Drinking Water Program Office at 541-726-2587 ext. 25 for class dates and locations.

You can also check our website at:

<http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater/OperatorCertification/SmallWaterSystems/Pages/schedule.aspx>



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