

2007 Drinking water budget proposal

by Dave Leland

The DHS-Public Health Division is proposing a budget package for the 2007 Legislature to significantly increase support for the Drinking Water Program (DWP). To explain the rationale for this budget proposal we'll answer five questions about Oregon's drinking water:

- Who cares about it?
- Where do we get it?
- How safe is it?
- What's needed?
- What's next?

Who cares about safe drinking water?

Everyone, from the general public to state government officials, because safe drinking water plays a critical role in our health and the quality of our lives and it is also essential to the health of our local economies.

Where do we get our drinking water?

About three million Oregonians are served by public water systems, including 2,699 water systems subject to USEPA standards

Continued on page 2

Drinking water emergency?

by Ron Hall

Got a drinking water emergency? The Drinking Water Program provides after hours and weekend accessibility for drinking water emergencies. To reach us:

- Outside of business hours, contact the Oregon Emergency Response System (OERS) at 1-800-452-0311. They will contact us and we will contact you.
- During business hours, contact us directly at (971) 673-0405 and ask for the "drinking water phone duty person."

Be sure to prominently display these phone numbers in your emergency plan and be sure all staff has access to and familiarity with your plan. Be sure to include your own local county emergency manager in your emergency plan and in your emergency communications. **Questions?**

Contact Ron Hall (971) 673-0409.

Ron Hall, RS, is manager of the Protection Planning & Certification Unit of the Drinking Water Program / (971) 673-0409 or ronald.a.hall@state.or.us

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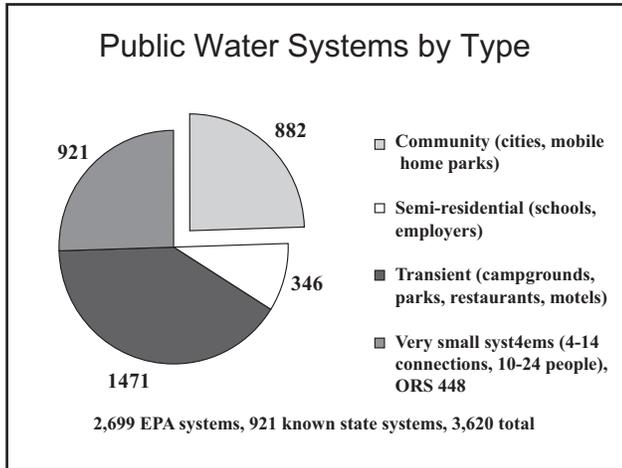


Figure 1 — Public water systems by type

(Figure 1) and an additional 900 very small systems subject only to state regulation. About 90 percent of Oregon public water systems are small, serving 500 or fewer people (Figure 2).

Contaminants can enter drinking water in a variety of ways. Therefore, it is important to have a comprehensive approach to protect our drinking water all the way from the source to the tap, which includes:

- Assessing and protecting drinking water sources,
- Testing and treating water properly,
- Protecting the distribution system,
- Assuring competent management and operations,
- Informing and involving water consumers.

This comprehensive approach to protecting our drinking water requires the participation of a variety of parties. First and foremost are Oregon’s public water suppliers who are responsible for providing safe drinking water. Certified laboratories across the state are responsible for providing required testing and

reporting results. The USEPA is responsible for determining which drinking water contaminants warrant regular testing and setting maximum contaminant levels, and has set standards for 91 different drinking water contaminants since 1976 (Figure 3).

State and county public health programs are responsible for assuring that Oregon water suppliers meet the USEPA standards. Finally, water consumers are responsible for maintaining their home plumbing, reporting concerns, and staying informed on local drinking water issues.

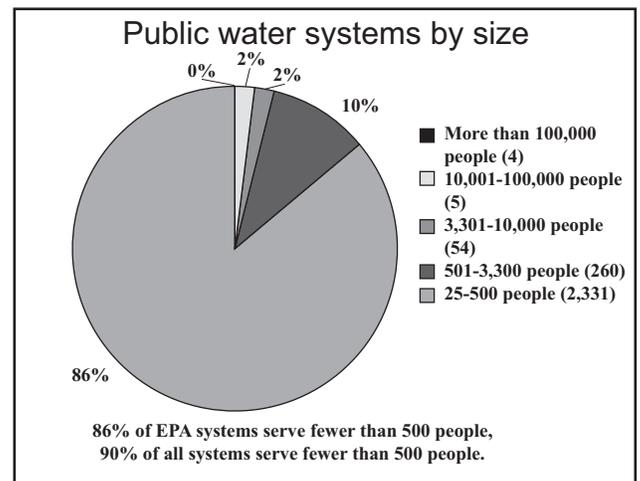


Figure 2 — Public water systems by size

How safe is Oregon’s drinking water?

It is safer than it used to be. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, Oregon was plagued with a series of community outbreaks of acute waterborne disease that drew both statewide and national attention (Figure 4). This led the Oregon Legislature to enact the Oregon Drinking Water Quality Act (ORS 448) “to assure all Oregonians safe drinking water” and create a statewide drinking water regulatory program in 1981. The Legislature also authorized *primacy* in 1985, required mandatory certification of water system

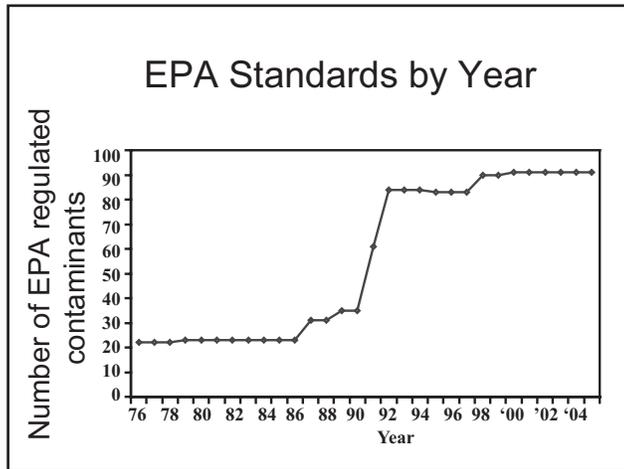


Figure 3 — EPA standards by year

operators in 1987 and 2001 and created the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Fund in 1997. Along with the efforts of Oregon communities to improve their drinking water, these interventions markedly decreased the number of acute waterborne disease outbreaks.

Although great improvements have been made, continued vigilance is vital to maintaining this success and addressing remaining public health threats. Risks of chronic diseases from long-term exposure to chemical contaminants such as arsenic, lead and disinfection byproducts need to be further reduced. Many smaller community water systems don't reliably meet all current health standards all the time and they need more help to comply with newer, more complex USEPA standards.

The Oregon Secretary of State issued a report in 2001, which recommended that the DWP improve enforcement, violation response time, lab oversight and inspection timeliness and adopt all USEPA health standards. Since that time, the DWP has diligently worked within its existing capacity to improve program performance. However, staffing

levels have not kept pace with either state population growth or the rise in number/complexity of USEPA standards. As a direct result health standards, such as filtration and disinfection treatment requirements and reduction of lead levels at the tap, take longer to implement in Oregon communities. Furthermore, the program does not have the capacity to implement new USEPA standards for parasitic microorganisms in surface water, disinfection byproducts, arsenic and viruses in groundwater.

In future years, USEPA is expected to establish new standards for radon, distribution system protection and emerging contaminants like perchlorate and MTBE. As a result, Oregon communities will have to work directly with USEPA staff to implement these standards. Because the program currently focuses all its capacity on USEPA regulated water systems, the very small systems regulated only under state law get no attention at all.

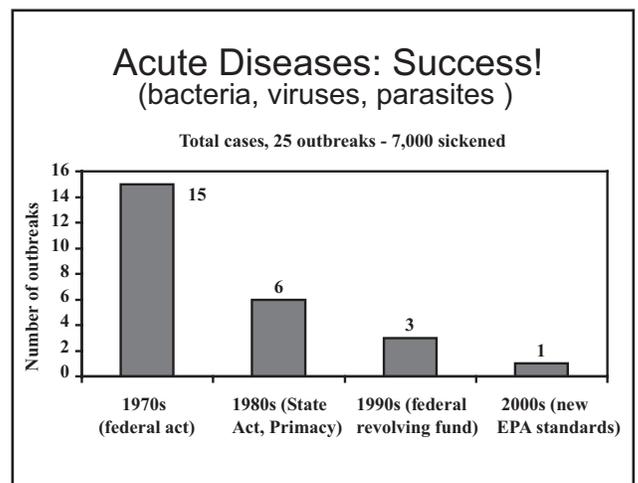


Figure 4 — Acute diseases: success!

2007 Drinking water budget proposal — continued

What's needed to add public health capacity?

The 2003 Legislature formed the Drinking Water Task Force to review the DWP's workload and funding needs. The Task Force recommendations included adding 11 additional state/county staff in order to assure a credible, effective and sustainable effort on current USEPA health standards (*see PIPELINE — Spring 2004*) and increasing funding from the state general fund, fees for specific services and any untapped additional USEPA funding to support these positions. According to USEPA workload analysis, an additional 2.5 positions are needed to implement the new 2005 USEPA standards and the DWP estimates that an additional five state/county positions are needed to conduct effective oversight of the very small water systems. So, a total of 18.5 new state/county positions are needed in the drinking water program and its partner local health departments.

Although the other 48 *primacy* states are facing the same public health capacity issues as Oregon, they are, on average, receiving about half of their total funding from state general funds and/or fee revenue and the other half from the USEPA. Oregon, however, receives only 20 percent of its funding from general funds and fees, barely enough to match the USEPA funds that account for the other 80 percent.

What's next?

There are three distinct policy options before us:

- 1) Increase program capacity as proposed by the DWP and its key stakeholder organizations.
- 2) Continue at existing capacity with very small water systems receiving no help, adoption of new USEPA rules being delayed for two years and state/county programs continuing to struggle.
- 3) Return/lose *primacy*, ceding state authority over drinking water systems to USEPA and losing the USEPA revolving loan fund (now \$12M per year).

In order to assure Oregonians safe drinking water, the DWP is proposing a \$3M budget package for the 2007 Legislature to increase program capacity for the 2007–09 biennium. The proposed increase would come from general funds (\$2.6M), a new fee for sanitary survey inspections (\$0.2M) and the remaining federal funds available to Oregon from USEPA (\$0.2M). In addition, the DWP is proposing to formally establish our long-serving Drinking Water Advisory Committee in statute to raise its importance and visibility.

We look forward to your continuing support in this critical time as we move forward into the 2007 Legislature. We also invite your comments and suggestions to build on that support.

Dave Leland is Manager of the Drinking Water Program/ (971) 673-0415 or david.e.leland@state.or.us

Thanks to Shannon Levitt, Public Health Educator, for her very helpful edits to this article!

Consumer confidence reports made simple

Additional help for small water systems

by Tom Mitchell

In a recent issue of the *Pipeline Newsletter*, several tools were outlined to assist water system owners with creating their annual consumer confidence reports (CCRs). This article will focus specifically on a computer program that can assist water system owners, especially of the smaller systems, in producing their CCRs quickly, efficiently, and with minimal cost — the EPA's **CCRiWriter program**.

This program creates a CCR that complies with federal regulations and will automatically generate the majority of the required language. It is a free service, is automatically updated to reflect any regulatory changes, and CCRs can be saved, edited and downloaded as needed.

It is necessary to have access to a desktop computer and some basic computer skills, or to know someone with a computer who is willing to help create your CCR, in order to take advantage of this program. Access to the Internet is helpful but not necessary.

What is needed to get started

- A computer with required software (Microsoft 95/98/Me/2000/NTv4).
- Internet connection to access the appropriate Web site, OR a free CD-ROM supplied by EPA (order by calling 1-800-426-4791).
- Monitoring results for your water system for the past five years.

Accessing the Internet program

- Directly (Google, MSN, etc):
http://www.ccriwriter.com
- Via the Drinking Water Program's web site: *www.oregon.gov/dhs/ph/dwp* and clicking on the Menu item "Consumer Reports," then "CCRiWriter Program," and finally "CCRiWriter Web site."

Collecting information to enter

Before sitting down to begin generating your CCR, visit the Drinking Water Program's Web site *www.oregon.gov/dhs/ph/dwp* and click on "Data Online" to collect all your system's monitoring information that will be needed to create it. Enter your system's PWS number or name to pull up your home page. At the bottom of the page are blue-colored links to all your monitoring data. To quickly access data on Nitrates, Lead & Copper, Arsenic, Radionuclides, DBPs (if using chlorine to disinfect), and TOC/Alkalinity (for some surface water systems), click on those links. For other chemicals (IOCs, VOCs, and SOCs) always check the link titled "Latest Chemical Results." Have all the sample results for which your system monitors in front of you before attempting to do the CCR.

Remember, you must list any detections, in addition to any violations, that have occurred during the last round of compliance sampling — but you need not go back more than five years to find the last round of samples. Non-detections (NDs) do not have to be reported in the CCR.

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Consumer confidence reports made simple — continued

Check for monitoring and reporting violations by clicking on “Violations” at the bottom of your system’s home page and take notes on any that occurred. These violations need to be included only if they occurred in the reporting year. You will need to cite the violations, the specific reasons for the violations, and briefly discuss how you will try to prevent them in the future. This discussion can be brief and only take two or three sentences.

Entering information

- Pull up the program, either from the internet or the CD-ROM.
- If it is your first time using the Internet to access the program, create a user name and password.
- Enter the required system information (water system name, contact person, phone number, etc.).
- Continue answering the questions as prompted until you complete the report.
- View the completed report and edit if necessary, and when satisfied, download as a *rich text file*.
- You may want to manipulate your saved *rich text file* to eliminate some of the extra spaces that sometimes appear. The report is built using tables, so you will need to use the table formatting features of your word processor. Most of the time the CCR can be reduced to two to three pages of required information.

- If you are using the free CD-ROM from EPA, the procedures for entering data and creating the CCR are the same.

Try out the program by entering some made-up data before it is time to do the next CCR so you will know if you want to use it or not. Is it worth it to be able to create your first CCR in about 30 minutes start to finish (less time after that) and in the exact format EPA requires? At least try it – there’s a good chance you will like it and will want to use it for all your future CCRs.

If you have any questions about using the CCRiWriter program, call Tom Mitchell at the DHS-Drinking Water Program at (971) 673-0417, or e-mail at Thomas.J.Mitchell@state.or.us, or contact the EPA Hot Line at 1-800-426-4791 (7:00 AM to 1:00 PM PST).

Finally, if this program cannot assist you, consult the Oregon Association of Water Utilities (OAWU), the American Water Works Association (AWWA), or the Drinking Water Program. If you still need additional help in getting the job done, you could hire an outside party to do it for you.

Tom Mitchell is in the Protection, Planning & Certification Unit of the Drinking Water Program / (971) 673-0417 or thomas.j.mitchell@state.or.us

Water Contaminant Information Tool (WCIT)

by EPA, Water Security Division

What is EPA's WCIT database?

EPA's Water Contaminant Information Tool (WCIT) is a secure, password-protected, online database that contains information on contaminants of concern that could pose a significant threat to public health if accidentally or intentionally introduced into drinking water or wastewater. As a planning tool, the WCIT database can be used to help create vulnerability assessments, emergency response plans and site-specific response guidelines. As a response tool, the WCIT database can provide real-time data on water contaminants to help utilities make better decisions. The WCIT database also helps EPA to determine what information about priority contaminants is missing, which helps guide future research efforts.

Who will have access to the WCIT database?

Drinking water and wastewater utilities, state drinking water and wastewater programs, drinking water and wastewater associations, and federal officials (including government laboratory personnel) will have access to the password-protected WCIT database. EPA may grant access to other types of users in the future depending on the need.

What is a "contaminant of concern" for water security?

Contaminants of concern for water security are those contaminants that may or may not be regulated, but that could pose a significant threat to public health if accidentally or intentionally introduced into drinking

water. The WCIT database includes some contaminants that are not regulated because they are not typically found in drinking water, but could cause harm if intentionally introduced into a drinking water system.

What kind of information will I be able to find on the WCIT database?

The WCIT database contains the most up-to-date information on water contaminants from peer reviewed sources and research. It includes data on contaminant names, contaminant availability, fate and transport, health effects and toxicity, medical information, potential water quality and environmental indicators, sampling and analysis and helpful response advice for utilities. The process to gather information on drinking water treatment effectiveness, wastewater, and infrastructure decontamination has begun and these data will be added to the WCIT database at a later date.

Who helped EPA to design the WCIT database?

EPA established a User Workgroup to provide guidance on WCIT's design and functionality. The User Workgroup included representatives from groups such as water utilities, who are the ultimate users of the WCIT database. EPA also established an Expert Workgroup, which includes experts on chemical or pathogen properties, fate and transport, contaminant monitoring, and health effects. The Expert Workgroup reviews technical information and continues to provide feedback on existing WCIT database data, as well as new data that EPA adds to the database.

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Water Contaminant Information Tool (WCIT) — continued

How many contaminants does the WCIT database contain?

The WCIT database includes information for 48 contaminants at this time. EPA is currently compiling data on additional contaminants of concern and will continue to update WCIT.

How can I apply for access to the WCIT database?

To apply for access to the WCIT database, visit:
<http://www.epa.gov/wcit>.

Stage 2 and LT2 webcasts

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is in the process of mailing letters to all water systems serving less than 50,000 people that use surface water or ground water under the direct influence of surface water and to all community and non-transient non-community water systems serving less than 50,000 people that distribute water to which a disinfectant has been added. These letters describe two new drinking water regulations – the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2ESWTR) and the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (Stage 2 DBPR).

EPA will be hosting four Stage 2 DBPR and LT2ESWTR Webcast trainings in the month of January 2007. Two of these webcasts will provide an overview of both the Stage 2 DBPR and the LT2ESWTR. The other two webcasts will provide an overview of the EPA Implementation Tools and Resources available to systems. The dates for these webcasts are indicated below.

| Webcast training | Training date |
|---|----------------------|
| Stage 2 DBPR & LT2ESWTR: Overview of the Two Rules | Jan. 16, 2007 |
| Implementing the Stage 2 & LT2: Compliance & Assistance Tools for Systems | Jan. 18, 2007 |
| Stage 2 DBPR & LT2ESWTR: Overview of the Two Rules | Jan. 23, 2007 |
| Implementing the Stage 2 & LT2: Compliance & Assistance Tools for Systems | Jan. 25, 2007 |

These webcasts will be similar to the ones conducted January 2006. EPA HQ expects to post the registration page on the Drinking Water Academy (<http://www.epa.gov/OGWDW/dwa.html>) and the MDBP Training Web site (<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/training.html>) soon. Draft agendas for both webcasts are found in the next column.

Continued on next page

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| Stage 2 DBPR & LT2ESWTR: Overview of the Two Rules *Draft agenda* |
| Getting to know Stage 2 DBPR provisions |
| IDSE: Standard monitoring |
| IDSE: System specific study |
| IDSE: 40/30 certification |
| Stage 2 compliance monitoring |
| Break |
| Provisions of the LT2ESWTR |
| Source water monitoring |
| Disinfection profiling & benchmarking |
| Treatment technique requirements |
| Uncovered finished water reservoir |
| Requirements for microbial toolbox |
| Report & record keeping |

| |
|---|
| Implementing the Stage 2 & LT2: Compliance & assistance tools for systems **Draft agenda** |
| Major Stage 2 DBPR & LT2EWSTR activities |
| Information Processing & Management Center (IPMC) |
| Data Collection & Tracking System (DCTS) — includes a demonstration & registration instructions |
| IDSE tool — includes a demonstration |
| Tools, guidance and upcoming trainings |

**Q&A Sections will be incorporated throughout the webcast trainings. The Rules webcasts are expected to be four hours long while the Tools webcasts may be close to 2.5 hours long.

Stage 2 DBPR & LT2ESWTR Listserv

EPA has developed a Listserv to provide an easy way to distribute information about the LT2ESWTR and Stage 2 DBPR to keep water system operators up to date on implementation activities, guidance documents, training, etc. If you would like to sign up for the Listserv, please send an email message to stage2mdbp@epa.gov, stating in the subject heading that you would like to sign up for the Stage 2 DBPR and LT2ESWTR Listserv.

New Operator Certification Program coordinator

by Ron Hall

We're happy to announce that Dottie Reynolds joined the Drinking Water Program September 12. Dottie comes to us from the Department of Environmental Quality's Salem Regional Office where she most recently worked as a Natural Resource Specialist 2 in their environmental permits in the water quality section. She brings strong administrative skills to the program along with valuable regulatory experience. Dottie is looking forward to working with the water supply community and assuring that the program evolves along with the needs of the regulated community.

Ron Hall, RS, is manager of the Protection, Planning & Certification Unit of the Drinking Water Program / (971) 673-0409 or ronald.a.hall@state.or.us

Annual operator certification

by Dottie Reynolds

Late renewal applications received after December 31, 2006, and up to March 31, 2007, are subject to a **late fee of \$30**.

The complete renewal package consists of:

- Signed renewal application form
- Appropriate fee amount, \$40 or \$60
- 2.0 accepted CEUs earned in 2005 and 2006*

*If your last name begins with L-Z you do not need to send CEU documentation with this renewal. If your last name begins with A-K, you will need to submit documentation of your accredited 2.0 CEUs. The CEUs must have been evaluated and accepted for Drinking Water Renewals by OESAC. Check www.oesac.com for a list of qualified courses. New operators are given at least a year to start earning those CEUs, so new operators with the last name A-K will NOT be required to send CEUs this year. They will be required to send them in 2008, the next even number year.

Fees cannot be refunded. So make sure you are sending accredited CEUs. Remember, some of those CEUs that cannot be used for renewals, might qualify as post high school education, so be sure to save them.

Complete renewal packages received **after March 31, 2007**, will be subject to a \$50 reinstatement fee. If you did not renew in the '06 cycle and are delinquent, you will not receive a renewal form in November. For those with delinquent renewals that want to keep their certification, (last name L-Z), your complete renewal package must be

received by December 31, 2006, or you will be decertified and will need to retest to re-establish your Oregon certification. Please call Dottie Reynolds, (971) 673-0426 or go to our web site for the renewal form. <http://oregon.gov/DHS/ph/dwp/certif>

Your renewal package must include:

- Signed renewal application form
- Last renewal fee- \$40 or \$60
- Reinstatement fee - \$50
- Next year renewal fee - \$40 or \$60
- 2.0 accepted CEUs earned from 2004 through 2006

Please mail renewal application package to:
Cashier – DHS
PO Box 14260
Portland OR 97293-0260

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

18-Year Drinking Water Program veteran, John Potts, retires

John Potts, or just “Potts” as some of you may know him, retired from State service in July 2006 after 18 years of excellent service to the DHS Drinking Water Program. John began his service in June of 1988 working from his home in Corvallis. John’s area of service focused mainly on the SW Region of the State, or Region 2 as it is now called. John has served as an expert in the industry specializing in surface water treatment and optimization issues. John is now pursuing other interests in the field of drinking water quality. We will miss him dearly and wish him the best.



John Potts retires after 18 years

Karen Kelley in the DHS Drinking Water Program Springfield office has taken over John’s duties in Region 2. You can reach Karen at (541) 726-2587 ext. 22 or via email at karen.e.kelley@state.or.us.

Training calendar

CEUs for Water System Operators

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

OAWU

(503) 873-8353

OAWU strives to ensure CEU awarding, however they are unable to guarantee acceptance for class CEUs for certifications by regulatory agencies.

March 5-9 **29th Annual Management & Technical Conference**

Cross Connection/Backflow Courses

Backflow Management Inc. (B)
(503) 255-1619

Clackamas Community College (C)
(503) 657-6958 ext. 2388

Backflow Assembly Tester Course

Feb. 12-16 Portland (B)
March 12-16 Clackamas (C)
Apr. 2-6 Portland (B)

Backflow Assembly Tester Recertification

Feb. 8 Redmond (B)
Feb. 9 Clackamas (C)
Feb. 16 Portland (B)
Feb. 21 Portland (B)
Feb. 22 Portland (B)
Feb. 22-23 Clackamas (C)
March 2 Clackamas (C)
March 8 Portland (B)
March 9 Portland (B)
March 22 Portland (B)
March 23 Portland (B)
April 6 Portland (B)
April 12 Portland (B)
April 19 Portland (B)
April 26 Portland (B)

Cross Connection Inspector Recertification

March 9 Clackamas (C)

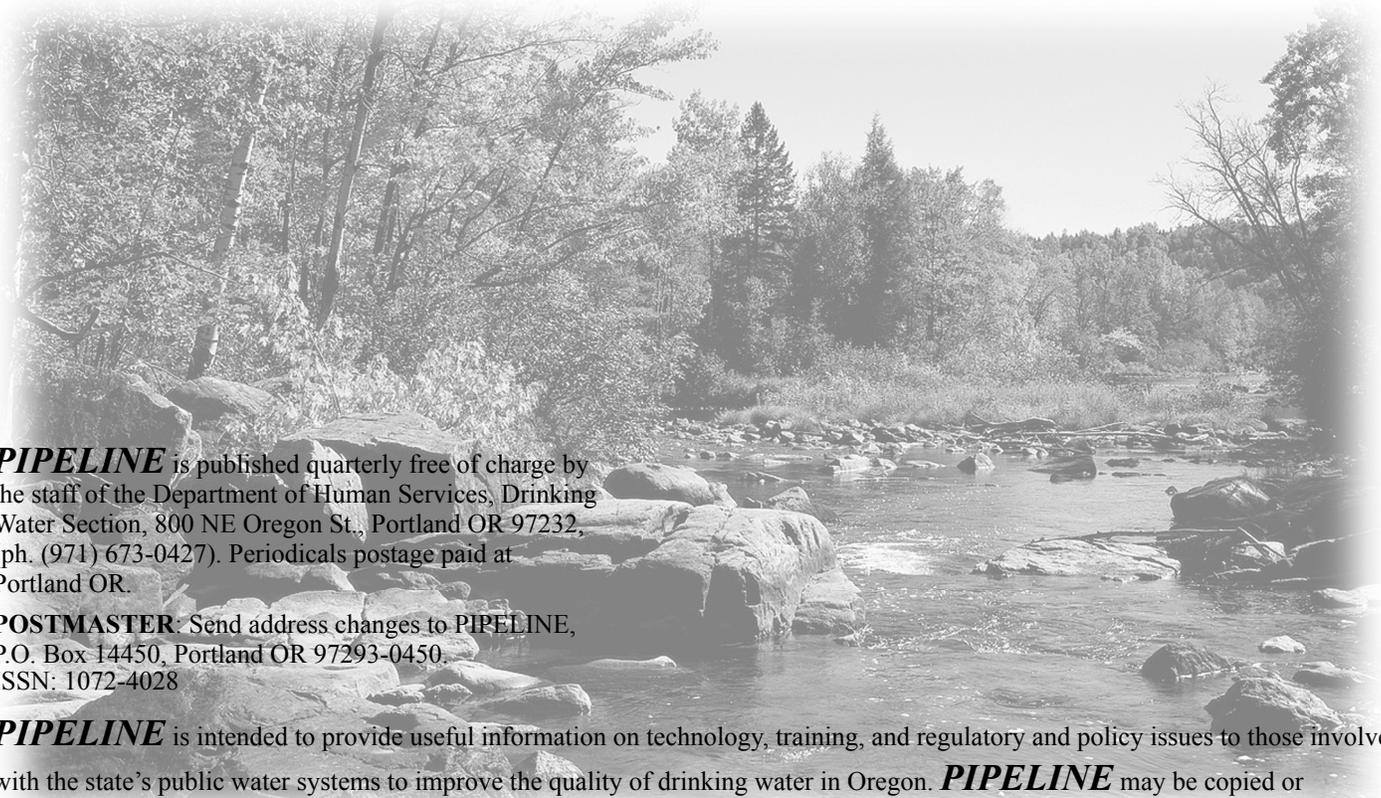
Water System Training Course

Department of Human Services
Marsha Fox/(971) 673-0408
Feb. * Albany
March * Eagle Point
April * Clackamas, Hillsboro & Salem

* Dates to be announced



Department of Human Services
Drinking Water Program
PO Box 14450
Portland, OR 97293-0450

A black and white photograph of a rocky river flowing through a forest. The river is filled with large, dark rocks, and the water appears to be moving over them. The forest is dense with various types of trees, including some tall, thin evergreens. The sky is bright and clear.

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