

Spring 4-1-2011

Service Connection: The Maine Drinking Water Program Newsletter, Volume 19, Issue 1 (Spring 2011)

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention

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Recommended Citation

Maine Department of Health and Human Services and Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, "Service Connection: The Maine Drinking Water Program Newsletter, Volume 19, Issue 1 (Spring 2011)" (2011). *Center for Disease Control Documents*. 20. https://digitalmaine.com/mecdc_docs/20

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Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention

An Office of the Department of Health and Human Services

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Service Connection

THE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

“Working Together for Safe Drinking Water”

Volume 19 Issue 1
Spring 2011

New Pilot Outreach Program Aimed at Helping Small Water Systems

Andy Tolman, Assistant Director



Safe and secure drinking water is a key to public health and economic vitality of a community. Larger public water systems have done good work in planning and implementation to make their systems resilient. However, smaller water systems and citizens with private wells must work together with their community to assure a safe and sustainable drinking water supply.

The Maine CDC Drinking Water Program has technical assistance and financial resources that can assist communities and their water systems, in working together to plan for the future. Resources include emergency response and recovery planning, protection of drinking water sources, and managing systems to minimize long-term costs and maximize benefits. We are working in targeted areas to help communities and water systems prepare for both expected and unexpected events that could compromise drinking water safety.

EPA has provided us with a number of programs and resources that address specific areas of public water system performance. For a small water system, these options don't always make sense. If you run a mobile home park, a condo association, or a nursing home, there isn't much difference between capacity development, security, source protection, or emergency preparedness. All are small and essential parts of providing water to their customers. We also know that implementing emergency preparedness and source protection plans requires a partnership between the water system and local government.

The DWP has identified towns with a cluster of small water systems and is communicating with the towns and water systems to assess their interest in working with the DWP in this project. Knowing that all the partners are already busy, the DWP is working to make the process as simple and effective as possible. DWP's goal is to make it easier for the system to provide safe, secure, and reliable drinking water.

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Service Connection

Director's Corner

Greetings from Augusta. As I write this article, the whirlwind of the Legislative session is well upon us. The remainder of the session promises to be equally interesting.

During graduate school, many years ago, I had the opportunity to take a nine month internship in Hawaii. The internship was optional and it would delay my graduation date by almost a year. Although the opportunity was very intriguing, I didn't know what I would ultimately gain from the experience. The apparent stability of my studies, many close friends and the time line for graduation made me very comfortable in my current situation. I resisted a change. However, I finally decided to take the adventure and journeyed into the unknown. The result was a fantastic learning and growth opportunity, for which I will forever be grateful.

When I returned to school nine months later, I discovered the stable world I hesitated to leave wasn't so stable after all. Friends had married, graduated, found jobs, and the life I knew had changed much more than I had expected. I learned one of life's great lessons- life is always changing, whether we want it to or not.

As a water supplier one thing you generally don't want to see change is your water quality. Unfortunately, you can't always assume that the future will mirror the past. The stability of your water quality requires regular changes in the way you protect your source. The cost of source water protection is typically far less expensive than the cost to install treatment to remove a contaminant. Better water

quality is also more protective of public health, because there is always a risk of treatment failure.

Some basic elements for source water protection include:

1. Know where your source water protection area is. For most small systems, we designate a 300-foot circle around your well as the source water protection area.
2. Know what potential sources of contamination are found in your source water protection area.
3. Remove or properly maintain these potential sources of contamination.
4. If your source water protection area extends beyond your property boundaries, talk to your neighbor or municipal leaders about soliciting their help in protecting your source water quality.

The Drinking Water Program staff is available to help you protect your source. Please contact us if you have questions or need help. Inaction may result in detrimental changes to your water quality that could cost you time and money.

Yours for Safe Drinking Water,

Roger



Service Connection

THE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

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2011 DWSRF Intended Use Plan Update

Norm Lamie, Chief Engineer

A public information meeting was held on January 20, 2011, to solicit comments on the proposed 2011 DWSRF Intended Use plan. A total of 49 project applications were received from 29 different public water systems. A variety of projects were submitted, including water main replacements, water treatment upgrades, and storage replacements. Project requests totaled \$36,209,000. Last year's 62 projects totaled \$40,743,000. In 2010, 29 projects were funded, for a total of \$17 million.

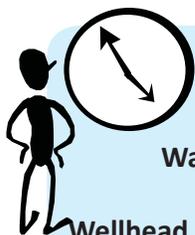


The Drinking Water Program has rated all project applications using the Project Priority Ranking System. The primary objective for distributing funds is to focus on projects that will assist PWS's in maintaining the health objectives of the SDWA. A Primary List and Backup List is posted on the Drinking Water Program web site at www.medwp.com.

It is unknown at this time what the 2011 Federal DWSRF Capitalization Grant will be. As of the time of this publication, the federal budget has not been adopted. A number of budget proposals are being considered, including one proposal to reduce the overall DWSRF program by \$250 million on the national level. This reduction would in turn, lower the Maine DWSRF Capitalization Grant from the 2010 level of \$13.5 million to \$8.3 million.

The level of federal dollars will also determine the amount required for the 20% State Match. A balance of \$700,000 from the 2010 Bond Issue remains available to be used for the 2011 DWSRF State Match.

Technical/administrative questions regarding the 2011 DWSRF application process should be directed to Norm Lamie at (207) 287-2647 or Nate Saunders at (207) 287-5685.



Grant Deadline Fast Approaching

The deadline to submit applications for the **Spring 2011** round of **Wellhead Protection Grants, Source Water Protection Grants, and Capacity Development Grants** is **April 29, 2011**.

Wellhead Protection Grants provide funding to community or non-profit, non-community public water systems using groundwater to protect public drinking water sources.

Source Water Protection Grants provide funding to community or non-profit, non-community public water systems using surface water to protect public drinking water sources.

Capacity Development Grants provide funding to public water systems to enhance system capacity.

For more information, visit the DWP website at www.medwp.com, and click on "Financial Services." You can also contact Erika Bonenfant at 287-5681 or erika.bonenfant@maine.gov (Wellhead and Source Water Protection Grants) and Sara Lippert at 287-5678 or sara.m.lippert@maine.gov (Capacity Development Grants).



Disinfection and Boil Water Orders

Carlton Gardner, Compliance & Enforcement Team Leader



Maine's present Boil Water Order Policy requires a system on mandatory disinfection to be placed on a Boil Water Order if the disinfection system fails or malfunctions.

Systems utilizing surface water must chlorinate and carry a residual throughout the system at all times.

The requirement for groundwater systems to chlorinate is imposed when there is a history of positive bacteria tests or an E. Coli bacteria violation. If the disinfection system fails, your customers/consumers may be exposed to contaminated water. The Boil Water Order not only protects consumers but also the public water system operator/owner. **The DWP is often asked the following questions:**

How often should I be monitoring residuals?

Surface water systems and groundwater systems that have installed disinfection to meet the 4-log inactivation must monitor residuals every day. Small groundwater systems disinfecting for total coliform bacteria violations can be reduced to a minimum of 2 times per week.

Do I need to file any type of report?

Yes, all systems that add a chemical must file a monthly operating report (MOR). This MOR must be filed by the 10th day of the following month. The MORs are available on the

Drinking Water Programs website (www.medwp.com), under "Download Documents." Small systems may also request a pad of forms for filing reports. MORs can be sent to the Drinking Water Program electronically, by sending the report to dwpmor@maine.gov. Hard copies may be mailed to the Maine Drinking Water Program, 11 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333-0011.

Do I need to take a chlorine residual when I collect a bacteria sample?

Yes. When a system collects a bacteria sample, the system should collect a chlorine residual at the same time and location. All community and non-transient non community water systems are required to submit those residuals on the sample collection sheet. Residuals collected in the water system's distribution system can help to indicate other issues. If there is always a residual at a location, and now there is none, perhaps a potential problem with the chlorination system or in the distribution system exists.

If you have any questions about MORs, collecting residuals, or next steps if your disinfection system fails please call your Field Inspector or your Compliance Officer at 287-2070. If an emergency occurs after hours, you can call the emergency phone line at 557-4214. The current Boil Water Order Policy is on the DWP website at www.medwp.com. Click on "Rules and Policies" and then click "Boil Water Order Policy."

Receive Your Service Connection Newsletter by Email!

The **Service Connection** is transitioning to an electronic newsletter! If you would like to receive the Service Connection via email, rather than a hardcopy, please send an email to:

erika.bonenfant@maine.gov

and include:

- ◆ Your Name
- ◆ Your Public Water System or Organization Affiliation
- ◆ Any additional email addresses you'd also like to add to receive the Newsletter





Subsurface Wastewater News

New Subsurface Rule Classes

A change in the subsurface rules means important changes for many in Maine, including Site Evaluators, Licensed Plumbing Inspectors, and potentially Water System Operators. In this class, participants will learn about the revised Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules (CMR 241). The Division of Environmental Health's Subsurface Wastewater Unit began the revision process in December 2009, and after several meetings involving 16 stakeholder groups, the Unit delivered the final product, which the state adopted on January 18, 2011.

This class will cover the rule development process and highlight the notable changes. The Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules include, for the first time, a "Key for Determining the Depth to Seasonal Groundwater Table." This table includes soil science terms and concepts that Site Evaluators must be familiar with and must use; this is especially true when making seasonal groundwater table and soils with an oxygenated groundwater table. David Rocque, a soil scientist for Maine, will be on hand to explain this new feature of the rules. The course will also examine the completely revised section in the rules on wetlands and water bodies. The section incorporates new setback requirements Site Evaluators and LPIs must understand; the requirements were included to continue the DEP NRPA and Shoreland Zoning permitting exemptions in the former rules. The classes are sponsored by JETCC and can be found online at jetcc.org.

Dates for New Subsurface Rule Revision Classes:

- J1119 - Thursday, April 7, 2011, Holiday Inn West, Portland
- J1120 - Friday, April 15, 2011, State Fire Marshal's Training Room, Augusta
- J1121 - Thursday, April 21, 2011, Ellsworth City Hall, Ellsworth
- J1122 - Wednesday, April 27, 2011, The Granary Brew Pub, Farmington
- J1123 - Tuesday, May 3, 2011, No. Maine Community College, Presque Isle



New Staff



Mark Hyland

We welcome Mark Hyland, LSE #190, as our new State Site Evaluator. Mark has worked at MEDEP for the past 28 years in the solid and hazardous waste programs and was most recently Bureau Director for Remediation and Waste Management. Mark has BA/MS degrees in geology from the University of Maine and has been a site evaluator since 1983. He is looking forward to the training sessions for installers, LPIs and site evaluators.



Are you Prepared for an Emergency?

Jennifer Donnell, Security & Fluoridation Specialist

e•mer•gen•cy: any unexpected event that causes a public water utility to lose the ability to produce safe drinking water.

time: something all water operators and superintendents want more of but can't find.

re•silien•cy: 1. getting back into production after an emergency as soon as possible. 2. reducing the impact from loss of production, lost revenue. 3. reducing the impact to critical customers.

How is your Emergency Response Plan? Sitting on the shelf? Is it completed? Is it current? Is it updated? Are you con-

fident that all the operators can respond as well as you would, if you were out? A hunting trip? On another emergency? Retiring soon?

The Drinking Water Program has developed a Plan of Action — one to use at the point of emergency. Developed for smaller systems, this plan is not a chunk of resources nor a guide, but, instead it is information to be used for any and all events— when your system goes down unexpectedly. It is flexible enough to address larger systems. Main break? Loss of Pressure? Massive power outage? You found *what* in the water source? It's all here. More than just a template, it is good solid information provided, to get you up and running and back into com-

pliance as quickly as possible.

This Plan of Action is a stand-alone document, but it is also meant to be a component of the newly updated 2011 PWS Emergency Response Plan Handbook (the orange book), which is rich with new resources, guides and assessments. Watch for upcoming work sessions. The objective of the work session is for the attendee to walk away with a valid, current, useful Plan of Action for their PWS and have their facility preparedness recognized by the DWP. If you have questions, want more information, or would like to receive a copy of the Plan of Action document, contact Jennifer Donnell at 287-5295 or jennifer.donnell@maine.gov.



ENFORCEMENT CORNER

Dawn Abbott, Enforcement Specialist and Tera Pare, Enforcement & Rulemaking Coordinator

White's Beach and Campground in Brunswick, Maine: This transient public water system incurred many violations over the past 10 years for failing to sample and report results to the DWP for total coliform bacteria and nitrates/nitrites. After early administrative enforcement actions failed to return White's Beach to compliance, the DWP referred the case to the AG's Office for civil action to enforce the DWP's Administrative Compliance Order with Penalty Assessment for \$2,500. Maine's District Court found in favor of the DWP and issued a court order to remit the \$2,500 penalty assessment to the DWP. In addition, the Court ordered that White's Beach pay \$500 in attorneys' fees and comply with public notification requirements for violations. The final term of the Court Order required White's Beach & Campground to resume water quality sampling and reporting in compliance with Maine's statute and rules. The owner remitted the first and second penalty installment payments to the DWP on January 19, 2011.

Northern Spring Park in Poland, Maine: This community public water system (mobile home park) installed ion exchange treatment for radionuclides in 2003. In 2007, the park started to receive Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) violations for uranium and gross alpha, indicating a problem with the current treatment system. Problems continued, and the DWP issued an Administrative Consent Order in March 2008 and negotiated a plan to repair the system and return to compliance. Although the owners worked diligently to hire an engineer and meet the Order's deadlines, the MCL violations continued. In November 2010, Northern Spring Park applied for a loan from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for funds to replace the treatment system for the lingering high levels of gross alpha. The DWP and Northern Spring Park agreed to a revised consent order and new deadlines to finally return the system to compliance. The water system is expected to report levels under the MCL before the end of the summer.





Water Operator Board News

Teresa Trott, Licensing Officer

The Board of Licensure strives to keep operators up to date by approving contemporary training topics that are relevant to challenges faced by system operators. Recently, several on-line training companies have requested approval. The Board reviews the topic of the training to determine relevancy and the provider's ability to assure the trainee's grasp of the content. On-line training may fill the gap needed for your renewal credits. Costs range from free to very expensive. Look around for topics

of your choice and remember to pick courses that are relevant.

Relevant Training topics will:

- Impact/Relate to water quality, water supply, or public health protection
- Be directly related to the operation or maintenance of a water system or
- Be directly related to managing the operation or maintenance of a water system.

The Board also strives to keep up with contemporary examination processes. Computer-based testing is offered in nine other states and is rapidly becoming the desired method of testing. In order to establish computer based testing for the Maine exams, some wording needed to be changed in the statutes governing licensure. The Board submitted legislation, and LD424 emerged from committee as "Ought -To-Pass." Thank you to all those that supported this legislation. The LD will now be voted on by the combined legislature and, if passed, the LD becomes law later this year. Board rules will be changed through the public hearing process. Contact a Board member with your suggestions. The Board hopes to offer computer based testing by November 2011.



Funding Still Available: Very Small System Compliance Loan Program

Funding is still available for the Very Small System Compliance Loan Program. This loan program provides 100 percent principal forgiveness (up to \$50,000) for water treatment improvements required to achieve compliance with a current or future standard of the Safe Drinking Water Act, except for the Total Coliform Rule.

As of January 31, 2011, nine applications have been submitted and approved for funding. Two public water systems have completed installation of water treatment systems. Covered Bridge Apartments in Guilford installed an arsenic treatment. Snow Pond Residential Care Center in Sidney also installed an arsenic removal treatment system.

If you manage a very small system with a population of under 100 and have a compliance issue with Lead, Cop-

per, Radon, Arsenic, or Antimony, don't miss this opportunity for assistance to return to compliance.

Eligible water systems include all community systems (except those regulated by the Public Utilities Commission) with a population of 100 or less, and all not-for-profit, non-transient, non-community water systems. Examples include: mobile home parks, apartment buildings, nursing homes, and schools. Projects may not be funded for a failure to maintain an existing treatment system.

Contact Norm Lamie at (207) 287-2647 or e-mail norm.lamie@maine.gov for more information.





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