

Service Connection

The Maine Drinking Water Program Newsletter

"Working Together for Safe Drinking Water"

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Do you need money for your drinking water infrastructure project?

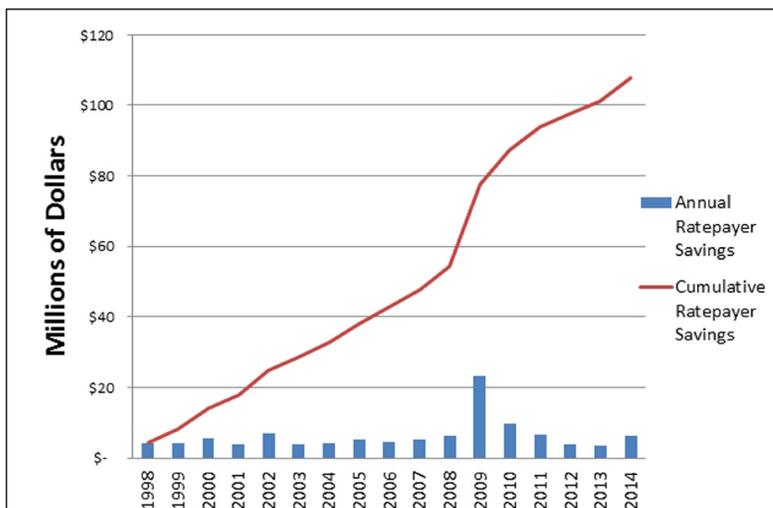
Norm Lamie, Assistant Director & Chief Engineer

How would you like to replace 1,280 feet of old water main for the same cost as replacing only 1,000 feet? A number of utilities will be able to do just that next summer with funding from the 2016 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF).

A combination of principal forgiveness and very attractive financing will allow Maine's public water systems to complete 28 percent more infrastructure work when compared to funding from traditional tax exempt municipal bonds.

A \$1 million project funded by the 2016 DWSRF Program provides your water ratepayers with a minimum of \$50,000 in principal forgiveness (a.k.a. grant). In addition, the savings in interest expense over the life of the life of the DWSRF loan is \$230,000. The expected DWSRF interest rate for a 20-year loan is 1 percent, almost 200 basis points lower than the current tax exempt municipal rate of 2.95 percent.

The DWSRF program has been operating since 1998. The combined value of interest reduction and principal forgiveness provided to Maine public water systems from funding with the DWSRF and the American Reinvestment & Recovery Act (ARRA) since 1998 has been over \$107 million.



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Site Visits Aimed at Helping Water Systems Avoid Formal Enforcement

Sara Flanagan, Capacity Development Coordinator

Are your compliance woes getting you down? Worried that you might receive a certified letter from the Drinking Water Program (DWP) containing an order or fine? Are you confused and unsure about your regulatory requirements?

Have no fear: the DWP's Capacity Development Pre-Enforcement (CDPE) site visits are here!

The DWP recently created a site visit process intended to provide additional on-site education and training to some public water systems (PWSs) meeting the criteria for formal enforcement. The goals of these visits are the following: 1) Build technical, managerial or financial capacity through education and outreach; 2) When possible, assist PWSs to return to full compliance; and 3) Reduce the need for formal enforcement. CDPE site visits will use a consistent, effective approach that educates PWSs in reaching and staying in compliance. CDPE site visits will be conducted by DWP staff and/or Maine Rural Water Association water quality specialists.



Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention

An Office of the Department of Health and Human Services

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DIRECTOR'S *Corner*

Fighting Off Entropy

Entropy is a measurement of the amount of disorder within a system. Without outside forces acting on a system, the amount of disorder and disarray will continue to increase. For example, the amount of entropy in my teenagers' bedrooms would continue to increase if not for "outside" forces (my wife and me) encouraging and sometimes demanding that some semblance of order be restored.

A broken water line results in a dramatic increase in entropy as the pressure is released and the water flows across the ground into ditches and streams. The once-organized system of water flowing through your pipes loses order and energy becoming useless to you and your customers.

From the actions of the freeze/thaw cycles of our northern climate, to the deterioration from corrosion, or the wear and tear of moving mechanical parts, the infrastructure associated with our public water systems is all moving toward greater entropy.

Increases in entropy are not limited to mechanical systems or inanimate objects. Organizations, teams or other groups of people will naturally increase in entropy if there are not forces at work to maintain order, civility and purpose.

All successful organizations need plans to fight against entropy.

Many years ago, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency developed a capacity development program geared toward improving the technical, managerial and financial "capacity" of public water

systems. When public water systems have the capacity to reliably deliver safe drinking water to their customers, the risk of violations decreases and public health protection is increased. In other words, more capacity equals less entropy. Information to help small water systems build capacity may be found at:

<http://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/technical-managerial-and-financial-tmf-capacity-resources-small-drinking-water-systems>.

Keeping the entropy level in your organization and water system low will require steady and sometimes momentous efforts. The Drinking Water Program staff are here to help you in these efforts, either through direct assistance or through helping you identify other sources of assistance. Please let us know if we can help.

Yours for safe drinking water,

Roger



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The Maine Drinking Water Program Newsletter

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2016 Grants for Source Protection and Capacity Development

Applications for the Drinking Water Program's 2016 round of grants for wellhead protection, source water protection and capacity development will be available on the DWP webpage (www.medwp.com) by January 31, 2016. The application deadline is March 31, 2016.

Wellhead Protection Grants can be used for projects aimed at preventing contamination of a groundwater source, while Source Water Protection Grants fund projects aimed at preventing contamination of a surface water source. Grants are typically \$5,000, with a few limited grants available up to \$10,000 for exceptional projects. Capacity Development Grants are available to water systems for the preparation of documents aimed to assist them in the maintenance or enhancement of water quality by identifying possible improvements in a water system's technical, financial and managerial operations (capacity development). Grant amounts may fund up to 50 percent of the project costs, with a maximum reimbursement of \$10,000. A few grants may fund up to \$15,000 for projects that clearly demonstrate a need for the higher grant amount.

For questions about Wellhead Protection and Source Water Protection Grants, contact Erika Bonenfant at 287-5681 or by email at erika.bonenfant@maine.gov. For questions about Capacity Development Grants, contact Sara Flanagan at 287-5678 or by email at sara.m.flanagan@maine.gov.

Who is Responsible for the Water: Landlords or Tenants?

Carlton Gardner, Compliance and Enforcement Team Leader

In Maine, we encounter many situations where the person operating a public water system (PWS) does not own the well providing its water. Sometimes, a restaurant or daycare owner will lease a building but remain responsible for collecting samples and reporting results to the Maine CDC Drinking Water Program (DWP). If this business owner/lessee fails to collect samples, then the DWP will notify them, along with the owners. If treatment is required, then the owner of the building/well remains responsible for installation of treatment, because that is the person authorized to alter its water infrastructure. The same requirement applies, in the case of a strip mall with multiple store fronts, or a mobile home park owned by an investment company. The owner of the property may employ a management company to collect samples and provide relevant reports, but if the DWP determines and assesses drinking water violations (which may or may not require treatment), then the owner of the property is ultimately responsible for correcting the violation(s) and installing the treatment. Landlords are responsible for complying with drinking water regulations. To solidify this requirement, DWP staff now collect information about water source ownership, to assure that the proper entities are notified, in the case of a violation. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact your compliance officer at 287-2070.

NEW STAFF



Holly Hockertlotz

Holly Hockertlotz joined the Drinking Water Program as a compliance officer for covering York and Cumberland counties. She holds a B.A. in Environmental Studies from Pace University, an M.S. in Environmental Science from Antioch University New England, and an M.P.H. in Environmental Health from American Public University. Holly has 8 years of environmental consulting experience for a wide variety of hazardous waste assessment and remediation projects including brownfields and CERCLA sites. Holly is a licensed water operator in the State of Vermont and has conducted a number of village-wide drinking water assessments. You can reach Holly at 287-8402 or holly.hockertlotz@maine.gov.



Julia Kimball

Julia Kimball joined the Drinking Water Program as a clerk for the Board of Licensure for Water Operators and the Maine Water Well Commission. Prior to the Drinking Water Program, she worked in a different office within DHHS and also for various small non-profit agencies as clerical and field staff. She is currently working on degree in Public Administration at the University of Maine at Augusta. You can contact Julia at 287-5699 or by email at julia.kimball@maine.gov.



ENFORCEMENT CORNER



Tera Pare, Enforcement and Rulemaking Coordinator

Staffing Announcement

Dawn Abbott, the DWP Enforcement Specialist responsible for enforcement of transient and non-transient, non-community public water systems, accepted a new position at the DEP Bangor Regional office and is no longer working for the Drinking Water Program. If you received correspondence from Dawn regarding any enforcement matter, please contact Tera Pare by email at tera.pare@maine.gov or by telephone at (207) 287-5680.

Announcement of Stricter Sampling Requirements for Public Water Systems Receiving Violations for Failing to Sample or Report

Starting January 1, 2016, the Drinking Water Program will require public water systems to sample for contaminants that were missed within 30 days of receiving a violation. For example, if a public water system was required to sample for nitrates between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015, and the Notice of Noncompliance is received by the public water system on February 28, 2016 for failing to test or report sample results for nitrates, then that PWS is required to sample for nitrates by March 28, 2016.

How this is a Change: In the past, the DWP would allow public water systems to sample during any time within the next compliance period; however, this practice could mean a large delay in the DWP being aware of water

quality issues and appropriately responding to protect public health. For instance, PWS A currently follows an annual schedule for nitrates and reported nitrate sample results to the DWP on February 15, 2014; however, PWS A failed to sample or report for nitrates between January 1 and December 31, 2015, resulting in a violation (Notice of Noncompliance) on March 1, 2016. Under the former practice, PWS A would have been allowed until December 31, 2016 to sample for nitrates (almost 3 years since the February 2014 sample result was recorded). Under the new policy, PWS A would be allowed until April 1, 2016 to report nitrate results to the DWP.

Seasonal Public Water Systems: If you are a seasonal public water system that received a Notice of Noncompliance for failing to sample or report for total coliform or nitrates, and you are currently closed for the season, then you must sample for that contaminant within 30 days of opening for the season in 2016.

Why did the DWP make this Change? The goal of requiring public water systems to sample within 30 days of receiving a violation will mean greater protection of public health. Either the PWS will sample quicker, so everyone knows the water quality after a missed compliance period, or it will mean a more efficient escalation to formal enforcement.

Ultra-Violet (UV) Treatment Helps Several Maine Water Systems Continue to Provide Safe Drinking Water While Remaining Unfiltered

Rychel McKenzie and McKenzie Parker, Field Inspectors

Prior to the EPA's Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2ESWTR), existing regulations did not require unfiltered water systems to provide treatment for cryptosporidium, a microscopic parasite. Although unfiltered systems maintained watershed control programs to protect water quality, national studies showed the presence of cryptosporidium in the distribution systems of some of these utilities. This finding meant that unfiltered water consumers were at higher risk of contracting gastrointestinal illness from the parasite than those provided filtered water.

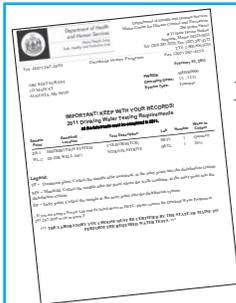
To reduce the risk of cryptosporidium in drinking water, the LT2ESWTR was adopted in 2006, and that required additional treatment for higher risk systems. While this Rule applied to all surface water systems (and groundwater under-the-influence of surface water), systems with an avoidance to filtration now face more stringent requirements than those that filter. Unfiltered water systems are now required to provide 99-99.9 percent inactivation of cryptosporidium, depending on the results of an initial two-year monitoring period. To accomplish this goal, additional treatment had to be installed. The deadline for compliance was April 1, 2014.

Continued on next page...



When Will I Receive My 2016 Annual Required Testing Report?

Each winter, the Drinking Water Program produces a testing report for each public water system to inform and remind them what to sample for, and when to collect the sample. In order for reports to be accurate, the final reports cannot be generated until we complete year end compliance which can sometimes last until late February. You may ask, "if I don't have my required testing report, how do I know what my monitoring requirements are?" Any monthly or quarter monitoring requirements have likely not changed from last year. If there have been changes, your compliance officer will contact your operator, administrative contact or sampler. If you are not sure of your sampling requirements for the first two or three months in the new year, please call your compliance officer.



Continued from previous page...

Fortunately, advances in available technologies, like ultra-violet (UV) treatment, provided viable treatment options for unfiltered systems. UV treatment has been used for drinking water disinfection in the U.S. since 1916. Cryptosporidium, which is resistant to chlorine, is effectively inactivated by a low dose of UV. Additionally, relative to other treatment technologies, such as ozonation and membrane filtration, UV offers a cost effective treatment solution.

In Maine, all unfiltered water systems were affected by the LT2ESWTR. The following is a summary of the work done at five of these unfiltered systems that installed UV treatment to maintain compliance.

Portland Water District

In early 2014, Portland Water District became home to New England's second largest UV treatment facility. Working alongside CDM Smith and D & C Construction, the District installed two Wedeco UV reactors. Each unit is 14-foot long, contains 84 lamps and is capable of treating 52 million gallons of water per day. As part of the \$12.8 million upgrade, Portland also replaced its aging ozone equipment to a system that more effectively uses liquid oxygen, rather than ambient air, to create ozone. Together, these technologies provide total protection against cryptosporidium, giardia and viruses. Partial funding was provided through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF).

Bangor Water District



Bangor Water District started their project in 2011 with 2012 DWSRF funds and a preliminary design by Black & Veatch. Construction began in 2013 with T. Buck Construction, using 2013 DWSRF funds on a new UV building to house two Sentinel

UV reactors, associated equipment and an emergency generator. Each UV reactor measures 24 inches in diameter and 3 feet in length, with the capability of treating up to 8.08 million gallons per day. Construction wrapped up in 2013, with a final cost of \$2,508,261. The District began earning log credits from the UV

units in 2014.



Town of Bar Harbor – Water Division

The Town of Bar Harbor started their project in 2011, with 2011 DWSRF Funds and a design by Woodard & Curran. Construction began in 2012, with T. Buck Construction on a full pump station upgrade with

the installation of two Aquionics UV reactors and associated equipment and piping. Each UV reactor measures 14 inches in diameter and 3 feet in length, and is capable of treating up to 6.3 million gallons of water per day. Construction wrapped up in 2014, with a final construction cost of \$2,427,144. The Town of Bar Harbor began earning log credits from the UV unit in 2014.

Brewer Water Department

Brewer Water Department started its project in 2013, with 2013 DWSRF funds and a design by Woodard & Curran. Construction began in late 2013 with T. Buck Construction on a new building addition to house two Trojan UV reactors, along with associated equipment and piping. Each reactor measures 12 inches in diameter and 4.5 feet in length, is capable of treating up to 2,713 gallons per minute. Construction wrapped up in 2014, with a final cost of \$621,774. Brewer Water Department began earning log credits from the UV units in 2015.

Mount Desert Water District

Mount Desert Water District started their project in 2011 with a design by Woodard & Curran. Construction began in 2012 on both treatment facilities to expand their facilities, replace existing ozone units and generators and install two Aquionics UV reactors at each site. Each UV unit installed at the Northeast Harbor facility measures 14 inches in diameter and 3 feet in length, and is capable of treating up to 1,200 gallons per minute. Each UV unit installed at the Seal Harbor facility measures 8 inches in diameter and 3 feet in length, and is capable of treating up to 600 gallons per minute. Construction wrapped up in 2014, with a combined final cost of \$2.1 million. Mount Desert Water District began earning log credits from the UV units in 2015.



License Renewals

As of January 1st, approximately 2/3 of water operators have renewed their licenses. Water operators that have not renewed have a grace period until March 1, 2016 to renew their license. After this date,

licenses not renewed become inactive, a reinstatement fee of \$50 is put in place, and an operator may not be in responsible charge of a water system until their license is reinstated.

With availability of distance learning opportunities increasing, finding topics of interest throughout the renewal cycle is getting easier. EPA continues to fund free training in a variety of topics online, through webinars and in classrooms. Keep track of these classes through the training calendar on the DWP website. Most providers submit attendance sheets, which are entered into operator records; however, be sure to keep a training file, just in case the electronic process encounters a glitch.

A hint for keeping up with training throughout the cycle: divide your biennial training contact hour (TCH)

Water Operator News and Reminders

Teresa Trott, Licensing Officer

requirement by two and attend that amount of training each year. This plan would mean one to four trainings dispersed over a year's time.

Board News

The Board is working diligently to improve the renewal process, review licensing options for people not actively working in the profession, and to ensure that the professionalism of operators is being maintained. Assuring professionalism is multi-faceted. Quality training, exam availability, operator competency and ethics must all be part of the Board's evaluation process.

The water profession is a predominantly a self-regulated one. However, a complaint process is available when the conduct of a licensed operator is observed to be inconsistent with protection of public health, does not comply with drinking water regulations, or does not exhibit the highest standards of ethical behavior. The Board is currently reviewing a number of complaints to determine operator competency and ethics based on reported operator actions and information gathered in the investigations that follow each complaint.

The Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) is Almost Here!

Revisions to the Total Coliform Rule (also known as the Revised Total Coliform Rule or RTCR) become effective for all public water systems on April 1, 2016. Here are some common questions related to the RTCR.

How will the RTCR affect my current sampling schedule?

When the RTCR goes into effect, your system will continue with its current sampling frequency for total coliform bacteria, but each water system must meet specific criteria in order to maintain this schedule. The DWP will evaluate whether your current sampling frequency is appropriate for your water system and whether you meet the criteria for any reduced monitoring at your next sanitary survey occurring after April 1, 2016. However, sampling frequency may change before your next sanitary survey, if circumstances arise that warrant an increase in frequency of monitoring. Examples include, but are not limited to, an *E. coli* MCL violation, positive total coliform sample results, failure to take or report samples and/or failure to submit monthly operating reports (for those systems treating with continuous disinfection).

How will the RTCR change the process for positive total coliform bacteria results?

The biggest change in the process for responding to a positive total coliform result is that, (for most water systems), if there are two total coliform positive sample results within a one month period (for example, an initial positive occurs, and at

least one repeat sample is also positive), an assessment of the water system must be conducted to determine the cause of the positive sample and to identify corrective actions to fix the problem.

What can seasonal water systems expect for changes?

Seasonal water systems, (non-community water systems that operate less than 12 months out of the year), must conduct a DWP approved startup procedure at the beginning of each operating period, before serving water to the public. Seasonal water systems must also certify that they completed the approved startup procedure. This requirement applies each year, before opening and serving water to the public.

What else should I know?

The DWP's RTCR webpage offers more detailed information and resources regarding changes you can expect as a result of the RTCR. The RTCR webpage can be found by going to www.medwp.com, and clicking on the "Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR)" link listed under the "What's New?" section of the homepage. Please contact your field inspector or compliance officer for any additional questions regarding the RTCR.



Upcoming Emergency Response Training Workshops in Brunswick/Topsham Area

Michael Abbott, Hydrogeologist

Coming up in early 2016, the Maine Rural Water Association (MRWA) will facilitate two emergency response workshops for the Brunswick/Topsham Water District and area responders. The Brunswick/Topsham Water District is the second Maine PWS in the last couple of years to be the subject of this type of training. A similar workshop and training exercise was held in November 2014 for the Salmon Falls River to evaluate potential risks to the Berwick and Somersworth, NH intakes in the event of a spill. These workshops are a result of the DWP's 2014 initiative to improve awareness and protection against oil and chemical spills following the January 2014 solvent contamination incident in the Elk River drinking water source in West Virginia.

The Brunswick/Topsham exercise will focus on communication. For example, how would the water district be notified if there was a spill into the Androscoggin River? How would water district personnel, residents and responders stay updated? We will also discuss how to prepare for such an incident and explore what resources and strategies may be available to increase resiliency and increase the ability to manage the District's riverbank well fields in a way that will minimize risk to the source, infrastructure and water system customers. Interaction between State agencies, county-level and local responders will also be examined by working through mock spill scenarios.

The first workshop – the Orientation - will be held on January 21, 2016 (snow date Jan. 28) from 9 am to 2 pm at the Topsham Town Complex/Public Safety Building, located at 100 Main

Street in Topsham. This session functions as a discussion-based exercise, intended to provide a platform for each entity to review their current emergency response plan and define the role of each participant in a spill response situation affecting the river and nearby water supply wells. Presentations will include a review of lessons learned from the Elk River solvent release; an overview of the Incident Command System (ICS); above-ground storage tank (AST) mapping efforts in Maine; and state and federal chemical reporting requirements. Attendees will include representatives from the water and sewer districts, local emergency response personnel and state agencies, including the Maine CDC Drinking Water Program, DEP and the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).

The second workshop – the Tabletop Exercise – will be held on February 2, 2016 (snow date March 1) from 9am to 1pm at the same location. The Exercise will be led by MEMA and the Cumberland County EMA. An emergency scenario will be presented, followed by information “injects” to test response protocol, mutual aid capabilities, efficiency of communication and public relation components. Participants will work in groups representing each entity involved in an emergency event. The tabletop exercise will be followed by a “hot wash” discussion of identified vulnerabilities and potential strategies to improve response and resiliency. The tabletop exercise will be open to anyone interested in discussing emergency response actions related to the protection of drinking water. Four training contact hours (TCHs) will be awarded for each workshop.

Continued from Cover...

Very attractive financing from low interest rates combined with competitive bidding prices from contractors makes it an opportune time to complete some of those water infrastructure projects. If you missed out on the 2016 round of funding and want to tackle that water main replacement project next year, mark your calendar now for the next round of applications, due September 30, 2016.

I would be happy to meet with you or your trustees to discuss your infrastructure needs and how the DWSRF Program might be able to help you. Just call me at 287-2647 or e-mail me at norm.lamie@maine.gov.

A copy of the Draft 2016 Primary List and Backup List is available on the Drinking Water Program web site at <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/environmental-health/dwp/imt/documents/2016DWSRFPrimaryList.pdf>

New and Improved Small System Chlorination Report

If a small water system is required to have a designated water operator (DO), the DO must sign the monthly operating report (MOR). The DWP revised the Small System Chlorination Report (MOR012) to include a place for the sampler to sign and, if required, a place for the DO's signature. The new forms are available as a Word document or a fillable PDF file on the Drinking Water Program's website (www.medwp.com). Paper copy packets may also be obtained by contacting DWP staff. Please note that we have also added a reminder that if your continuous disinfection system stops working or you have a confirmed *E. coli* bacteria result, you must place your water system on a boil water order and immediately contact the DWP.

A photograph of a 'Small System Chlorination Report Form' (MOR012). The form is a grid with columns for 'Date', 'Chlorine Dose (mg/L)', 'pH', 'Free Chlorine (mg/L)', 'Total Chlorine (mg/L)', 'Temperature (°C)', 'Operator', and 'Sampler'. It includes a section for 'Remarks' and a signature line for the 'Designated Water Operator'. The form is titled 'Small Water System Chlorination Report Form' and includes instructions for use.



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