



Fall 2006

Service Connection

THE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM NEWSLETTER
"Working Together for Safe Drinking Water"



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Pandemic Flu on the Horizon?

Bill Johnson, Capacity Development and Security Coordinator



By now the Bird Flu is an almost common topic in many circles. The avian (bird) flu strain, H5N1, is spreading through Asia into Europe and parts of Africa. There is a possibility that the bird flu will spread to North America through migratory birds.

Currently, the flu is of little threat to humans, but the medical and public health community is concerned that the H5N1 strain could "mutate" or change to become infectious to humans. A human form of the virus may be particularly dangerous because of a lack of immunity or developed vaccines. For these reasons if the virus breaks out worldwide it will likely become a pandemic event.

The State of Maine has developed a plan, and counties are preparing plans that include prevention, caring for the ill and recovering from a wave of illness. Check with your Emergency Management Agency to become part of this planning process or to find out how the plans may impact water systems.

In the event of a pandemic flu what impact will there be on water systems? Staff availability

may be affected, delivery of chemicals and supplies may be delayed, and water demand usage may increase.

What efforts can water systems make to prepare for a pandemic flu event?

- Identify the most critical operations of your system - those actions that absolutely must be done to produce water;
- Prepare written standard operating procedures for performing the critical functions;
- Cross-train employees for each others' jobs - plan for a reduced workforce of at least 50%, or up to 100% for small systems; and
- Develop mutual aid agreements with neighboring systems to provide staff coverage - for those systems that agree to provide aid, make their operators aware of your system's functions and operations. Formal agreements clearly spelling out expectations in writing are best, but an informal mutual aid agreement is better than nothing.

For more information on pandemic flu, check the links at the Drinking Water Program website, www.medwp.com. Watch for regular updates and attend classes relating to emergency response, pandemic planning and mutual aid topics.

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Director's Corner

The Drinking Water Program continues to transition to our new structure as described in the last Service Connection. Our hope is that we will operate more efficiently and provide you with better customer service.

My prevailing program concern continues to be our lack of state matching funds for our Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund. Despite our lack of match, we have just sent out our project solicitation letter for 2007 projects. It is very important that we understand your funding needs. Over the last year we have seen a significant drop in overall system compliance with health based standards rate. This is one way that EPA measures our program performance. Our compliance rate has fallen from the high 80's to 79%. That drop has raised some red flags. Most of the change is due to the 17 systems that are currently out of compliance with the Stage 1 Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts Rule. This will likely be a long term compliance problem because there are no "quick-fix" remedies available. DWSRF funds will certainly be needed next year to help these systems install new treatment, find new sources or otherwise find a way to come back into compliance. We are also in discussions with Region 1 EPA regarding systems that have exceeded filtration avoidance criteria.



Never a dull moment.
Yours for Safe Drinking Water,
Nancy



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In Memory - Bob Peterson



Bob Peterson dedicated his professional life to protecting the public health of Maine people and visitors. Bob began state service in 1974 in the childhood lead

program. In March, 1975, Bob transferred to the Drinking Water Program as an Engineer Technician II, and for 10 years worked with most of the water utilities in those early years of the Safe Drinking Water Act. In 1985 Bob transferred to the Eating & Lodging Program and soon after took over as the head of that program. Bob held that position for 15 years when he came back to the Drinking Water Program in 2000 as the Database Administrator.

Bob was a quiet, humble person who worked tirelessly to perfect our Safe Drinking Water Information System – a formidable task. Bob often took work home, came in on weekends and worked late to insure that our database was ready for all the staff that relied on him to keep things running smoothly. Nationally, Bob was well respected and regarded in his field. Only during his illness did we learn about the many instances when he helped other states create or improve their data systems. Bob was always willing to listen and help with any problem, large or small.

Bob is missed by everyone at the Drinking Water Program and in the Division of Environmental Health. We hope to honor his life by modeling his superior work ethic and kind, good heart.



Federal Emergency Preparedness Funding Requirements

Bill Johnson, Capacity Development and Security Coordinator

Beginning in Federal fiscal year 2007, all public water systems interested in receiving federal emergency preparedness funds must be in compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) requirements. Public water systems are eligible for emergency preparedness funds to make physical security improvements to their system facilities. This grant money is available through the Maine Emergency Management Agency.

Organizations that wish to apply for this Federal grant money must have their staff trained to the national Incident Command System (ICS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS). This means that at a minimum,

employees must be certified at the ICS 100, 200 and/or 700 level depending on their position. General information on the requirements is available at: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/> and www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/nims_training.shtm.

ICS and the NIMS are organized ways of handling emergency response incidents. These standardized responses allow multiple responder agencies and personnel to work together effectively to handle emergency incidents. Since water system personnel may be involved in such emergencies, training in and awareness of ICS and NIMS is critical.



Service Connection

Field Inspection Team Accomplishments Since Reorganization

Nate Saunders, Field Inspection Team Leader



In February, two staff covering New Well Approval (NWA) and six staff covering Field Services were combined into one group called the Field Inspection Team (FIT). The intent was for all eight FIT staff to cover both functions for the Public Water Systems (PWS) in their districts. One anticipated benefits was a better coverage of both functions for all PWSs.

The challenge has been to cross-train staff while keeping both functions in full operation. This has been a formidable juggling feat! With *great* initiative from the staff, healthy progress has been made! Below are some progress bullets. Our intent is to continue cross-training efforts, and over time we will have eight Field inspectors with both NWA and PWS inspection skills resulting in highly skilled staff able to even better serve Maine's Public Water System community.

- FIT trained on NWA by senior DWP staff David Braley.
- Previous NWA staff attended four-day formal EPA Sanitary Survey Training and cross-trained with peers. Now completed a number of Sanitary Surveys independently.
- FIT and the Compliance and Enforcement Team (CET) have worked diligently to redevelop the NWA process, defining new, combined roles for FIT and CET.
- All six previous Field Staff are engaged with New Well Approvals in their districts, some that are quite complex.
- Progress has been made by all FIT members on entering information into SDWIS, the primary software tool for the Drinking Water Program.
- Cooperation fostering new FIT-CET-PWS relationships now becoming a reality: one FIT staff and one CET staff for each PWS covering all issues.

CET Transitions

Carlton Gardner, Compliance and Enforcement Team Leader

The compliance and enforcement sections were combined into one joint Compliance and Enforcement Team (CET). One team member will act as the sole source of compliance information in their assigned geographical area.



The team is made up of nine staff members. Two team members are working with just the 1200+ transient water systems. Four team members will be working with the 800 community (CWS) and non-transient non-community water systems (NTNCWS). The CET Team also includes an Enforcement and Rulemaking Coordinator, one support staff and a team leader. The team has undergone training on writing SOP's, (Standard Operating Procedures). Each member will be completing an SOP for their area of rule expertise and then conduct a training session for the team members.

On May 1st Dawn Carpenter and Linda Robinson took over transient water systems (TNCWS) in their new regional areas, also continuing their old duties. CET staff members are training each other in rule enforcement. This process will be on-going throughout the summer and fall. The learning process continues as team members maintain their existing responsibilities.



Public Water Supply Protection (Resolve 140)

Andy Tolman, Education and Technical Assistance Team Leader



The Maine State Legislature has asked the Drinking Water Program, in cooperation with several state agencies, to conduct a public process to discuss and refine recommendations for continuing to improve the safety of public water supplies. We will host a series of meetings this fall to work through how to implement the recommendations.

The process will produce a plan for implementing recommendations for the Legislature's Natural Resources Committee to review this coming session. Water supply protection has been identified nationally as a tool that can bring together a number of diverse interests to plan for and implement sustainable land use practices. This is an opportunity to work together to conserve farms and forests, and to guide land use and development to reduce water quality and quantity problems in the future.

To join our process, call 287-6196 or e-mail andrews.l.tolman@maine.gov. Please come and help us realize our vision for the State.

Meeting Schedule:

Dates: every other *Thursday*: **September 14, 28, October 12, 26** and November 16, if needed

Time: 9:00 AM to 12:00N **Place:** The Senator Inn, Augusta

Conveners

Maine DHHS, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Drinking Water Program; Maine Department of Environmental Protection; Maine Department of Conservation, Geological Survey; Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources

Invitees

Agencies: Department of Conservation, Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of Transportation, Healthy Maine Communities, Land for Maine's Future, State Planning Office

Non-Governmental Organizations: Coastal Enterprises, Inc, Congress of Lake Associations, GrowSmart Maine, Maine Aquaculture Association, Maine Association of Realtors, Maine Land Trust Alliance, Maine Farm Bureau, Maine Municipal Association, Maine Forest Products Council, Maine Pulp and Paper Association, Maine Farmland Trust, Maine Water Utilities Association, Maine Rural Water Association, Maine Real Estate & Development Associations, Maine Economic Growth Council, Maine Organic Farmers and Gardiners Association, Maine Oil Dealers Association, Natural Resources Council of Maine, Physicians for Social Responsibility, The Nature Conservancy, York River Watershed: Protecting our Children's Water



Required Testing Sheets

Every year the Maine Drinking Water Program sends a Required Testing Sheet to water systems outlining required tests for the coming year. Changes to test codes have created some confusion.

Please note:

- Test N test is now called a Test VOC 524 and costs \$135.00.
- Trihalomethanes and HAA5 tests are called test HAA_552; \$125.00 and THM_542, \$80.00.
- TQ1 for Herbicide Screen is now Chlorinated Acids, \$200.00.
- Test CP, Pesticide Screen is now PEST_CL_PCBS_508, \$75.00.
- TSO semi-volatile organics is now Test SVO-525, \$200.00.
- TQ3 is now Carbam_531, \$125.00.



Helpful Reminders on Filling out the Designated Operator Form

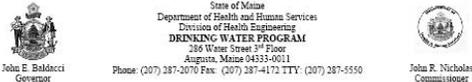
Rebecca Reynolds, Water Operator Specialist

All surface water, community and non-transient non-community public water systems (PWS) are required to have at least one, and in most circumstances two, Designated Operators (DO) in direct responsible charge. The DO must be “available” to initiate appropriate action in a timely manner. All DOs must hold a license equal to or higher than the treatment and distribution classifications of the system.

Systems must notify the DWP when a DO is no longer in responsible charge, especially in the case of contract operations and mutual aid agreements. If the required number of DOs are not available, the system has thirty 30 days to acquire a DO.

The Designated Operator form must be completed by both the owner and the operator and be on file with the DWP to be in compliance. DO forms should be submitted for any person in direct responsible charge of quality or quantity of finished water. This form is available at the DWP web site: www.medwp.com under the downloadable documents section. Please assure forms are correctly signed, operators have the appropriate licenses and the area of responsibility is checked.

The DO Form cannot be used to update sampler or other contact information for the system. Please contact the DWP for other contact information updates. Assistance with forms, finding contract operators or other operator issues is available by contacting Terry, Rebecca or Carol at the Drinking Water Program, 287-2070.



PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM DESIGNATED OPERATOR FORM

Please complete and return this form to the Drinking Water Program at the address above. Any changes to this information shall be submitted to the Drinking Water Program within 30 days of the change.

Public Water System Information	
System Name:	PWSID #:
System Address:	
System Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Community <input type="checkbox"/> Transient (<i>using surface water</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-transient Non-community	
System Owner or Owner's Representative:	
System Classification (<i>indicate numerical classification</i>): _____ Treatment _____ Distribution _____ Very Small Water System	

Designated Operator Information	
Print Name:	License Number:
Class of License: _____ Treatment _____ Distribution _____ Very Small Water System	
Check Area of Responsibility:	<input type="checkbox"/> Treatment and Distribution <input type="checkbox"/> Treatment System Only <input type="checkbox"/> Distribution System Only
<small>Please note if no box is indicated, responsibility is inferred for all areas with a corresponding license.</small>	
Print Name:	License Number:
Class of License: _____ Treatment _____ Distribution _____ Very Small Water System	
Check Area of Responsibility:	<input type="checkbox"/> Treatment and Distribution <input type="checkbox"/> Treatment System Only <input type="checkbox"/> Distribution System Only
<small>Please note if no box is indicated, responsibility is inferred for all areas with a corresponding license.</small>	

Reproduce this page as necessary for additional designated operators.

The undersigned public water system hereby notifies the Drinking Water Program of its intention to meet the requirements for licensed water operators pursuant to 10-144 Chapter 231 of the State of Maine Rules Relating to Drinking Water. The above named Public Water System hereby certifies that the water system is under the direct supervision of the aforementioned designated licensed operator with the appropriate classification during all operating shifts.

Signed _____ Date ____/____/____
(Owner or Owner's Representative)

Signed _____ Date ____/____/____
(Designated operator)

Signed _____ Date ____/____/____
(Designated operator)

G:\Operator Certification\DESIGNATED OPERATOR\Designated Operator Form.doc August 8, 2006

Total Coliform Bacteria Monitoring

Are you a groundwater system serving less than 1,000 population on monthly monitoring total coliform? If so, you may be eligible for reduced quarterly monitoring.

Criteria include:

- consistent and satisfactory total coliform results for six consecutive months,
- no potential contaminant source within 150 feet, and
- agreement between the Compliance and Enforcement team and the Field Team.

Systems on monthly monitoring must receive approval to be reduced to quarterly. Please call your CET or FIT team member to start the process.



Public Water System Emergency Response Plan Handbook

Bill Johnson, Capacity Development and Security Coordinator

Last year the Drinking Water Program (DWP) produced a *Public Water System Emergency Response Plan Handbook (Handbook)* designed to help public water systems assess their vulnerabilities and prepare emergency response plans. The goal is to make the *Handbooks* available to all public water systems in the state. The DWP partnered with Maine Water Utilities Association and the Maine Rural Water Association (MRWA) to distribute the majority of the *Handbooks* at training sessions around the state. The training sessions provided familiarization with the *Handbook* and offered helpful advice regarding security at water systems.

Following the distribution, the DWP mailed a survey to recipients intended to gauge the usefulness of the *Handbooks*. Most respondents said they had used the book, found the sections useful and may be interested in additional emergency response plan training, vulnerability assessment training, or a site visit for security assessment.

This fall, the DWP intends to print additional *Handbooks*, including a new EPA publication: *Simple Tools for Effective Performance (STEP) Guide Series*. The STEP Guide is intended for small systems serving less than 3,300 persons, specifically homeowner associations, mobile home parks or small rural municipal systems. The STEP Guide is available on the EPA website: http://www.epa.gov/safewater/watersecurity/pubs/very_small_systems_guide.pdf.

Beginning this fall, the DWP will partner again with MRWA to offer *Handbook* training sessions for CWS and NTNC water systems. Be on the lookout for brochures notifying you of upcoming classes.

Operator Update

Teresa Trott, Operator Licensing/Environmental Review Coordinator

Pre-exam classes for all levels are offered with funding from the EPA Operator Expense Reimbursement Grant through Maine Rural Water Association. The Grant is only funded for two more years so take advantage of this opportunity soon!



Pass rates for Operator Exams (in % pass)

	Apr-06	Jun-06		Apr-06	Jun-06
VSWS	60	86	I-D	69	89
I-T	50	73	II-D	50	60
II-T	42	0	II-D-DE	83	20
II-T-DE	50	38	III-D	56	75
III-T	53	0	III-D-DE		
III-T-DE	100	100	IV-D	50	33
IV-T	15	17	IV-D-DE	43	25
IV-T-DE	100	100			

T - Treatment, D- Distribution , DE - Direct Entry option

License renewal information will be mailed in October - Please update your address information if you have moved, had E-911 changes or changed employers.



Nancy Beardsley 287-5674
 Erika Bonenfant 287-3056
 David Braley 287-3194
 Haig Brochu 287-6542
 Dawn Carpenter 287-6471
 Carol Champagne 287-5699
 Roger Crouse 287-5684
 Denise Douin 287-8481
 Greg DuMonthier 561-4299
 Jeff Folger 287-5682
 Robin Frost 287-8411
 Carlton Gardner 287-8403
 Larry Girvan 768-3610
 Rod Hanscom 561-4363
 Jennifer Hitchcock 287-3962
 William Johnson 287-5678
 Eben Joslyn 822-2179
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 Geraldine Poulin 287-8412
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 Beth Pratte 287-5681
 Rebecca Reynolds 287-5295
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 Nathan Saunders 287-5685
 Matthew Sica 287-1929
 Fran Simard 287-8074
 Amilyn Stillings 287-6472
 Andrews Tolman 287-6196
 Teresa Trott 287-7485
 George Tzikas 287-2070
 Scott Whitney 287-8487

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 Wellhead Protection Coordinator, SWP
 Field Inspector
 Enforcement and Compliance Specialist
 Operator Certification/ Well Drillers Board Clerk
 Assistant Director
 Field Inspector & SRF Project Manager
 Field Inspector
 Field Inspector
 Acting SDWIS Administrator
 Compliance and Enforcement Team Leader
 Field Inspector & SRF Project Manager
 Field Inspector & SRF Project Manager
 Compliance Officer
 Capacity Development & Security Coordinator
 Field Inspector & SRF Project Manager
 Compliance Officer
 Enforcement & Rulemaking Coordinator
 Data Management
 Secretary
 Education & Outreach Coordinator
 Water Operator Specialist
 Compliance Officer
 Field Inspection Team Manager
 Laboratory Certification Officer
 Secretary
 Compliance Officer
 Education & Technical Assistance Team Leader
 Operator Licensing/Environmental Review Coord
 Receptionist
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