

# New drinking water fees

By David Emme

Drinking Water Services fees are being restructured following the passage of SB 27 by the Oregon Legislature. The sanitary survey fee will be replaced by an annual regulatory fee that captures a broader range of regulatory services. A rulemaking process is underway to establish a new tiered fee schedule. The new fees would be initially due in mid-2020. The following are key features and principles of the proposed fee schedule:

#### All water systems contribute.

State-regulated systems, those serving 4–14 connections or 10–24 people, would pay an annual fee of \$75 per year. Previously, these systems did not pay a fee and DWS had few resources to devote to these systems.

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# New risk and resilience assessments required

By David Emme

America's Water Infrastructure and Investment Act of 2018 requires community water systems serving more than 3,300 people to conduct a risk and resiliency assessment and to update their emergency response plans. Water systems must submit a certification directly to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that the assessment has been completed. Within 6 months of completion of the assessment, water systems must also submit a certification that their emergency response plan has been updated. The schedule for submitting risk assessment certifications to EPA is as follows:

 March 31, 2020 — Systems serving 100,000 people or more.

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# This is the last printed Pipeline!

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#### Small water systems are protected.

Community water systems serving 250 connections or fewer or 1,000 people or fewer would pay an annual fee of \$175 per year. Non-community water systems would pay an annual fee of \$150 per year. We recognize the difficulty many small systems face with compliance costs and are striving to keep regulatory fees low.

#### Larger water systems are tiered by size.

Systems serving more than 250 connections or 1,000 people would pay a tiered fee rate based on the number of connections served. These fees range from \$675 per year for the smallest systems without water treatment to \$65,000 per year for the few largest water systems in the state, serving a significant portion of the state population.

# Reduced fees for wholesale water systems and purchasers.

Those systems that either provide wholesale water without distribution systems or exclusively purchase water would pay a tiered rate that is reduced in comparison to other community water systems.

Drinking Water Services intends to complete the rulemaking process by the end of the calendar year and to initially bill for the new fees in the spring of 2020. The purpose of the new fees is to generate enough revenue to restore program capacity and provide sustainable revenue going forward. The Legislature approved 5 new positions and increased support for county and Department of Agriculture partners. These changes will be funded by increased fee revenue.

More information about the proposed fees can be found on the DWS rules webpage at https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HEALTHYENVIRONMENTS/DRINKINGWATER/RULES.

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New risk and resilience assessment... continued from page 1

- December 31, 2020 Systems serving 50,000 to 99,999 people.
- June 30, 2021 Systems serving 3,301 to 49,999 people.

The risk and resiliency assessments should address vulnerabilities of the water system to malevolent acts and natural hazards, considering infrastructure, chemical storage, operation and maintenance, and computer and automated systems. The emergency response plans should include strategies to improve resiliency and security, plans and procedures for responding to an event that threatens safe drinking water, actions and equipment to lessen the impact of a threat and strategies to detect a malevolent act or natural hazard that threatens the system.

Risk and resilience assessments are federal requirements, so submittal to Drinking Water Services is not required. However, the federal risk assessment and emergency response plan requirements parallel many existing state requirements for all water systems to develop and maintain an emergency response plan and master plan requirements for seismic risk assessments. There is an opportunity to perform this work and satisfy both state and federal rule requirements. More importantly, it represents an opportunity to update your system's emergency preparedness and to coordinate with local emergency management officials.

The U.S. EPA has information, training materials and guidance about the risk and resilience requirements at EPA's Water Security Division website at https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience.

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# 2020 drinking water infrastructure needs survey

By Anthony J. Fields

The 2020 Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey will begin in early 2020. This survey is a tool used by the Environmental Protection Agency to determine financial need across the United States. The survey includes all water systems serving more than 100,000 people, as well as approximately 50 medium-sized systems serving 50,000 people or less. As the EPA survey website states (http://water. epa.gov/infrastructure/drinkingwater/dwns/ index.cfm), "Local water utilities must make significant investments to install, upgrade, or replace equipment in order to deliver safe drinking water and protect public health. Every four years, EPA conducts a survey of the anticipated costs of these investments and reports the results to Congress. The results are also used to help determine the amount of funding each state receives for its Drinking Water State Revolving Fund program, which funds the types of projects identified in the survey."

The survey includes a questionnaire to determine eligible capitol investment projects the water system anticipates completing during the next twenty years. These can include activities ranging from standard pipe replacement to the addition of new water sources and installation of new water treatment plants. Water systems selected to participate will receive a survey and be asked to participate in an interview during which supporting documentation will be collected to support the needs identified.

The 2020 survey will be the seventh national assessment of public water system infrastructure needs and will estimate the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) eligible infrastructure projects from January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2039. This

need is reported to Congress following the close of the survey, and the results are used to determine each state's allotment of the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund capacity grant.

This round of the DWINSA will also include an estimate of the number of lead service lines and the cost of replacing those service lines, both publicly and privately owned. This new feature of the survey is required by Section 2015 of America's Water Infrastructure Act (Public Law No: 115-270).

As we did in 2011 and 2015, we will be using an independent engineering firm to collect the survey data. This is important news, because having a contractor collect and submit data on behalf of the selected water systems significantly reduces the amount of time a water system must devote to the process. On average, water systems participating in the 2011 and 2015 surveys were interviewed for approximately 90 minutes, and this 90-minute investment comprised most of their involvement with the survey.

Additional information can be found on the infrastructure website, located at http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/drinkingwater/dwns/basicinformation.cfm, or by calling the Drinking Water Program at (971) 673-0405.

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## Plan review reminder

By Carrie Gentry

Is your water system considering adding a well in the near future? A plan review packet is available to guide your water system or consultant through the plan review process — see healthoregon.org/pwsplanreview and click on the "Plan Review Information Packages" section.

Before drilling, the first step in the plan review process for a water system is to seek site plan approval. This means providing the site location on a drawing, tax lot map or Google map, as well as providing information on potential contaminants within the sanitary hazard setback and whether the water system has a 100' radius of control (e.g. property ownership) around the well.

Water systems sometimes skip that first site plan review and approval step, reaching out to us only after the well has been drilled and the well log is available for review. Serious issues can crop up when the initial site plan evaluation step is skipped, and sometimes that means that we can't approve a well for use. Before you spend the money on drilling a well for a public water system, please make sure you've worked through the site plan evaluation step!

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to one of the plan review coordinators, Carrie Gentry (region 1) or Jay MacPherson (region 2). Carrie can be reached at 971-673-0191 and Jay can be reached at 541-726-2587 extension 57. You can also reach us through email at dws.planreview@dhsoha.state.or.us.

Carrie Gentry is a regional engineer in the Technical Services Unit of Drinking Water Services / 971-673-0191 or carrie.l.gentry@state.or.us

# Operator certification corner

By Dottie Reynolds

Help keep data online as current as possible. If you are retiring or have changed jobs, please submit a transfer/termination notice. Also, make sure we have your most current address before renewal notices are mailed this year by submitting an address correction form. Both the address correction form and the transfer/termination notice can be found on the website.

The OESAC website will soon have a new look. The resources page will be expanded to include additional resources throughout the state and beyond. Sponsors and applicants will be able to pay the application fee via PayPal and make applications online.

All operator certification forms have been updated. Please contact me if you have questions on any of the forms, or if you have suggestions to add to the forms (thanks to those who have contacted me already). Toss out your old master exam application, DRC form and SWS application and replace them with the most current versions. Please use all new forms and documents from the operator certification website.

Dottie Reynolds is operator certification specialist of Drinking Water Services / 971-673-0426 or dottie.e.reynolds@state.or.us

# Low-cost funding for eligible drinking water system improvements

by Adam DeSemple

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) provides low-cost loans to community and nonprofit non-community public water systems for planning, design and construction of drinking water infrastructure improvements. Also referred to as the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund, this funding program is co-administered by Oregon Health Authority and Business Oregon.

#### Help with funding:

In addition to low-cost financing and favorable repayment terms, all projects receive part of the loan as principal forgiveness.

#### Projects we can Fund:

- Water sources, treatment, finished water reservoirs, pumping and transmission/ distribution mains.
- Aquifer, Storage and Recovery (ASR) projects.
- Instrumentation, telemetry, water meter, AMR/AMI, backflow device and pressure reducing valve projects.
- Safety, seismic and security improvements.
- Projects which increase redundancy and reliability of critical assets.
- Water system restructuring and/or consolidation to resolve noncompliance or technical, managerial and financial problems.
- Planning and design in support of an eligible project — Feasibility studies, master plans, design and environmental documents.

#### We also fund service line replacements:

Funding assistance is available for complete service line replacements, regardless of pipe

material or ownership of the property where the service line is located. Funding assistance can be used for service line replacement from the public water main to the point it connects with premise plumbing.

#### Grant and loan funds are also available for:

- Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Projects (SIPP)
  - Includes seismic risk assessment and mitigation plan requirements for eligible public water systems, via OAR 333-061-0060(5)(a)(J).
- Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) efforts.

#### **Public notice reminder:**

All public notices for comments can be found on our DWSRF web page at http://healthoregon.org/srf.

- Quarterly (Oct., Jan., April, July) notices: For infrastructure projects.
- Quarterly (Oct., Jan., April) notices: For planning (SIPP) projects.
- Annual (June or July) notice: For DWSP projects and the Intended Use Plan.

For more detailed information, visit the DWSRF web page at http://healthoregon.org/srf

#### Or contact:

- Adam DeSemple, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program Coordinator, at 971-673-0422, or by email at adam. desemple@state.or.us; or
- Jon Unger, Business Oregon's Safe
   Drinking Water Program and Policy
   Coordinator, at 503-507-7107, or by email at jon.unger@oregon.gov.

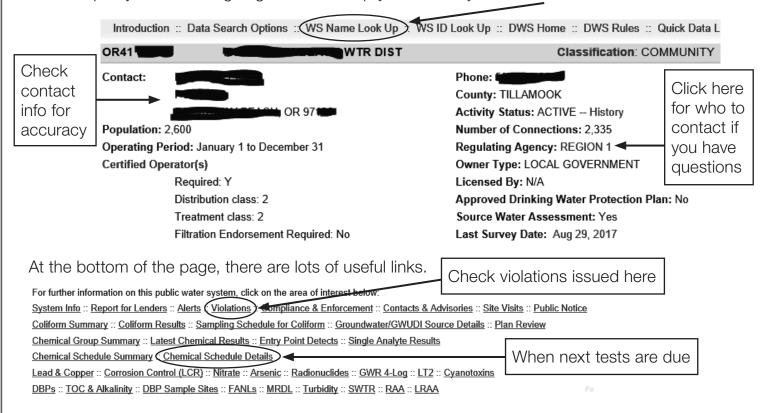
Adam DeSemple is a program analyst for SRF program in the Planning, Protection, and Certification Unit of Drinking Water Services / 971-673-0422 or adam.desemple@state.or.us

# Water quality and compliance information available online

By Kari Salis

Did you know that you, your customers and the public can look up information about public water systems, including, testing results, monitoring schedules and violations?

Go to https://yourwater.oregon.gov and look up your water system's name.



If you notice something is incorrect or missing, contact Drinking Water Services at 971-673-0405.

#### Due date reminders:

For routine monitoring and reporting, results are due the 10th of the month following the end of the period.

- Monthly operation reports and monthly coliform results are due by the 10th of the next month. (i.e. May reports and sample results are due by June 10)
- Quarterly coliform and chemical results are due by January, April, July and October 10 for the previous quarter.
- Lead and copper results required yearly or every 3-years (must sample between June and September) are due by October 10.
- Lead and copper results required every 6 months are due by January or July 10.
- Chemical results that must be sampled on yearly, 3-year, 6-year, or 9-year intervals are due by January 10.
- Remember, the results must be in our office by the due date allow time for the mail system to deliver. Alternatively, use fax (503-673-0694) or email (dwp.dmce@state.or.us) and get it to us the same day.

Kari Salis is the technical service manager of Drinking Water Services / 971-673-0423 or karyl.l.salis@state.or.us

# Congratulations to our outstanding performers!

By Carolyn Clemmons

Jobs well done by the operators of these systems:

Water system name	County Served
Avion WC — Highland Estates	Deschutes
Avion WC — Tumalo Rim	Deschutes
Avion WC — Tuscarora	Deschutes
Avion WC — Wild River	Deschutes
Bella Casa Park	Lane
Cascade Pines MHP	Crook
Cimmarron City Water System	Deschutes
Covered Bridge MHP	Jackson
Dikeside Moorage	Columbia
Donald, City of	Marion
Dumbeck Lane Domestic Water Supply District	Benton
Falcon Cove Beach WD	Tillamook
Fir View Water Company	Benton
Government Camp Water System	Clackamas
Hiland WC — Helton	Marion
Hiland WC — Illahe Gold Club Estates	Marion
Hiland WC — Stables	Yamhill
Hillsboro-Cherry Grove	Washington
Idleway Improvement District	Crook
Jacksonville, City of	Jackson
Lebanon, City of	Linn
Lincoln City Water District	Lincoln
Marcola Water District	Lane
Metolius Meadows Prop Owners	Jefferson
Mill Mar Estates	Jackson
North Plains Water Department	Washington
Northwood Water District Inc.	Tillamook
Ochoco West Water and Sanitation Authority	Crook

Old Sheep Ranch	Curry	
Water Association	Carry	
Oregon Shores Recreation Club	Klamath	
Redmond Water Department	Deschutes	
Rhododendron Water Association	Clackamas	
Riverside Mobile Park	Lincoln	
Riverstone Mobile Home Park	Lane	
Riviera Mobile Park	Josephine	
Roseburg, City of	Douglas	
Salmon River Mobile Village	Lincoln	
Seal Rock Water District	Lincoln	
Shady Trails RV Park	Jackson	
Sodaville, City of	Linn	
South Fork Water Board	Clackamas	
Star Satellite Improv District	Washington	
Starlite Motel Village	Marion	
Terrebonne Domestic	Deschutes	
Water District	2000110103	
The Dalles, City of	Wasco	
Western Carriage Estates	Jackson	
Westridge Water District	Lane	
Winston-Dillard Water District	Douglas	

These public water systems have most recently met the established criteria for outstanding performance (Sept. 7, 2018–July 25, 2019) though some survey results from that period may still be in the data entry process. Outstanding performers are systems with no significant deficiencies identified, as well as no unresolved violations. All systems are evaluated during their routine Water System Survey and those that meet the outstanding performer criteria have their survey frequency (and fee) reduced from every three years to every five years. To find out how to quality, visit https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/ healthyenvironments/drinkingwater/operations/ documents/ospcriteria.pdf

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The following websites provide links to upcoming meetings and trainings related to drinking water.

## Meeting calendar

#### **Drinking Water Advisory Committee**

▶ http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater/Pages/members.aspx

### **Cross Connection Advisory Board**

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

## Training calendar

http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater/OperatorCertification/Pages/training.aspx