



## Cross Connection Program Returns to OHD Supervision

By Bonnie Waybright

OREGON'S cross connection control program is undergoing major changes that are expected to improve the safety and quality of the state's drinking water. The most significant are the return of the program to the Health Division and adoption of new rules.

In summer 1992, the Drinking Water Program was forced to downsize as a result of Measure 5. One result was loss of the Cross Connection Control program; the American Water Works Association (AWWA) stepped in and took on temporary maintenance. After much effort, cross connection officially reverted to the Health Division January 1.

We are still in transition, trying to start what is essentially a new program. Many changes have occurred the past year and a half, so it is not just a matter of picking up where we left off. New fees for certification will fund a half-time position to coordinate the program and provide technical assistance. Bonnie Waybright is the new Cross Connection Program Coordinator.

Introduction of fees triggered the need for a new record keeping system. New certificates for testers and inspectors are being designed and printed. Timing of the transition was particularly bad because all current AWWA certificates for Cross Connection Inspector and Backflow Device Tester expired December 31. The first few months of the new program will be unsettled, so everyone's patience will be appreciated.

Several months of hard work by the Health Division, water systems and individuals involved in cross connection control resulted in the adoption of new rules January 7. They incorporate changes in several areas including program requirements for community water systems and certification for Cross Connection Inspectors and Backflow Device Testers.

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### Cross Connection (Continued from page 1)

Bonnie Waybright has been a Public Health Engineer with the Drinking Water Program for two years.

## Congressional Debate Warms on SDWA Reauthorization Bill

By Dave Leland

CONGRESSIONAL debate over reauthorization of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act is heating up in Washington, D.C. The debate revolves around discussions of revisions and changes to the SDWA which was last amended in 1986. Those amendments gave us the current 83 drinking water standards and a mandate for 25 more every three years. The Oregon congressional delegation, representatives of local governments, water industry organizations and the Drinking Water Program (DWP) are working to significantly reform the SDWA.

There are four main "camps" in the debate. Bills have been introduced in both the House and Senate. In addition, EPA and the Natural Resources Defense Council have circulated legislative concepts for SDWA revision.

On October 27, Reps. Jim Slattery, D-Kan., and Thomas Bliley Jr., R-Va., introduced H.R. 3392 to "amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to assure the safety of public water systems." This is known as the "Coalition Bill" because it is supported by a variety of governmental and professional organizations, including the National Governors Association, National Conference of State Legislatures, National League of Cities, US Conference of Mayors, National Rural Water Association, Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, American Water Works Association, National Water Resources Association, Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, National Association of Water Companies, National Association of Counties and National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissions. Governor Roberts of Oregon, assisted by DWP staff, participated in early discussions of SDWA reform principles through the National Governors

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### SDWA Reauthorization (Continued from page 1)

David E. Leland, P.E., is manager of the Drinking Water Program.

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## Community Water System Requirements

The biggest change affecting community water systems is adoption of minimum program requirements. These systems have always been required to have cross connection programs but their elements are now clearly defined. Space does not permit complete discussion of the changes but some new requirements are:

- An ordinance or other enabling authority to support an active cross connection control program;
- A written program plan that includes a list of premises which require inspection and the degree of hazard for each. It must also include a schedule for premise inspections and for installation, testing and periodic re-inspection of backflow devices;
- Current records of inspections and backflow device installations and test results; and
- Annual summary reports to be submitted to the Health Division using a format OHD provides. These replace the quarterly reports required in the past.

## Certification Requirements

The most conspicuous change to the certification program was the introduction of fees. This was necessary to fund the new program. The basic fee is \$70.00 for a two year certification as a Cross Connection Inspector or a Backflow Device Tester. Other fees apply for combination certifications, reciprocity and reinstatement.

Big improvements have also been made to the Backflow Device Tester recertification requirements. The former criterion of testing four devices per year has been replaced with a proficiency demonstration which is now part of the tester update course. This provides an opportunity for those having problems with any aspect of testing to receive assistance. At the same time, this will provide added assurance to the public that backflow devices are being tested properly by competent personnel.

## Frequently Requested Information

The recent changes have left many wondering where to go for help and information. One frequent question pertains to backflow device testing methods. The Health Division continues to use as a reference the 8th edition of the USC Manual of Cross Connection Control. The 9th edition is now available and includes substantial changes to the testing methods, particularly for double check valve assemblies. The 9th edition likely will be incorporated into Oregon's rules but it is important to note that it is not referenced at present.

In the past, the Health Division sold backflow device test report books. There are now available from the American Water Works Association; for information, contact AWWA at 503 / 246-5845.

The Health Division will continue to provide free lists of approved backflow devices. The current list, dated November 1993, is now available. To request a list of approved backflow devices or a copy of the new rules, call 503 / 731-4899. Other

questions should be directed to Bonnie Waybright at the same number. (See related story in Training Calendar. Ed.)

Association that helped lead to H.R. 3392. The Drinking Water Program, through its membership and participation in the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, has commented on and supported this bill. H.R. 3392 appears to be the broadest effort to reform the SDWA and appears to have the most momentum now.

However, the bill is strongly opposed by Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., chair of the House Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment (where the bill must be heard) and an author of the 1986 SDWA amendments. The main controversy is over inclusion of language amending the standard-setting process for drinking water contaminants to include consideration of "risk reduction benefits and costs." The bill also removes the mandate of 25 new contaminant standards every three years and requires that new contaminants be selected according to whether they actually occur in water systems. The bill also allows elimination of monitoring requirements for currently regulated contaminants that no longer occur in drinking water. There are now about 90 sponsors of the bill in the House, however, no champion has yet emerged from the Oregon delegation. DWP staff recently had the opportunity to meet with Oregon delegation staffers; they are very aware of the bill but have concerns about the controversy over standard-setting language incorporating benefits and costs. The bill has not yet had a hearing.

On the Senate side, S. 1547, "Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1993," was introduced by Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont. A hearing was held on October 27. Senator Hatfield of Oregon supports this bill and testified at the hearing. The bill includes:

- A state revolving fund authorization of \$1B per year for water system construction projects,
- Increases in state primacy grants, requirements and funding for developing small water system management and compliance plans to meet new standards,
- Replacement of mandated 25 standards every three years with "consideration" of seven new contaminants every three years, and
- Extension of compliance deadlines from 18 to 36 months.

The Drinking Water Program has copies of the bills discussed above as well as comparison analyses of the SDWA bills prepared by various organizations (contact Dave Leland at 503 / 731-4010). We encourage you to study the issue and offer your comments and suggestions to our congressional delegation.

# Goals and Objectives Guide DW Program

PREPARATION of the 1995-97 budget for the State of Oregon and subsequent discussions during the 1995 legislative session promise to be challenging for state and local governments and the constituents and recipients of state services and programs. State agencies are preparing for additional reductions as general funds are shifted to schools to replace property tax revenues lost under Measure 5. Agencies are to assume a 30% reduction in general funds for the 1995-97 biennium. Planning and development of the budget has many steps. It progresses from the program level, travels through the Department of Administrative Services and culminates in the Governor's recommended budget. The budget is then further discussed, revised and finally adopted during the legislative assembly which convenes in January, 1995. Actual program impacts would not occur until July 1, 1995.

In the 1993 legislature, general funds used in the Drinking Water Program were replaced with lottery funds (see PIPELINE, September 1993). This funding currently supports about one-third of the program. Legislative discussions indicated that use of lottery funds in the Drinking Water Program was considered an interim measure, that there would be stiffer competition for lottery funds in 1995 and that alternate funding should be developed for 1995-97.

Recognizing the vulnerability of this large portion of the program budget, the Drinking Water Advisory Committee (DWAC) began to develop recommendations for use by the Health Division in preparing its 1995-97 agency budget. The DWAC engaged in a two-step process. First, they revisited and revised Drinking Water Program goals and objectives and assigned priorities to guide implementation and funding. Second, the committee reviewed workload estimates for program elements and began to formulate recommendations for the Division on level of effort and funding sources.

The Drinking Water Program goals, objectives and priority levels were developed by a DWAC subcommittee in October and November and adopted by the DWAC on December 16. The resulting document is presented here. The subcommittee was chaired by Dan Bradley and its members were Bob Willis, Jason Green, Roger Jordan and Gary Stevens.

The subcommittee also developed an exhaustive list of potential funding sources for the program and identified pros and cons of each. This discussion led to the following listing of possible program funding sources, arranged from highest to lowest desirability:

## High Priority

1. Rely on increases in the federal primacy grant
2. Rely on state funding (general fund\lottery\etc.)

## Medium Priority

1. Fees for specific services (i.e. plan review, sanitary surveys, operator certification, waivers, etc.)
2. Annual operation or permit fee based on number of connections and source type

## Low Priority

1. Rely on federal "backstop" fee collected by EPA and passed through to state

2. Direct billing for workload
3. Return Primacy to EPA
4. No action, let budget take its course

During February, the DWAC held a series of workshops to develop budget recommendations based on the subcommittee work. When completed, these recommendations will be transmitted to the Division.

We appreciate the hard work and creative ideas of the DWAC members in preparing the goals and objectives, analyzing funding sources and preparing a recommended budget strategy. The goals and objectives document will be very useful in managing, presenting and explaining the program to others and will be highly valuable in budget preparation and discussions. We encourage anyone with thoughts or suggestions about the program to contact a DWAC representative:

|                   |  |          |
|-------------------|--|----------|
| Dan Bradley       | Pacific NW Section, American Water Works Assn.       | 588-6487 |
| Pat Curran        | Consulting Engineers Council of Oregon               | 684-3478 |
| Jason Green       | Oregon Association of Water Utilities                | 965-6636 |
| Roger Jordan      | League of Oregon Cities                              | 623-2338 |
| Linda Marler      | Conference of Local Health Officials                 | 475-4456 |
| Gerry Meyer       | Oregon Environmental Health Association              | 440-3500 |
| John Neilson      | Assn. of Official Analytical Chemists                | 770-5678 |
| Louise Questad    | League of Women Voters                               | 246-0492 |
| Mike Propes       | Oregon Association of Counties                       | 623-8173 |
| Ilene Rounsefell  | Special Districts of Oregon                          | 658-5585 |
| Gary Stevens      | Conference of Local Environmental Health Supervisors | 776-7316 |
| Bob Willis, chair | Large water systems                                  | 823-7482 |

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Please send requests for article topics or manuscripts of your articles to John Gram, editor (503 / 731-4010).

This issue's contributors include Dave Leland, Dave Phelps and Bonnie Waybright of Oregon Health Division. (33-94/191227)

## Drinking Water Program Goals and Objectives

by the Drinking Water Advisory Committee

Mission: Assure all Oregonians safe drinking water.

Philosophy: Focus program resources on areas of highest public health benefit. Promote voluntary compliance with standards and emphasize prevention of contamination through drinking water source protection, technical assistance to water systems and training of system operators.

(Note: for functions listed below, S indicates requirements under state law, E indicates requirements by EPA for primacy)

### A. Reduce or prevent contamination of public drinking water supplies.

PRIMARY PRIORITY

- <sup>SE</sup> ● Maintain an effective statewide drinking water emergency plan and promote response planning by public water systems

- <sup>SE</sup> ● Respond, investigate and resolve public water system contamination events
- Develop and distribute information on drinking water contaminants and health risks associated with specific contamination events

SECONDARY PRIORITY

- Promote and participate in efforts to prevent contamination of surface waters and groundwaters used for drinking water sources
- <sup>SE</sup> ● Conduct regular on-site sanitary surveys of public water systems
- <sup>S</sup> ● Conduct a statewide program to promote effective cross connection control programs at public water systems
- <sup>S</sup> ● Participate in Oregon Groundwater Protection Act studies of public and private water systems in areas with high risk of contamination

### B. Improve water system operation and management through training and technical assistance programs for water system personnel including operators, managers, engineers and lab staff.

PRIMARY PRIORITY

- Assure the availability of cost effective group training for water system personnel on providing safe drinking water
- <sup>S</sup> ● Conduct certification program for water system operators-in-charge
- <sup>S</sup> ● Assure compliance with operation standards for systems using surface sources

SECONDARY PRIORITY

- Provide individual technical assistance to water system personnel to encourage voluntary compliance with standards
- <sup>S</sup> ● Assure compliance with operation standards for systems using groundwater sources
- Publish training materials, pamphlets and newsletters to assist PWS operators with operational improvements

### C. Improve adequacy, reliability and viability of public water systems.

PRIMARY PRIORITY

- Participate in and promote funding of PWS facility improvements; identify needed construction projects
- Promote and ensure water system master plan development for large communities
- <sup>SE</sup> ● Review and approve construction plans for PWS facilities

SECONDARY PRIORITY

- <sup>S</sup> ● Participate in periodic review of local land use plans
- Identify, investigate and promote the use of economical

alternative treatment methods for water systems

- Assist in and promote local efforts to restructure non-viable water systems
- Conduct mandatory restructuring of nonviable water systems where appropriate to protect public health

### D. Increase public knowledge, participation and support for safe drinking water issues.

PRIMARY PRIORITY

- <sup>S</sup> ● Gather and distribute general public information materials on safe drinking water issues; develop new materials as appropriate
- <sup>SE</sup> ● Assist in public notification by water systems to assure users are informed of violations of water quality and treatment standards

SECONDARY PRIORITY

- Prepare and distribute information on public water systems and drinking water program activities
- Respond to water system user complaints and inquiries about specific water systems

### E. Conduct an efficient and effective regulatory program for public water systems.

PRIMARY PRIORITY

- <sup>E</sup> ● Notify water systems of regulatory requirements and respond to questions
- <sup>SE</sup> ● Maintain a data base system to receive and manage results of routine water sampling by water systems for contaminants, identify monitoring and maximum contaminant level compliance, maintain inventory information on water systems, and report to EPA and other agencies
- <sup>SE</sup> ● Assure availability and capability of certified labs statewide to perform analyses of drinking water contaminants
- Grant variances from standards where appropriate to public health
- <sup>SE</sup> ● Adopt federal drinking water standards on schedule, incorporating state discretion and flexibility provisions
- Contract with and provide technical support to local health departments and other organizations or agencies to carry out program functions locally as appropriate
- <sup>E</sup> ● Carry out basic regulatory program implementation functions necessary to maintain primacy for the Safe Drinking Water Act (priority 1 functions)
- <sup>SE</sup> ● Develop, negotiate, establish and enforce compliance schedules for water systems that do not meet maximum contaminant or treatment levels

SECONDARY PRIORITY

- <sup>E</sup> ● Carry out regulatory program implementation functions under the Safe Drinking Water Act beyond those needed to retain primacy (priority 2 & 3 functions)
- <sup>SE</sup> ● Develop, negotiate, establish and enforce compliance schedules for water systems that do not meet standards other than maximum contaminant or treatment levels
- <sup>S</sup> ● Coordinate program work with other related state and federal regulatory programs
- Assure the quality and validity of on-site sampling and water quality monitoring performed by water systems

## New Program Funds Infrastructure

By Dave Phelps

The Water/Wastewater Financing Program will provide loan and grant money to construct and improve infrastructure to assist municipalities meet the Safe Drinking Water and Clean Water acts. The program is administered by the Oregon Economic Development Department.

The Water/Wastewater Financing Program will be ready in early March as soon as final rules are in place. Below is a preview—from the Drinking Water Program's perspective - especially for those considering loan and grant alternatives now.

- **Eligibility:** applicant must be a municipality, i.e., city, county, port district, water district and apply directly to EDD. This means a water association, co-op or company would have to seek sponsorship from its county commission or change its organization structure to that of a municipality. All improvements must be publicly owned and operated.
- **To qualify:** the water system must be out of compliance with a state or federal drinking water quality rule or regulation.
- **Eligible activities:** building or upgrading facilities necessary for supply, storage, filtration, treatment, transmission and metering.
- **Loan maximum:** up to \$500,000 is financed through direct lottery proceeds or to \$10 million if the Oregon Bond Bank is used.
- **Loan term and interest:** term is up to 25 years but most will be for 20 years. Interest is near market rate for tax exempt bonds - recently 5.19%.
- **Grant:** made only when a loan is not financially feasible, with a grant maximum of \$500,000.
- **Technical assistance grant and loan:** up to \$10,000 in grant funds and up to \$20,000 in loan funds are available per project for technical assistance to eligible applicants under 5,000 population. Applications for technical assistance are being accepted at any time.
- **Help:** if you have questions about whether your water system project qualifies for the Water/ Wastewater Financing Program, call:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Dave Phelps, Coordinator<br>Drinking Water Funding<br>Drinking Water Program<br>503 / 731-4010 | Betty Pongracz, Asst. Manager<br>Community Development Programs<br>Economic Development Department<br>503 / 378-3732 X 366 |
|--|--|

Application handbooks for construction projects will be available in early March and be mailed automatically to all cities, counties and municipalities. Applications will be accepted on first come, first served basis after that date.

## Lead and Copper, Round 2 Begins

Round 2 testing for lead and copper has begun; it runs through June and testing is required of all small community and nontransient noncommunity public water systems (fewer than 3,300 population) that did not exceed the lead and/or copper action levels in the first round. The Health Division has received over 650 results from the first round so far. If your system has not yet completed round 1 testing, please do so immediately. Contact Chris Hughes or Kurt Putnam (503 / 731-4317) if you need further information.

### USEPA to Accredit Laboratories

The USEPA is moving ahead on developing a National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation program which will encompass drinking water analyses. The EPA envisions a program in which it sets the standards and states implement it with EPA oversight. At state level, the program will be funded entirely by fees and allows the option of third party accreditation with state oversight. At the laboratory level, it resembles Oregon's current drinking water laboratory certification program. However, this national program is still in the very early stages of development, so many changes will probably occur before implementation. The state of Oregon and private laboratories will be asked to participate in the later stages of the process.

### Staff Notes

Diane Ramage was promoted to Office Specialist in the Monitoring and Compliance unit and Kolin Fielding transferred from the Center for Health Statistics to Ramage's former position of Office Assistant.

In the Field Services unit, Scott Curry has passed the examination for Professional Engineer.

Dave Leland, Drinking Water Program manager, was notified that his article for the Journal, American Water Works Association, entitled, "Implementation Status of Oregon's Safe Drinking Water Act," (February, 1993) was named best paper for 1994 by the AWWA Regulatory Agencies Division.



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## Training Calendar

### Cross connection / backflow courses

Clackamas Community College (CCC) 503 / 657-6958 x 2364

*Four-day basic tester (\$285 includes mat'ls; \$315 after 7/1)*

March 14-17 Coos Bay

June 6-9, 13-16 CCC

*One-day tester update (\$50; gauge calibration: \$10/each)*

March 18 Coos Bay

April 1 Pendleton

June 10, 17 CCC

*Four-day inspector (\$285; \$315 after 7/1)*

April 18-21 CCC

July 11-14 Sunriver

*One-day inspector update (\$50)*

April 22 CCC

July 15 Sunriver

### Oregon Assn. of Water Utilities 503 / 364-8269

March 14-17 Annual technical conference Springfield

April 6 Wellhead disinfection Pendleton

April 7 Regulation update Baker City

April 12 Confined space Baker City

Collection systems Baker City

April 19 SDWA budgeting Pendleton

April 20 Wellhead disinfection Reesport

May 4-6 WD/WT I/II cert. review Woodburn

May 10-12 WD/WT III/IV cert. review Medford

May 11-13 AWWA/PNWS annual conference Spokane WA

May 17 SDWS budgeting Medford

### Water system training courses

Drinking Water Program, OHD

*Month County*

March Benton, Linn, Marion

April Jackson, Josephine, Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington

May Wasco, Sherman, Hood River

June Deschutes, Crook, Jefferson

Contact Claudia Stiff, 503 / 731-4317

### Preventing waterborne disease, AWWA Teleconference, April

8. Registration packets will be mailed to AWWA members or contact Judy Grycko at 503 / 246-5845, Portland.

Teleconference locations:

- Blue Mountain Community College
- Clackamas Community College
- Boise State University
- Rogue Valley Medical Center
- Seattle Central Community College

### Cross connection training scholarship

The Oregon Cross Connection Inspectors Regional Subcommittee is sponsoring scholarships through the Ray Pettie Memorial Scholarship Fund to assist small water systems with cross connection training costs. The scholarship will provide tuition for a Cross Connection Control Inspector course or a Backflow Device Testing course for selected applicants.

Qualifications:

The water system must:

- serve fewer than 1,000 service connections.
- already have or be starting an active cross connection program.
- already have an active backflow testing program.

The recipient must intend to be an active Tester or Inspector upon completion of the course.

For more information, contact Hank Sims, city of Salem, 1410 20th St. SE, Building #2, Salem 97302 or 503 / 588-6063.