



# the Pipeline

Volume 27 • Sept. 2012

Oregon Drinking Water News

## Program update

by Dave Leland

*It was a busy summer for drinking water in Oregon!*

**Drinking Water Advisory Committee.** At the July 18 meeting, we appreciated and recognized the service of several members who recently completed their service on the DWAC.

**Mike Kurtz** of Suburban East Salem Water District ably represented the Special Districts Association of Oregon, which he has served since 1995. Mike is succeeded by **Matt Michel** of Canby Utility Board. **Gerry Meyer** of the Douglas County Health Department represented the Conference of Local Health Officials, and is succeeded by **Annette Pampush** of Tillamook County. **Brittany Andrus** of the Oregon Public Utilities Commission represented privately-owned public water suppliers and is succeeded by **Kathy Willis**, also from PUC.

**Ann Younger** of the League of Women Voters of Oregon is succeeded by **Sara Chaplen**. Finally, **Paul Berg** of CH2M Hill joined the DWAC representing the American Council of Engineering Companies of Oregon.

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## Drinking Water Program Performance Survey

*Please respond by November 1!*

Please take a little time to respond to our online survey on statewide drinking water program performance. We ask you to rate program performance in 22 function areas. We will use the results to inform and guide our efforts to get the best program results and outcomes with available program resources. The survey instrument is on “Survey Monkey” at the link below. Simply complete the survey and “submit” by Nov. 1. We also appreciate any specific narrative comments that you submit. The survey is anonymous, and the results will be received by the Public Health Division quality management staff. Only summarized results will be available to Drinking Water Services.

*Survey link:*  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SWPP>

Thank you for your participation in this quality improvement effort!

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Visit Oregon Drinking Water Services at <http://healthoregon.org/dwp>

# Loss of water system pressure requires boil water advisory

by Michelle Byrd

A loss of water pressure in a system, whether it is from a water line break, loss of power or equipment failure, can happen at any time. Without maintaining positive pressure, contaminants in the surrounding soil can potentially be introduced through leaky pipes, valves, or other components. If the water system experiences a loss of pressure, contact your regulating agency on how to proceed. It is useful to provide information for instance on the extent of pressure loss, outage duration, process to notify customers, and when normal operation will resume.

Be aware that a loss of water pressure requires the water system to distribute public notice instructing consumers to boil water before use until it has been determined that the water

supply is safe for consumption. The public notice must be delivered to persons served as soon as practical but within 24 hours of learning of the situation. A template with the required content and delivery instructions can be downloaded from the DWS website. Once corrective action is completed and coliform sampling confirms the water is safe, the regulating agency can lift the boil water notice.

Additionally, the Drinking Water Advisory Committee has developed guidelines for water systems on Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Service Outages Due to Reduced Pressure Events. The public notice template and BMPs are available on the Water System Operations page (<http://public.health.oregon.gov/HEALTHYENVIRONMENTS/DRINKINGWATER/OPERATIONS/Pages/index.aspx>).

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## Congratulations to our “Outstanding Performers”!

*Jobs well done by the operators of these systems:*

<b>Water system name</b>	<b>County served</b>
Amigo Villa Water Service Inc	Linn
Cloverdale Water District	Tillamook
Gates, City of	Marion
Hawks Point	Lane
Knappa Water Association	Clatsop
Long Prairie Water District	Tillamook
Orchard Point Mobile Homes	Lane
Pleasant Valley Water Co	Tillamook
Rockwood PUD	Multnomah
Sacajawea Mobile Home Park	Union
Seneca, City of	Grant
Wilsonville, City of	Clackamas

These are the public water systems that have most recently met the established criteria for outstanding performance.

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 qualify, visit <http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater/Partners/Pages/osp.aspx>.

# Fall 2012 advanced small water system training courses

by Betsy Parry

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This fall, Advanced Small Water System Training classes will be held in Eugene on Nov. 14 and Grants Pass on Nov. 29. Check the current class schedule on our Operator Certification website (<http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater/OperatorCertification/SmallWaterSystems/Pages/advanced.aspx>).

As you will recall, the advanced course satisfies the re-certification requirement for operators of small groundwater systems (<150 connections) for another three years, just the same as re-taking the original or “Basics” course. However, if operators have completed the Basics course two or more times, we encourage them to take the advanced course.

The advanced course differs from the Basics in that it has an interactive format that is designed for fewer participants, and it covers different topics, including:

- How to properly disinfect the wells, lines, and storage tanks (“shock chlorination”) at your water system;



- Operator responsibilities under the Ground Water Rule; and
- Determining appropriate management practices to protect the quality of your drinking water source.

To register for the advanced class, call Drinking Water Services’ Springfield office at 541-726-2587, Ext. 25, or email [drue.edney@state.or.us](mailto:drue.edney@state.or.us). (Registration for the Basics class continues to be handled by the Oregon Association of Water Utilities — OAWU, 503-837-1212). Be aware that the advanced class has an early registration cutoff to allow DWS instructors to prepare materials specific to the water systems that will be represented in the classroom.

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***Keep an eye out for when one of these **free** courses comes your way!***

***There are ONLY FOUR CLASSES A YEAR and the locations shift each year.***

**Portland boil advisory.** On Saturday, July 21, the City of Portland issued a boil water advisory for Portland Water Bureau customers west of the Willamette River, affecting some 135,000 households and businesses. The advisory was issued after a finding of *E. coli* presence in a routine sample from the outlet of open finished-water Reservoir 3 in Washington Park, which was followed by a finding of total coliform presence in a subsequent repeat sample. The reservoir was shut off after the first positive sample finding on Friday, and the boil advisory was lifted on Sunday morning after additional samples collected throughout the affected area showed an absence of bacteria. There was considerable media coverage of the advisory and health protection actions taken by area businesses, hospitals and residents.

**Operator certification exams.** The spring operator certification exams were delayed this year due to a variety of issues, including our contract with our exam vendor, the Association of Boards of Certification (ABC). All issues were ultimately and successfully resolved. A new contract was executed with ABC and more than 100 operators wrote their exams July 27. We greatly appreciate everyone's patience during this period!

**Rule adoption for final primacy.** On July 12, and with concurrence from the Drinking Water Advisory Committee, we filed rule amendments with the Oregon Secretary of State for publication in the August bulletin. These amendments implement a limited number of specific changes deemed necessary by EPA to grant final primacy to Oregon for the three latest federal rules. These are the Long-term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2), Stage 2 Disinfection By-products Rule (DBP2), the Ground Water Rule

(GWR), as well as several remaining changes related to past primacy packages. We agreed that these changes were necessary to ensure that Oregon rules are "no less stringent" than the federal rules as determined by EPA, and that we further believed that the changes would not have a material impact on Oregon water suppliers. We scheduled a public hearing on the rule amendments in Portland on Aug. 23. Rule amendment materials are posted on our website.

**Algal blooms: Best Management Practices.**

The Drinking Water Advisory Committee appointed a subcommittee, chaired by Mel Damewood of the Eugene Water and Electric Board, to assemble a group of experts to develop a Best Management Practices guide for water utilities impacted by harmful algal blooms (HABs) that occur in lakes and rivers around the state during the summer and fall seasons. The BMP document addresses the health effects of, and protective levels for, algal toxins; monitoring and testing; optimizing treatment processes to reduce toxins; addition of treatment processes; and public communication. The draft document, which was presented at the July 18 DWAC meeting, is posted on our website, and currently is being circulated to water supplier organizations for comment.

**Approved backflow assemblies.** Earlier this year, we received a request from the American Society of Sanitary Engineers (ASSE) to be considered equivalent under our rules to the University of Southern California's program for approval of backflow assemblies in Oregon. We sought advice on this request from the Oregon Cross Connection Advisory Board (CCAB), working through the Drinking Water Advisory Committee. The CCAB reviewed both programs in detail, and thoughtfully considered the question of equivalence. The CCAB concluded

that the ASSE backflow assembly approval program was robust, but not equivalent to USC in several respects. The primary area was in field testing of backflow assemblies, which is required for USC approval, but optional for ASSE approval. DWAC concurred with the CCAB conclusion at their July 18 meeting.

**PHD organizational improvement.** On July 1, the Public Health Division implemented a new organizational structure to better align with and support the mission of the Oregon Health Authority. The Division moved from a structure of five Offices to three Centers. The former Office of Environmental Public Health became the Center for Health Protection. This new Center includes the four environmental health programs and 100 staff from the former OEPH: Drinking Water, Radiation Protection, Research and Education, and Food/ Pools/ Lodging Health and Safety. Two additional programs and 60 associated staff moved to the Center: Medical Marijuana, and Health Care Regulation and Quality Improvement. Gail Shibley assumed dual roles as Administrator of the Center for Health Protection and Senior Advisor for Environmental Health.

**2011 ACR.** On July 1, we submitted the Oregon Annual Compliance Report (ACR) for 2011 to EPA as required under the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments. The ACR enumerates violations of maximum contaminant levels, treatment technique requirements, and monitoring and reporting requirements that occurred in public water systems in Oregon during the previous calendar year. You can view a brief summary of the report on our website.

**2013 Oregon Legislature.** The Oregon Health Authority is not proposing any legislative concepts or budget policy option packages related to drinking water for the 2013 Legislature, which convenes in January. We are

hard at work preparing budget descriptions and narratives, and will of course carefully track any proposed water-related legislation or budget proposals initiated by others. Drinking Water Services currently does not receive any state General Fund support. We will be carefully tracking developments on the federal budget for FFY 2013, since state drinking water program support is 70 percent from Federal Funds.

**EPA regulatory agenda.** Finally, EPA continues work in the following 12 areas:

- Fluoride
- Hexavalent chromium (Cr-6)
- Perchlorate
- Carcinogenic Volatile Organic Compounds (cVOCs)
- Third Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR3)
- Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR)
- Arsenic
- Long-term Revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule (LT-LCR)
- Third Regulatory Determinations (RD3)
- Nitrosamines
- Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs)
- Long-term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule review (LT2)

Watch the “Pipeline” for future updates on these as developments occur!

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# Shutdown tips for seasonal groundwater systems

by Betsy Parry

Maple trees have started turning color. That means it is about time to shut down seasonal water systems. When you close for the year, inspect your system, clean it, and protect it so it will be ready when you reopen the next season.

As with startup procedures last spring, DWS has added information to the website on proper steps and precautions for shutting down a seasonal water system. You can find this information by going to “Water System Operations,” then “Fact Sheets & Best Management Practices,” or directly to <http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater/Operations/Pages/shutdown.aspx>. The contents are aimed at groundwater systems, but many steps would apply to surface water-based systems as well. Here is a summary:

- Turn off the supply — the well pump or the valve from the spring.
- Drain the tanks first (springbox, storage and/or pressure tanks), then the lines, and close off the valves afterward.
- Remove any devices that may be damaged by freezing for storage (hydrants? feed pumps?) and cap off the open connection points.
- WELLHOUSE: Look for droppings, chewed papers, or nesting materials and figure out how to keep rodents and insects outside and away from the well head. Cap all openings on the well head itself to prevent insects from crawling in. Check the vent screen. Drain the pressure tank if there’s potential for freezing.
- TREATMENT (if applicable): Shut off power to treatment systems. Empty the chlorine solution tank, if applicable. Check expiration dates on chemicals and testing reagents. Make sure all



*Drain all water lines.  
Photo courtesy:  
US Forest Service*

treatment reports were submitted and/or filed for the operating season.

- SECURITY: Lock the pumphouse and protect it from trespassers. Note any needed fencing repairs. Store all chemicals securely at least 100 feet from the well.
- STORAGE TANK: After draining, inspect for: accumulated sediments in the bottom that will need removal; holes and cracks in the tank roof and sides; and the condition of the coating on the inside and outside of the tank. Lock the tank’s access hatch, making sure that insects and spiders cannot get inside the lid. Check that the screens/valves on the overflow pipe and vents are fully intact to keep insects, birds, and bats out of the tank.
- DISTRIBUTION LINES: Walk the lines to ensure none is exposed. Check your system for leaks. Make sure all valves are shut down at the end of the season.

**AFTER CLOSING:** Compile your operations and water quality records for the year. Note periods of peak water use and water quality problems. Use this information to plan for next year. Also, the off-season is the time to plan larger improvements to your system. Work other than repair or replacement requires the approval of Drinking Water Services before initiation.

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# MEETING CALENDAR

## Drinking Water Advisory Committee

Oregon Health Authority

Public Health Division

Diane Weis / 971-673-0427

October 17, 2012

All meetings are held at the Public Utility Commission Office, 550 Capitol St. N.E., Salem, Oregon, 97310

## Cross Connection Advisory Board

Go to: [public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater/CrossConnection/Pages/advisoryboard.aspx](http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater/CrossConnection/Pages/advisoryboard.aspx)

## Oregon Environmental Services Advisory Council

Go to: [www.oesac.org/meeting\\_schedule.aspx](http://www.oesac.org/meeting_schedule.aspx)

# TRAINING CALENDAR

## CEUs for Water System Operators

Check [www.oesac.com](http://www.oesac.com) for new offerings approved for drinking water

## OAWU

503-837-1212

Sep. 13	Mixed Media Filter O&M
Sep. 18-20	Water (WT/WD) Certification Review
Oct. 9-11	Water (WT/WD) Certification Review
Nov. 6-8	Fall Water Operator's Conference
Nov. 21	Mixed Media Filter O&M
Dec. 4-6	End of Year Operator's Conference

## Oregon APWA Training Program

541-994-3201

Oct. 2-5	Oregon Chapter Fall Conference
Nov. 13-16	Public Works Leadership
Dec. 4-7	Public Works Essentials

## Backflow Management Inc

503-255-1619

Sep. 24-25	Water Distribution Exam Review
Oct. 31	Basic to Advanced Math for Water Operators
Nov. 6	Confined Space Entry Safety
Dec. 6	Asbestos Safety for Water Operators

## Cross Connection/Backflow Courses

Backflow Management Inc. (B)

503-255-1619

Clackamas Community College (C)

503-594-3345

Eugene Water & Electric Board (E)

541-685-7000

## Backflow Assembly Tester Course

Sep. 17-21	Oregon City (C)
Sep. 24-28	Redmond (B)
Oct. 1-5	Portland (B)
Dec. 3-7	Oregon City (C)

## Backflow Assembly Tester Recertification

Sep. 7	Portland (B)
Oct. 5	Oregon City (C)
Nov. 2	Oregon City (C)
Nov. 5	Portland (B)
Nov. 7-8	Portland (B)
Nov. 28	Portland (B)
Nov. 30	Redmond (B)
Dec. 13-14	Eugene (E)

## Cross Connection Inspector Course

Sep. 17-20	Portland (B)
Nov. 5-8	Oregon City (C)
Nov. 5-9	Eugene (E)

## Cross Connection Inspector Recertification

Sept. 18	Portland (B)
Oct. 26	Oregon City (C)

## Small Water System Training Course

503-837-1212

Sep. 13	Independence
Sep. 19	Baker City
Oct. 9	Springfield
Oct. 11	Tillamook
Oct. 16	Salem
Nov. 13	St. Helens
Nov. 20	Hillsboro



**PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION**

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