

# The Idaho Drinking Water Newsletter

Department of Environmental Quality Idaho Drinking Water Program

[www.deq.idaho.gov/water/prog\\_issues.cfm](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/prog_issues.cfm)

April 2011, Number 60

## Time to renew monitoring waivers for 2011-2013

*Systems save time and laboratory costs by filing a waiver request*

Owners of public water systems are responsible for conducting the monitoring of their drinking water to ensure that it meets all drinking water standards. If a system meets specific conditions, however, DEQ can grant monitoring waivers for most chemical contaminants that will either reduce the frequency or eliminate the monitoring.

The objective of DEQ's monitoring waiver program is to reduce monitoring and laboratory costs for systems, while at the same time assuring the safety of public water supplies. All community and non-community non-transient public water systems are eligible to apply for the monitoring waivers. Owners of transient public water systems do not monitor for the contaminants that can be waived.

**Now is the time to apply.** Drinking water monitoring waivers must be renewed periodically and since the next monitoring period of "2011-2013" marks the beginning of a new nine-year compliance cycle (*see table below*), the time to reapply is now.

### Standard Monitoring Framework (9-Year Cycle) 2011 - 2019

1st Period 2011 - 2013	2nd Period 2014 - 2016	3rd Period 2017 - 2019
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DEQ is now accepting applications for monitoring waivers. To renew a waiver (or to obtain a new waiver) fill out a "Drinking Water Monitoring Waiver Application," which consists of two sections: **I.** Monitoring Waiver Request, and **II.** Monitoring Waiver Questionnaire. The waiver application is available on DEQ's [Public Switchboard](#) (click on the "Drinking Water Monitoring Waivers" button) or by going to "Monitor Waiver Application" at [www.deq.idaho.gov/water/permits\\_forms/forms/drinking\\_water/forms.cfm](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/permits_forms/forms/drinking_water/forms.cfm).

*In order to be considered for a monitoring waiver, the complete application must be submitted at least sixty (60) days prior to the end of a monitoring period.*

Once you have completed the waiver application, have the "authorized agent" for your system sign the document and mail the form to your nearest [DEQ regional office](#) or your [local public health district](#). Your system will be notified in writing when your waiver is approved or denied. *Until the waiver request or renewal is approved, the public water system owners are responsible for conducting all required monitoring.*

**Questions?** Questions should be directed to your local DEQ regional office or district health department. ■

## Low levels of radiation detected in Idaho, pose no public health threat

Trace levels of radioactive iodine-131 (I-131) showing up in Idaho from Japan continue to pose no public health risks.

Monitoring activities around the state have picked up very low levels of I-131 in air, drinking water, rainwater, and milk; however, the levels detected are far below levels of public health concern, said Mark Dietrich, DEQ's Emergency Response Program Coordinator.

Monitoring in Boise showed trace amounts of I-131 in precipitation as well as one municipal drinking water system that draws its water from the Boise River. Due to detection of I-131 in this drinking water system, DEQ is screening other municipal drinking water systems throughout the state that use surface water (rivers or lakes) as their source.

For more information about radiation, go to EPA at <http://www.epa.gov/radiation/>. ■

# Operator reimbursement funding for training classes available until September 30 of this year

*Funds apply to public drinking water systems serving 3,300 persons or fewer*

In the last issue (#59) of the *Idaho Drinking Water Newsletter*, we stated that there are still funds remaining in the Drinking Water Operator Reimbursement Program to pay for drinking water operator training classes for small public drinking water systems serving 3,300 persons or fewer.

Although the reimbursement fund is running low, drinking water operators can continue to request reimbursement until September 30 of this year. DEQ recommends, however, that system operators seeking reimbursement for training should file for reimbursement *immediately* after completing a class even though there is a 90-day period to submit documentation.

To obtain copies of the reimbursement form and a “W-9 Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification” form, go to “Forms” at <http://www.idahocertificationtraining.com/forms.htm#reimbursement> For questions, see “Fact Sheet” at <http://www.idahocertificationtraining.com/reimbursement.htm> or contact Don Lee at (208) 373-0289, [don.lee@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:don.lee@deq.idaho.gov). ■

# Using DEQ’s new electronic laboratory autoforms

*Making it easier for operators to submit lab analysis requests*

The DEQ Drinking Water Program has initiated a system known as “Laboratory Autoforms” to be used by drinking water operators to generate request forms that accompany the samples they submit to a lab for analysis.

Analysis Request Form			
PLEASE COMPLETE ALL APPLICABLE INFORMATION TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE CREDIT.			
Public Water System Name:	PWS #:		
Missing Address			
Phone:	Fax:		
Date Collected:	Time Collected: (24 hour clock)		
Additional copy of report sent to:			
Sample Collection Location:	Fig #:		
Sample Type:	Other Analysis Requested:		
Laboratory Use Only			
Lab Sample #	Analyte Group/Analyte Code	Analyte Group/Analyte Name	Size Class Code
Chain of Custody information - When Required			
Submitted by:	Date:	Time:	Received by: Date:

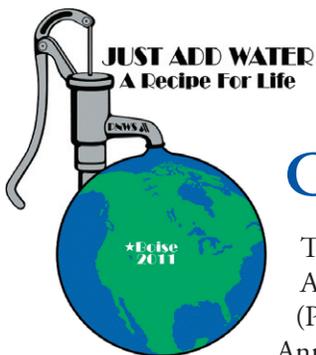
The new tool is designed to read data from SDWIS, which will then automatically fill in the required lab form with all of the information needed by the labs to complete the system’s request for a particular analysis.

Operators can access the tool through the Drinking Water Program’s Public Switchboard at <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/Applications/SDWISReports/>

[pws\\_index.cfm](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/Applications/SDWISReports/pws_index.cfm). To fill out a laboratory request form, go to the Public Switchboard and in the “Tools/Data” column, click the “Laboratory Autoforms” button.

For first-time users, the program contains a brief tutorial (“Using the Laboratory Autoforms”), which explains, step by step, how to fill out an Autoform lab request.

**Questions?** Comments or questions about the Autoform should be directed to the drinking water contact in your local DEQ regional office. ■



*CEUs available*

## 2011 AWWA Pacific Northwest Section Conference to be held in Boise May 4-6

The Pacific Northwest section of the American Water Works Association (PNWS-AWWA) will hold its 2011 Annual Conference in Boise May 4-6 at the Boise Centre on the Grove.

The actual conference runs Thursday and Friday, May 5-6, with a “Pre-conference” on Wednesday, May 4 consisting of five different but simultaneous seminars. The seminar entitled “Today’s Technology for the Operator” is being offered by the Southwest Idaho Subsection of the AWWA and is aimed at Idaho drinking water operators. The \$130

Pre-conference “Today’s Technology” seminar (which includes lunch) will consist of four different classes from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will earn participants 0.6 CEUs.

To find out more, view the conference schedule/agenda at [www.pnws-awwa.org/Files/Conference%20Program.pdf](http://www.pnws-awwa.org/Files/Conference%20Program.pdf). The conference features over 100 vendor exhibits, with the latest equipment and resources for water systems of all sizes. **Registration** for the PNWS-AWWA Annual Conference and Pre-conference is now underway. You can register online by visiting [www.pnws-awwa.org/Page.asp?NavID=219](http://www.pnws-awwa.org/Page.asp?NavID=219) and clicking on the link for the 2011 Conference. ■

# Public Water System Switchboard

When you have questions regarding drinking water system issues in Idaho, check out DEQ's [Public Water System Switchboard](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/Applications/SDWISReports/pws_index.cfm) first. The Switchboard may have the information you are looking for with topics ranging from rules, monitoring schedules, public notification, licensing information, to financial assistance and more. Visit the Switchboard at [http://www.deq.idaho.gov/Applications/SDWISReports/pws\\_index.cfm](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/Applications/SDWISReports/pws_index.cfm). If you have suggestions regarding additional tools that you feel would be helpful for us to develop and place on the Switchboard, e-mail [don.lee@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:don.lee@deq.idaho.gov).

## Idaho Drinking Water Program Public Water System - Switchboard

\* Note, this site is designed to be used with the latest version of Internet Explorer

Rules	Tools / Data	Forms / Information	System Class / Licensing	Financial Assistance
Idaho Drinking Water Rules IDAPA 58.01.08	CCR Report Tool	Newsletters	System Classification Requirements	Operator Reimbursement
CFR 40 Parts 136 - 149	Monitoring Schedule	Plans and Specifications	Operator Licensing Info	Pay Assessment Fee Online
EPA - Quick Reference	Source Water Assessment Reports	Public Notification Templates	Become an Operator for Hire	
	Sample Results	Sanitary Survey Form	Search for an Operator	
	<b>NEW</b> Lab Forms	Flooding		
		<b>NEW</b> Drinking Water Monitoring Waivers		
		Important Dates		



*Check it out*

## SmallWaterSupply.org: A free go-to resource for small systems

**SmallWaterSupply.org** (<http://www.smallwatersupply.org>) is a free online resource for water and wastewater operators. It has links to more than 6,000 free reports, factsheets, CDs, spreadsheets, and manuals that are all related to drinking water and wastewater operations. All resources listed on the site are free.

**Operator Training Calendar.** The Web site also maintains a calendar of operator training events listed state by state and set up on a month to month basis. The organization also produces a free weekly newsletter

(<http://smallwatersupply.org/Newsletter/tabid/86/Default.aspx>), which is sent "on most Tuesdays," and includes site updates, helpful tips, and weekly reading suggestions.

**Operator Forum.** Operators can contact <http://www.smallwatersupply.org> directly for additional help that includes finding resources not found on its website. Operators can also use the site's operator forum to seek answers to their questions from other operators.

All vendors that have had courses approved for CEUs are encouraged to post course availability information on this free location. ■

## Training Schedule

Class/Sponsor	Location/Date
Basic Cross Connection (IRWA) - W (FULL)	Meridian, 04/19/11
Basic Cross Connection (IRWA) - W (FULL)	Burley 04/20/11
Variable Frequency Drives (IRWA) - W/WW	Sandpoint, 05/02/11
ARC Flash/Generators (IRWA) - W/WW	Moscow, 05/03/11
Variable Frequency Drives (IRWA) - W/WW	Moscow, 05/04/11
ARC Flash/Generators (IRWA) - W/WW	Coeur d'Alene, 05/05/11
<b>2011 AWWA Pacific Northwest Section Conference (PNWS-AWWA) - W/WW</b>	<b>Boise, 05/04-06/11</b>
Troubleshooting Wastewater Lagoons (IRWA) - WW	Idaho Falls, 05/10/11
Troubleshooting Wastewater Lagoons (IRWA) - WW	Twin Falls, 05/11/11
Troubleshooting Wastewater Lagoons (IRWA) - WW	Jerome, 05/12/11
Troubleshooting Wastewater Lagoons (IRWA) - WW	Garden City, 05/13/11
O&M for Storage Tanks and Valves (IRWA) - W	Boise, 05/19/11
Water Meter Applications & Advanced Metering Systems (IRWA) - W	Meridian, 05/24/11
<b>2011 Idaho Water Reuse Conference (DEQ) - W/WW</b>	<b>Boise, 05/24-25/11</b>

Class/Sponsor	Location/Date
Water Meter Applications & Advanced Metering Systems (IRWA) - W	Lewiston, 05/26/11
Large Meters (IRWA) - W	Post Falls, 06/01/11
Water Certification Review I & II (IRWA) - W	TBA, 06/08/11
Variable Frequency Drives (IRWA) - W/WW	Montpelier, 06/14/11
Variable Frequency Drives (IRWA) - W/WW	Rigby, 06/15/11
SEMS Technologies (IRWA) - W/WW	Lewiston, 06/28/11
SEMS Technologies (IRWA) - W/WW	Coeur d'Alene, 06/29/11
History & Techniques of Water Treatment (IRWA) - W	Montpelier, 07/19/11
History & Techniques of Water Treatment (IRWA) - W	Teton Valley, 07/20/11

Idaho Rural Water Association (IRWA) 1-800-962-3257 or 1-208-343-7001 or 208-582-0592. E-mail: [bburke@idahoruralwater.com](mailto:bburke@idahoruralwater.com)  
Web site: <http://www.idahoruralwater.com>

AWWA - SW Idaho Sub-Section/Pacific Northwest. For more information, contact Wally Hammons at [whammons@ci.caldwell.id.us](mailto:whammons@ci.caldwell.id.us) or 208-455-4790.

PNWS-AWWA Section Conference. For more information, go to <http://www.pnws-awwa.org/Page.asp?NavID=219>.

DEQ - 2011 Idaho Water Reuse Conference. For more information, log on to [www.deq.idaho.gov/2011IdahoWaterReuseConference](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/2011IdahoWaterReuseConference).

[www.smallwatersupply.org](http://www.smallwatersupply.org)  
This site lists available training classes in Idaho by the month - see "Calendar."

## 2011 Idaho Water Reuse Conference in Boise May 24-25

*Drinking water and wastewater CEU's are available*

The 2011 Idaho Water Reuse Conference, sponsored by DEQ, will be held May 24-25 at the DoubleTree Hotel Boise Riverside in Boise.

The two-day conference enables operators, government agencies, consultants, developers, and other professionals to network and discuss key issues related to water reuse in Idaho and the West.

- **Topics relevant to drinking water operators** include indicator organisms, indirect potable reuse, operator forums on real experiences with various filtration technologies, and using vocabulary and images that support informed decisions about water reuse.

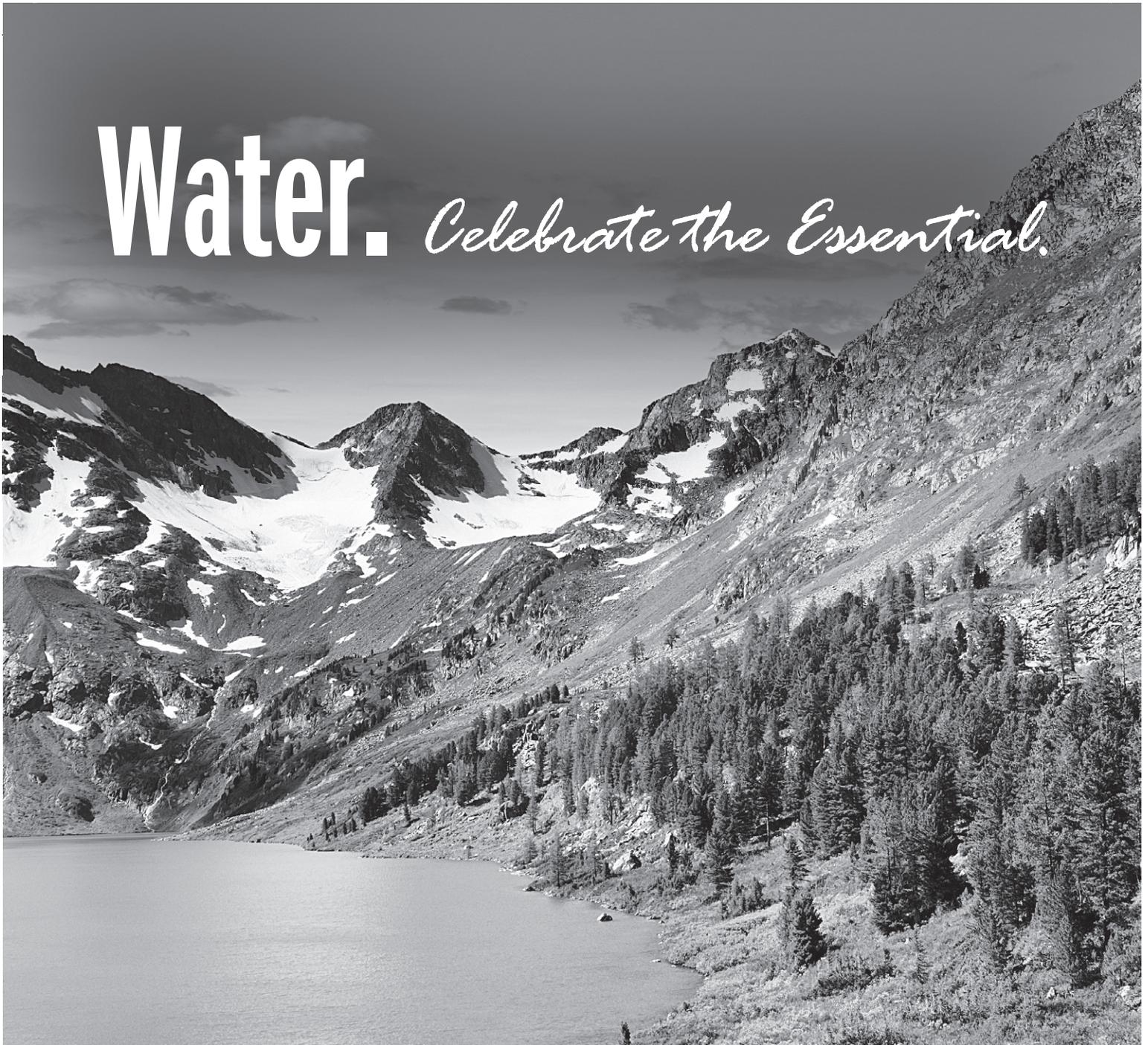
- **Registration Fee:** \$145 before May 7; \$195 after May 7.
- **CEUs:** CEUs, as approved by the Idaho Bureau of Licensing (IBOL), are available for both drinking water and wastewater participants.
- **Breakfast/Lunch:** Breakfast and a lunch buffet for both days are included with the registration fee.
- **For additional information:** For more details regarding registration and accommodations, log on to: [www.deq.idaho.gov/2011IdahoWaterReuseConference](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/2011IdahoWaterReuseConference). ■

### Safe Drinking Water Hotline

For general information on drinking water, contact EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. The Safe Drinking Water Hotline is open Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Eastern Time. You can also contact EPA's Safe Drinking Water web site at

<http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline/index.cfm>

# Water. *Celebrate the Essential.*



Lately there's been a lot of talk about getting back to what's important, returning to the essential elements of our lives.

And, really, what's more essential than water? It's our most precious natural resource, playing a vital role in our daily lives.

So this Drinking Water Week let's celebrate the essential.  
**Let's celebrate water.**



**Drinking Water Week**  
**May 1 - 7, 2011**

 American Water Works Association

For AWWA's suggestions for celebrating Drinking Water Week 2011, go to  
<http://www.awwa.org/Government/content.cfm?ItemNumber=3862&navItemNumber=3863>