

# 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)

December 2009, Issue 54

*Save yourself some time . . . and trouble*

## Sample early – don't wait until the end of a monitoring period

**I**t is the responsibility of the owner of a public drinking water system to ensure that all required water samples are taken on time according to the system's monitoring schedule, and that lab results are sent to DEQ by the 10th of the following month.

All sampling must be completed by the end of each designated monitoring period on your system's schedule (e.g., month, quarter, 6-month period). All lab results must be reported to DEQ no later than the 10th day of the following month in which the sampling was done. For example, a sample due by December 31 requires that the results be reported to DEQ by January 10th.

### Sample early!

In order to avoid unnecessary problems and delays, DEQ recommends that you sample early rather than waiting until a few days before the end of a monitoring period. Monitoring early allows you sufficient time to resample if samples are taken incorrectly or are contaminated, or bottles are lost in transit, or there are laboratory or holding time issues.

In addition, by waiting until almost the end of a monitoring period to sample, you run the risk of not receiving your lab results until after the reporting deadline has expired. Once the deadline has passed and if you have no test results to report, you are technically in violation of the Idaho Rules for Public Drinking Water Systems for "failure to monitor."

### Issuing a "Failed to Monitor" public notice

You may have monitored before the deadline, but by waiting until the last minute to send your samples to a laboratory, your results may be delayed for days or longer especially if you have to resample. And with no test results, you are required to issue a public notice to your customers explaining that you "failed to monitor" and when you expect to have the problem solved.



*Carefully following sampling instructions and sampling early will save you time and money.*

So if you have not received test results within seven to ten days, call your lab to ask about the status. *It is the system owner's responsibility, to ensure that the sample results are provided to DEQ by the laboratory hired to conduct the analyses.*

### Routine sampling protects your customers

DEQ requires all public water system owners to conduct routine testing to verify that these systems are providing safe drinking water to the public. Making sure that your drinking water samples are submitted in a timely manner is an important step in protecting public health, and preventing a possible violation or enforcement action for your system.

### Check your monitoring schedule

All your testing requirements and schedules are available on DEQ's website at the "Public Switchboard" at: [www.deq.idaho.gov/Applications/SDWISReports/pws\\_index.cfm](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/Applications/SDWISReports/pws_index.cfm). Look for the "Monitoring Schedules" button. ■

## Paying your fee assessment on-line now available

DEQ now has the ability to accept drinking water fee assessments on-line using a credit or debit card. To pay electronically, go to the Internet and log on to the following web site: <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/payinvoice>.

To use this service, you will have to sign up for a free account using a "Username" and "Password." Once at the site, be sure to type in your drinking water system name and Public Water System Number (PWSN) in the "Bill to Reference" box in order to receive proper credit for your payment. A three (3) percent fee will be added to each transaction. ■

DEQ's Grant/Revolving Fund Loan program

# Your system may qualify for financial assistance

DEQ's Drinking Water Grant Program and State Revolving Fund Loan Program provide an opportunity for financial assistance for public drinking water systems.

Funding is available for system improvements or upgrades that will protect the health of your customers, or will keep your system in compliance with state drinking water requirements. Every community and nonprofit community public drinking water system is eligible to receive a DEQ grant or loan.

The selection process for grant and loan awards for State Fiscal Year 2011 (7/1/2010 – 6/30/2011) is currently underway. In order to be considered for State Fiscal Year 2011 funding you must submit a current Letter of Interest (LOI). Systems that are on the current Priority List will not be carried forward!

### Letters of Interest mailed in November

In November 2009, DEQ sent a letter and postcard to qualified community and nonprofit noncommunity drinking water systems requesting a Letter of Interest (LOI) submittal to DEQ for a grant and/or loan. If you want to pursue financial assistance possibilities with DEQ, go to: [http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/permits\\_forms.cfm](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/permits_forms.cfm) and fill out an LOI.

### Available programs

■ **Grants:** A planning grant helps communities prepare a planning study or a facility plan to identify system problems and assess alternatives for the best way to correct them. The grant is a 50% matching grant.

■ **Loans:** A loan helps systems fund the design and construction necessary to correct the system problems identified in the facility plan. Generally loans are paid back over a 20-year period with low interest rates (some loans may qualify for 30-year repayment terms).

For additional information regarding placement on the Drinking Water Grant and/or the Drinking Water Loan Priority lists, contact your regional DEQ Drinking Water Engineer or contact Tim Wendland at 208-373-0439 or [tim.wendland@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:tim.wendland@deq.idaho.gov) at the State Office. ■

## DEQ Announces 2010 Source Water Protection Grant



*Signs raise public awareness of Wellhead Protection Programs created to protect public water supplies.*

DEQ announces that \$120,000 in funding is available for source water protection grants in 2010 from the State Revolving Fund Capitalization Grant. The maximum award per grant is \$20,000. Eligible activities include those that lead to the reduction in risk

of contamination of the drinking water source. Projects must contribute to improved protection of one or more public water sources and provide long-term benefits to source water quality.

Eligible applicants include public water systems, local governments, special districts such as soil conservation districts, associations, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions in Idaho.

Funds are available for both local and regional protection projects. Projects will be scored based on selection criteria, which include but are not limited to; the types of contaminants addressed, if projects are within a priority area, and if projects fulfill a component of a drinking water source protection plan or program. An additional bonus point for local projects will be given to PWSs who participate in IDWARN ([www.idwarn.org](http://www.idwarn.org)).

Information on the selection criteria, application deadlines and grant guidelines will be available on DEQ's website in January 2010.

For more information, visit DEQ's source water protection grant web page at [www.deq.idaho.gov/Applications/gwga2010/](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/Applications/gwga2010/) or contact DEQ's Source Water Protection Coordinator, Amy Williams, at (208) 373-0115 or [amy.williams@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:amy.williams@deq.idaho.gov). ■

*DEQ expects to have classes available in January 2010*

## Drinking Water/Wastewater Operator Training Contract Update

Since 1982, DEQ has provided funding for training classes for drinking water and wastewater operators through third-party contractors. The agency believes that making training readily available is an important step in the continued protection of public health through safe drinking water.

Now at the end of 2009, it is time to renew the operator training contract. In October DEQ announced a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit proposals for a qualified contractor to operate a Statewide Drinking Water and Wastewater Operator Training Program.

### *Attention drinking water operators*

## Free AWWA Training Available in Boise in January

The Southwest Idaho Subsection of the American Water Works Association's Pacific Northwest Section is offering three classes, *at no cost for .6 CEUs*, for drinking water operators in Boise, Idaho on **January 21, 2010**.

**Training sessions:** The one-day training consists of three separate presentations given one after the other. The classes and instructors are listed below:

- Aquifer Storage and Recovery – Water Quality Mediation. *Instructor:* Roger Dittus, United Water;
- Automated Unidirectional Flushing Programs. *Instructor:* David Stangel, P.E. of Murray, Smith & Associates, Inc.; and
- Maintaining Water Quality in the Distribution System. *Instructor:* LeRoy Palmer, AmeriWest Water Services.

**Location:** In Boise, at the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality located at 1410 North Hilton Street.

**Time:** Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and classes will be conducted from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. **Lunch will not be provided.**

**CEUs:** .6 Water CEUs (Continuing Education Units).

**Making reservations:** To attend you must make reservations by **Friday, January 15**. To reserve your spot or for more information, call or e-mail Wally Hammons at 208-455-3070 or [whammons@ci.caldwell.id.us](mailto:whammons@ci.caldwell.id.us). ■

Deadline for submission of proposals was November 30, 2009. DEQ is now in the process of reviewing the proposals submitted by potential contractors. The department hopes to select a contractor by the end of December and expects training to be available by mid-January 2010.

In the interim, until a contractor is selected, water and wastewater operators who are seeking additional Continuing Education Units (CEUs) should contact the Idaho Drinking Water and Wastewater Professionals Board regarding other available training classes at the Idaho Bureau of Occupational Licenses (IBOL) at <https://secure.ibol.idaho.gov/IBOL/BoardAdditional.aspx?Bureau=WWP&BureauLinkID=140>. (See also "Training Schedule" below.)

DEQ will issue a press release once a new training contractor is selected. A schedule of drinking water and wastewater operator classes will then be posted on the [www.idahocertificationtraining.com](http://www.idahocertificationtraining.com) website and on DEQ's website at [www.deq.idaho.gov/water/prog\\_issues.cfm#Drink](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/prog_issues.cfm#Drink). ■

Training Schedule	
Class/Sponsor	Location/Date
Hands-on Pump & Motor Training (IRWA) - W/WW	Emmett, 01/21/10
DEQ Requirements for Recertification for DW Source Water Protection Plans (IRWA) - W	Jerome, 01/25/10
DEQ Requirements for Recertification for DW Source Water Protection Plans (IRWA) - W	Fruitland, 01/26/10
Variable Frequency Drives (IRWA) - W/WW	Meridian, 01/27/10
History of Water Treatment (IRWA) - W	Burley, 02/09/10
History of Water Treatment (IRWA) - W	Meridian, 02/11/10
DEQ Requirements for Recertification for DW Source Water Protection Plans (IRWA) - W	Coeur d'Alene, 02/23/10
DEQ Requirements for Recertification for DW Source Water Protection Plans (IRWA) - W	Lewiston, 02/24/10
Water Meter Technology (IRWA) - W	Post Falls, 03/09/10
IRWA Annual Conference (IRWA) - W/WW	Idaho Falls, 03/17-19/10

For further information, contact the following:  
*(IRWA) = Idaho Rural Water Association* 1-800-962-3257  
 or for the Boise area, 1-208-343-1866.  
 Web site: [www.idahoruralwater.com/](http://www.idahoruralwater.com/)

# You can receive automatic drinking water newsletter & document updates from DEQ

Public water systems can keep up-to-date on state drinking water issues and activities by subscribing to an email subscription service hosted by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

The service enables subscribers to automatically receive notice via email whenever new or updated information has been published on DEQ's web site. Public water systems can ask to be notified when new drinking water reports, newsletters, and events are posted to the site.

To subscribe, go to the DEQ home page at <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/> and click on the "Sign Up for Email Updates" box. Enter your email address and then select the information you want to subscribe to. There is no charge for the subscription service. ■



**Sign up  
for Email Updates**



## Safe Drinking Water Hotline

For general information  
on drinking water call:

**1-800-426-4791**

Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm EST  
*(excluding Federal holidays)*

or contact EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline web site at:

**[www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline/)**



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