

*Your system may qualify for financial assistance*

## DEQ grant/loan program mails “letter of interest” forms

Does your drinking water system need to drill a new well, add water treatment for nitrates or arsenic removal, or just rehabilitate aging distribution lines?

If you are like most other water systems, you may need a source of funding to assist you with these or other system projects that will protect the health of your customers or to keep your system in compliance with state drinking water requirements. The following questions and answers may help you decide if you want to apply for DEQ funding assistance.

# Q/A

*LOI form included in DEQ mailing*

**Q. What is a DEQ planning grant?** **A.** *Planning grants help communities prepare a planning study or a facility plan that identifies system problems and assesses alternatives for the best way to correct them. Planning grants provide 50% of the funds needed to develop the facility plan or planning study and the community provides the remaining or “matching” 50%.*

**Q. What is a DEQ drinking water loan?** **A.** *Loans help systems fund the design and construction necessary to correct the system problems identified in the facility plan. Loans are paid back over a 20-year period with relatively low interest rates (the rate for State Fiscal Year 2007 is 3.25% for most communities).*

**Q. Who is eligible for DEQ planning grant and loan monies?** **A.** Every community and nonprofit noncommunity drinking water system is eligible to receive a DEQ grant or loan.

**Q. When is DEQ funding available?** **A.** DEQ will have planning grant and loan monies to award to eligible drinking water systems during State Fiscal Year 2008, which starts July 1, 2007. The process, however, to determine who receives funding approval will be *starting in November 2006.*

**Q. How do I let DEQ know I am interested in a grant or loan?** **A.** During November 2006, DEQ will send

all qualified community and nonprofit noncommunity drinking water systems a letter asking them, if interested, to submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) to DEQ for a grant or loan if they want to pursue funding. ***Returning the Letter of Interest starts the funding process for your drinking water system.*** If interested, we urge you to provide the information requested in the LOI form(s) and to return them by the 30-day deadline indicated in the letter. Discuss your system’s issues and financial needs with your regional DEQ drinking water staff and staff engineer so they can answer questions you may have.

Department of Environmental Quality  
Drinking Water PLANNING GRANT and  
Drinking Water LOAN LETTER OF INTEREST  
FORM A

STEP 1. Decide if your community is interested in pursuing a DEQ Drinking Water PLANNING GRANT or a DEQ Drinking Water LOAN by answering the following questions.

1. Do you need to do a construction upgrade on your public drinking water system? YES  NO

• Proceed to QUESTION #2 if you answered YES and are interested in being rated and placed on the new fiscal year's planning grant and/or loan priority list for FY 2008.

• If you answered NO, you will not be placed on the new fiscal year's priority list. DEQ will notify you next year when the grant and loan process begins. If you answered NO, please do not complete or submit this form to DEQ.

2. Has your community completed a drinking water planning study in the last five (5) years or is a study in progress now? YES  NO

• If you answered YES, are you ready to design and construct your project? If so, and you want your project rated and placed on the drinking water loan priority list, please proceed to STEP 2 and complete Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4a.

• If you answered NO, you need to do some planning work. If you are interested in receiving a drinking water planning grant, please proceed to STEP 2 and complete Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4b.

STEP 2. PROJECT INFORMATION - Please provide complete and accurate answers to receive the highest possible rating for your drinking water system.

SECTION 1: SYSTEM IDENTIFICATION

System PWS No. \_\_\_\_\_  
System Name \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Population Served \_\_\_\_\_ System Ownership (Check one) For Profit \_\_\_\_\_ Not for Profit \_\_\_\_\_  
Owner's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Owner's Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person's Title (If different from owner) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ FAX No. \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

SECTION 2: DRINKING WATER SYSTEM PROBLEMS  
Is your drinking water system experiencing any of the following problems? (Check YES to ANY that apply):

Public Health Emergency/Public Health Hazard	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Wastewater disposal problems	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Acute chemical, nitrate or E-coli contamination problems	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Faulty water source	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Water Quality Violations	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Ongoing chemical contamination problems	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Ongoing bacterial contamination problems	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

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**Q. Does my system automatically receive DEQ funding after I submit a letter of interest?** **A.** Unfortunately DEQ does not have unlimited funding. Consequently, in order to fairly distribute the limited funding, all interested systems submitting an LOI are rated. Systems are ranked by DEQ’s six regional staff engineers according to the severity of the public health, water quality, or infrastructure problems and the “readiness to proceed” criteria.

**Q. When is the money awarded?** **A.** DEQ will begin awarding grant and loans in July of 2007. Those systems ranking highest (based on the severity of problems and the system’s readiness to proceed) will fall within the “fundable range” and are invited to apply for funding first. If a system listed in the fundable range is unable to meet their obligations for a grant or loan, then systems ranked farther down the priority list are invited to apply. Grant and loan funding assistance will be awarded until funding resources are exhausted.

**Questions?** Contact Tim Wendland, Loan Officer, at DEQ’s state office at 208-373-0439 or [Tim.Wendland@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:Tim.Wendland@deq.idaho.gov).

Attention systems serving less than 50,000 people

# EPA to hold webcast training for new LT2ESWTR and Stage 2 DBPR rules

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is in the process of mailing information letters to the following types of systems in Idaho:

- All water systems serving less than 50,000 people **that use surface water or groundwater under the direct influence of surface water, and**
- All community and non-transient non-community water systems serving less than 50,000 people **that distribute water to which a disinfectant has been added.**

These letters describe the upcoming requirements for two new drinking water regulations – the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2ESWTR) and the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (Stage 2 DBPR).

The goal of LT2ESWTR is to reduce the risk of disease caused by *Cryptosporidium* and other microorganisms. The Stage 2 DBPR requires all community water systems that provide disinfected water to identify locations within their distribution systems with high concentrations of the disinfection byproducts trihalomethane (TTHM) and haloacetic acids (HAA5).

For an overview of LT2ESWTR and the Stage 2 DBPR, see the July 2006 (# 41) issue of the *Idaho Drinking Water Newsletter*. Issue # 41 is available on DEQ's web site at [http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/assist\\_business/pws/newsletters.cfm](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/assist_business/pws/newsletters.cfm).

## Stage 2 DBPR and LT2ESWTR/Listserv

EPA has developed a Listserv to provide an easy way to distribute information about the LT2ESWTR and Stage 2 DBPR to keep water system operators up-to-date on implementation activities, guidance documents, training, etc. If you would like to sign up for the Listserv, please send an email message to [stage2mdbp@epa.gov](mailto:stage2mdbp@epa.gov), stating in the subject heading that you would like to sign up for the Stage 2 DBPR and LT2ESWTR Listserv.

**So, what is a listserv?** A listserv is an electronic mailing list where individuals with a common interest can exchange messages, share information, post a question, discuss ideas, etc. To submit anything to a listserv you need to be a subscriber. Once you are a subscriber all you do is send an e-mail to the list. E-mail messages sent to the listserv go to all of the subscribers.

To assist systems required to comply with the two new regulations, EPA will be hosting four Stage 2 DBPR and LT2ESWTR Webcast trainings in the month of January 2007.

Two of these webcasts will provide an over-view of both the Stage 2 DBPR and the LT2ESWTR. The other two webcasts will provide an overview of the EPA "Implementation Tools and Resources" available to systems. The dates for these webcasts are listed in the sidebar at right.

In order to view the webcasts, systems must register online at no charge. EPA expects to post the registration pages soon on the Drinking Water Academy site (<http://www.epa.gov/OGWDW/dwa.html>) and the Microbials and Disinfection Byproducts Training website (<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/training.html>). ■

Webcast Training	Training Date
Stage 2 DBPR & LT2ESWTR: Overview of the Two Rules	Jan 16, 2007
Implementing the Stage 2 & LT2: Compliance & Assistance Tools for Systems	Jan 18, 2007
Stage 2 DBPR & LT2ESWTR: Overview of the Two Rules	Jan 23, 2007
Implementing the Stage 2 & LT2: Compliance & Assistance Tools for Systems	Jan 25, 2007

## POU Drinking Water Treatment

### Point of Use guidance now on DEQ web site

Last year, the Board of Environmental Quality adopted a rule allowing public drinking water systems the flexibility to use point of use (POU) treatment technology for treating some chemical contaminants such as arsenic.

A POU device is a self-contained drinking water treatment unit that is applied to a single tap, typically under a kitchen sink to reduce contaminants at that location.

Point of use guidance is now available on DEQ's website. The guidance is intended to provide public water systems with information necessary to make an informed decision about selecting POU treatment and to provide systems with a description of the process involved in obtaining DEQ approval of a POU treatment system. The POU guidance can be found at: [http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/assist\\_business/pws/publications.cfm](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/assist_business/pws/publications.cfm) ■

## SCADA could open your system to cyber threats

If you are one of Idaho's drinking water systems that use a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) computer program to manage your system's key functions, then this is an important reminder to take steps to safeguard your system against cyber threats.

SCADA (pronounced "scāda") systems control the valves, pumps, and monitoring systems connected to a water system's network of pipes. Although SCADA systems have improved water utilities' efficiency and reduced costs, some security experts identify them as among a utilities' top weaknesses.

First used in the 1960s, SCADA was initially designed to maximize functionality, with little attention paid to security.

Experts are concerned that systems are vulnerable to cyber attacks on SCADA systems from a remote location, which could, for example, release harmful amounts of water treatment chemicals (such as chlorine) into treated water.

The main threats to SCADA it appears are hackers or disgruntled employees rather than terrorist groups. The current risks of cyber intrusion into SCADA stem from two

primary issues: the adoption of standardized networking technologies such as Windows and Unix variations with their known vulnerabilities, and the linkage of SCADA control systems to other systems through the Internet.

The risk of cyber threat can be reduced by increasing security in your SCADA system by following these basic steps:

■ **Identify and disconnect all unnecessary connections to your SCADA system.** Any connection to another network introduces security risks, particularly if the connection creates a pathway from or to the Internet. And everyone is aware of the risks involved using the Internet.

■ **Strengthen the security of any remaining connections to the SCADA network.** It is essential to implement firewalls, intrusion detection systems, and other appropriate security measures at each point of entry. It is important that SCADA owners contact their vendors periodically and insist that the dealer install the latest security features in the form of product patches or upgrades.

■ **Use encryption for network communications.** "Encryption" is the use of a code to scramble data which makes it unreadable to everyone except the recipient. Implement strong encryption for your SCADA network communications, making sure that both monitored data and control commands are encrypted.

■ **Require user authentication.** The process of identifying an individual usually based on an established username and password is referred to as "authentication." Authentication merely ensures that the individual is who he or she claims to be, and also allows log-ins to be traceable case of problems, for example, involving a disgruntled employee. Passwords should be changed frequently.

■ **Establish policies and procedures.** Formalized policies and procedures are important to a cyber security program including system backups and disaster recovery plans. Employees must read and understand the policies and know what to do in an emergency situation.

The list above only covers some of the major actions to take to prevent cyber threats, but there are systems out there that have not even initiated these basic precautions. To find out more about making your SCADA system and your drinking water facility more secure, see the EPA fact-sheet at [http://www.epa.gov/safewater/watersecurity/pubs/va\\_fact\\_sheet\\_12-19.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/watersecurity/pubs/va_fact_sheet_12-19.pdf). ■

### Automatic Drinking Water Updates from DEQ

#### What's new in drinking water?

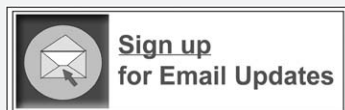
#### Find out fast by subscribing to DEQ's new email subscription service

Public water systems can keep up-to-date on state drinking water issues and activities by subscribing to a new 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. Drinking water-related topics for which updates are available include grants and loans for public water systems and rulemaking activities. Public water systems can also select 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 to which you want to subscribe. ■



## Training Schedule

### Class Sponsor

### Location/Date

<i>VSWWS Certification Review (BE) - W</i>	<i>Post Falls, November 4, 2006</i>
<i>Board Member Training (IRWA) - W/WW</i>	<i>Coeur d'Alene, November 11, 2006</i>
<i>Basic Electricity (BE) - W/WW</i>	<i>Nampa, November 14, 2006</i>
<i>Drinking Water Laboratory (IRWA) <b>CLASS FULL</b></i>	<i>Lewiston, November 14, 2006</i>
<i>Fire Hydrant/Valve Workshop (IRWA) - W</i>	<i>Chubbuck, November 17, 2006</i>
<i>Board Member Training (IRWA) - W/WW</i>	<i>Chubbuck, November 18, 2006</i>
<i>Gas Chlorine Safety, O&amp;M/Troubleshooting (IRWA) - W</i>	<i>Twin Falls, December 4, 2006</i>
<i>Gas Chlorine Safety, O&amp;M/Troubleshooting (IRWA) - W</i>	<i>Boise, December 5, 2006</i>
<i>Fire Hydrant/Valve Workshop (IRWA) - W</i>	<i>Bonnors Ferry, December 6, 2006</i>
<i>Management and Finance Workshop (IRWA) - W/WW</i>	<i>Bonnors Ferry, December 7, 2006</i>
<i>Black, Red, Stinky Water (BE) - W</i>	<i>Mountain Home, December 13, 2006</i>
<i>Bag of Tools (BE) - W</i>	<i>Nampa, December 20, 2006</i>
<i>Asset Management/Finance Capacity (IRWA) - W</i>	<i>Orofino, January 10, 2007</i>
<i>Fire Hydrant/Valve O&amp;M (IRWA) - W</i>	<i>Kellogg, January 25, 2007</i>

*(BE) = Brown Environmental, Inc.  
(IRWA) = Idaho Rural Water Association,*

*For further information, contact the following:*

*Brown Environmental, Inc. 1-800-543-4358 or for the Boise area, 1-208-465-5725.  
Web site: [www.idahooperatortraining.com](http://www.idahooperatortraining.com).*

*Idaho Rural Water Association 1-800-962-3257 or 1-208-343-7001.  
Fax: 1-208-343-1866. E-mail: [acole@idaboruralwater.com](mailto:acole@idaboruralwater.com)  
Web site: [www.idahoruralwater.com](http://www.idahoruralwater.com).*



### 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/)

