Summer 2002

Drinking Water Academy Bulletin

DWA Participates in EPA Antiterrorism Initiatives

EPA's Water Protection Task Force has under way a number of initiatives to protect the nation's drinking water infrastructure from terrorist attack. EPA is working through a public-private partnership to safeguard water supplies from terrorist acts and promote greater public health protection. The DWA is an active part of the Task Force.

The Task Force provided funds for the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and Sandia National Laboratories to train the largest water systems in how to conduct vulnerability assessments. *General Security Overview* training, developed through a partnership with AWWA, covers the entire spectrum of security issues including vulnerability assessments, emergency response plans, and risk communication. You can register for a free 90-minute Web-cast training at www.awwa.org/events/webcast/. Videotapes of a vulnerability assessment satellite teleconference aired on November 27, 2001 are also available through AWWA.

The DWA facilitated the development of a vulnerability assessment document that targets very small systems (under 3,300 households) and examines less costly methods of reducing vulnerability. The document was developed as a cooperative effort between the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) and the National Rural Water Association (NRWA). As a follow-on effort the DWA will work with the ASDWA Sanitary Survey Workgroup to develop materials to be incorporated in sanitary survey training. Copies of the vulnerability assessment document can be obtained from State drinking water offices and local NRWA affiliates. For more information about the DWA's involvement on the Security Task Force, contact Jamie Bourne at (202) 564-4095 or bourne.james@epa.gov.

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Drinking Water Academy Develops Resource CD

Traditionally, the DWA has handed out hard copies of resource materials when it presents training. The DWA has, however, found a better way to provide this information. The DWA has developed a CD that it will now provide to students. The CD contains information in six areas:

- General information.
- National Primary Drinking Water Regulations.
- Public water system supervision (PWSS) program implementation.
- Sanitary surveys.
- Source water protection.
- Underground injection control.

Each of these sections contains pdf files of fact sheets, guidance documents, and regulations, and links to EPA Web sites that provide even more information. The CD has more than 85 documents and links. Not only will the DWA save money by distributing the CDs rather than making vast numbers of copies, freeing up more resources for course deliveries, but students will receive much more information than before. To obtain a copy of the CD, contact the EPA Water Resource Center at (202) 260-7786 or center.water-resource @epa.gov.

Idaho Uses Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) to Enhance Sanitary Surveys

The benefits of using PDAs include standardizing the sanitary survey format, increasing inspectors' efficiency, making survey data more accessible, and facilitating survey data analysis.

Until recently, the Idaho drinking water program used up to 25 formats and checklists for conducting sanitary surveys. Chris Lavelle, Capacity Development Coordinator, wanted to change that. Idaho's capacity development strategy identified a uniform, enhanced sanitary survey as a way to improve capacity development throughout the State.

"Sanitary surveys may be the most important interaction between the regulatory agency and the regulated community," Mr. Lavelle said, "and to make better use of that really leverages the capacity development efforts."

He embarked on a program to standardize the sanitary survey format, increase the efficiency of sanitary surveys, and enhance their effectiveness in capacity development. The State provided personal digital assistants (PDAs), at a cost of approximately $900 each, to its regional drinking water offices for use by sanitary survey inspectors. Presently, the PDAs are shared, but eventually the State hopes to provide each inspector with his or her own PDA. The program has four components:

- The sanitary survey checklist is stored in the PDA and the inspector uses it to gather and record data as he or she conducts a survey.
- When the sanitary survey is complete, the inspector downloads the data to an Access database on a desktop computer.
- A report-writing mechanism generates reports from the database.
- Analytical tools allow inspectors and drinking water program managers to track progress in correcting deficiencies at a single water system or across all water systems.

The benefits of using PDAs include standardizing the sanitary survey format; increasing the inspectors' efficiency (although initially there was a decrease while they were learning how to use the PDAs); making the data from sanitary surveys more accessible to managers and others in the department; and providing the ability to analyze the data from the surveys.

The program was a team effort in conjunction with Lance Nielsen, Drinking Water Manager, and with the cooperation and assistance of Bill Chamberlain, EPA Region 10. The software for the PDAs was developed jointly with in-house staff and through a contract with the Environmental Finance Center at Boise State University. Feedback from the inspectors has been excellent, especially with regard to the standard form. For more information about the program, contact Chris Lavelle at (208) 373-0486 or clavelle@deq.state.id.us.

DWA Contributes to Water Careers Program

Water Careers is a program that provides regular and diverse opportunities for water program employees to build knowledge across all water programs, specialized expertise, and professional competencies. It consists of training courses, mentorship, and developmental assignments.

The DWA is developing two courses for entry-level staff as part of the Water Careers program. The first course is titled, "American Government Roles." It looks at EPA's role within the larger context of how our federal government was formed and operates. The course begins with an overview of the conditions and philosophies that influenced the Founding Fathers and remain influential in government today. It discusses the branches of government and our system of checks and balances. Moving to EPA, it discusses the statutes that EPA administers, with an emphasis on the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The course describes EPA's organization, how EPA works with other agencies and other parts of the government (e.g., Congress and the judiciary), the budget and regulatory development processes, and tools EPA uses to implement the water statutes: primacy, enforcement, and permitting. The course will be pilot tested in Washington, D.C., on July 10-12.

The second course provides a more in-depth introduction to the CWA and the SDWA. It discusses the hydrological cycle, manmade water management systems, and threats to the uses of ground and surface water. The course then provides a history of the development of water systems and their regulation, through the most recent amendments to the CWA and SDWA. The remainder of the course is a discussion of the key

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DWA Web Site Undergoes Major Overhaul

DWA staff have been busy making major updates and improvements to the DWA Web site (www.epa.gov/safewater/dwa.html).

The first thing a visitor will notice upon entering the site is its new layout. EPA recently issued new design guidelines and templates, and all Agency Web sites including the DWA's must conform to the new layout. Other changes to the DWA site are:

- Its compliance with section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act.
- The addition of new content in the calendar and course catalog.
- The creation of new modules and expansion of the Electronic Workshop.
- The development of a Spanish-language site where translations of selected portions of the DWA site are available.

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act requires that federal electronic and information technology be available equally to persons who are, and are not, disabled. Federal Web sites must provide a text equivalent for every non-text element. For example, navigational images such as arrows must be accompanied by actual text that states the purpose of the image. Information conveyed with color must also be understandable without color; e.g., instructions to "press the green button" are no longer allowed and must be written differently. Compliance must take into consideration assistive devices such as screen readers.

A substantial amount of new material and information has been added to the site. The course catalog has been updated to include new offerings; the DWA now offers 49 courses. The calendar also has an updated listing of scheduled courses. The Electronic Workshop has been significantly expanded with the addition of extensive links to implementation information and PowerPoint or Adobe Acrobat versions of five new courses:

- Developing Water System Financial Capacity.
- Developing Water System Managerial Capacity.
- Filter Backwash Recycling Rule.
- Risk Communication under the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- Risk to Rule: How EPA Develops Risk-Based Drinking Water Regulations.

Another major addition is a Spanish-language version of the DWA Web site (Academia de Agua Potable). The Spanish Web site includes translations of the DWA home page, fact sheet, course catalog, and sanitary survey site. In addition, it contains links to a Spanish-language version of the "Sanitary Survey Learner's Guide" and to training partners that have drinking water information in Spanish.

The DWA Web site not only has a new look, but a substantial amount of new material and information as well.

Drinking Water Academy Contacts

Contact	Location	Telephone	E-mail
Jackie LeClair	EPA Region 1	(617) 918-1549	leclair.jackie@epa.gov
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James Bourne	EPA HQ	(202) 564-4095	bourne.james@epa.gov

Training Course Schedule

Course Title	Audience	Date Scheduled	Location	Contact
American Government Roles	New EPA Headquarters and Regional water staff	July 10 to12, 2002	Washington, DC	Jamie Bourne (202) 564-4095 bourne.james@epa.gov
Overview of the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act	New EPA Headquarters and Regional water staff	July 22 to 24, 2002	Washington, DC	Jamie Bourne (202) 564-4095 bourne.james@epa.gov
Sanitary Survey Training	State of Colorado drinking water staff	July 23 & 24, 2002	Denver, CO	Sharon Israel (303) 692-3567 sharon.israel@state.co.us
Source Water Contamination Prevention Measures	Region 1 Federal and State staff	July 29, 2002	Chelmsford, MA	Mary Jo Feuerbach (617) 918-1578 feuerbach.maryjo@epa.gov
Arsenic Rule	EPA Region 6 State and Federal drinking water staff	July 30 & 31, 2002	Dallas, TX	Tom Poeton (214) 665-2757 poeton.tom@epa.gov
Source Water Contamination Prevention Measures	North Dakota State staff	Aug. 1, 2002	Bismarck, ND	Steve Ainsworth (202) 564-3873 ainsworth.steve@epa.gov
From Risk to Rule: How EPA Develops Risk-Based Drinking Water Regulations	Region 3 Federal and State staff	Aug. 6, 2002	Harrisburg, PA	Rick Rogers (215) 814-5711 rogers.rick@epa.gov
Risk Communication Under the Safe Drinking Water Act	Region 3 Federal and State staff	Aug. 7 & 8, 2002	Harrisburg, PA	Rick Rogers (215) 814-5711 rogers.rick@epa.gov
Source Water Contamination Prevention Measures	State and local source water officials	Aug. 12, 2002	Pocatello, ID	Steve Ainsworth (202) 564-3873 ainsworth.steve@epa.gov
Surface Water Rules	EPA Region 7 State and Federal drinking water staff	Aug. 13 & 14, 2002	Omaha, NE	Ralph Flournoy (913) 551-7374 flournoy.ralph@epa.gov
Arsenic Rule	EPA Region 7 State and Federal drinking water staff	Aug. 15 &16, 2002	Omaha, NE	Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791
Surface Water Rules	State and Federal drinking water staff; technical assistance providers; water system personnel	Oct. 8 & 9, 2002	Seattle, WA	Nicole Foley (202) 564-3833 foley.nicole@epa.gov
CPE 202-Comprehensive Performance Evaluations Oversight	Federal and State staff	Oct. 8 to 11, 2002	EPA Region 1	Jackie LeClair (617) 918-1549 leclair.jackie@epa.gov

DWA courses may be presented as requested. See the course catalog on the DWA Web site for more information (www.epa.gov/safewater/dwa/course.html).

elements of each program, the relationships between provisions in the two statutes, and how they help or hinder each other in reaching the goals of each statute. This course will be pilot tested in Washington, D.C., on July 22 -24.

For more information about either course, contact Jamie Bourne at (202) 564-4095 or bourne.james@epa.gov. For more information about the Water Careers program, contact Victoria Green at (202) 564-0393 or green.victoria@epa.gov.

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