

# TAPTALK H<sub>2</sub>O!h!

Tapping Into Good Health

Division of Public Health • Spring 2013

## DE Public Water Communities Honored with CDC Fluoridation Awards

The Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) announced on February 13, 2013 that 30 Delaware public water communities have been awarded the 2011 Water Fluoridation Quality Award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Water fluoridation is the adjustment of fluoride in the drinking water supply to a level which safely and effectively reduces tooth decay in children and adults. The award recognizes those communities that maintained a consistent level of optimally fluoridated water throughout 2011. Delaware was one of 33 states that had at least one public water system that earned the award.

Community water fluoridation has been recognized by the CDC as one of ten great public health achievements of the 20th Century. It is a safe, effective, and inexpensive method to prevent and control tooth decay. In fact, every dollar invested in fluoridation saves at least \$38.00 in costs for dental treatment.

It is important for public water communities to continue to maintain fluoride in optimal levels to promote good oral health.

Congratulations to all of the recipients!

### Water Fluoridation Quality Award List:

- Artesian Water Company
- Bethany Beach Water Department
- Bridgeville Water Department
- Clayton Water Department
- Delaware City Water Department
- Delmar Utility Commission
- Dewey Beach Water Department
- Dover Water Department
- Fox Hunter Crossing
- Georgetown Water Department
- Greenwood Water Department
- Harrington Water Department
- Laurel Water Department
- Lewes Board of Public Works
- Magnolia Water Department
- Middletown Water Department
- Milford Water Department
- Milton Water Department
- New Castle Water Department
- Newark Water Department
- Rehoboth Beach Water Department
- Seaford Water Department
- Selbyville Water Department
- Smyrna Water Department
- South Bethany
- Town of Blades
- Town of Henlopen Acres
- Townsend Water Department
- United Water Delaware
- Wilmington Water Department



After 25 years of state service, Jimmy Porter, Environmental Control Technician II, is retiring from the Office of Drinking Water (ODW). Throughout 25 years, Jimmy has worked with ten supervisors in four different office locations. Jimmy began working with the Division of Public Health (DPH) as an environmental health aid in what was then the Office of Sanitary Engineering located in the Silver Lake complex.

Jimmy said the most enjoyable part of his time with ODW was serving the public. Indeed, Jimmy has known and worked with many professionals from public water systems all over Delaware. In addition to sampling public water systems, Jimmy's responsibilities included performing sanitary surveys, file management, and ordering supplies. He was helpful in starting the Approved Sampler/Tester training, and assisted in rewriting and improving the sanitary survey checklist to include the eight essential elements for the Ground Water Rule.

ODW's staff will miss Jimmy and his hard work and dedication. We would all like to wish him good luck in the future!



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Division of Public Health

Office of Drinking Water

## The Administrator's Corner



By Ed Hallock

Program Administrator  
Office of Drinking Water

There is an ancient Chinese curse that says "may you live in interesting times." Well, it appears that we are living in interesting times as the drinking water program enters the year 2013. This is true on both the state and federal levels. On the federal level the states are waiting to learn exactly how the sequester will impact the grants that we use to operate our programs. In Delaware, we rely on the Public

Water System Supervision (PWSS) program grant and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) set asides to pay for salaries and provide money to run the program. Both of these grants are provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which will be required to make an across the board cut of approximately 5 percent.

On the state level, we are transitioning the DWSRF program fund management from the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) to the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC). DHSS will still retain primacy for enforcing the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) while DNREC will be responsible for overseeing the loans and grants that are provided to eligible public drinking water systems for treatment plant upgrades and replacing old distribution lines. All projects will be reviewed by the Clean Water Advisory Council and the Cabinet Committee on State Planning Issues will no longer be directly involved in the review process. This should allow for better planning coordination on both water and wastewater projects and should improve

### Collecting Lead and Copper Samples

By Laurie Poore

Below are a few important reminders to consider for water systems that are scheduled to collect their lead and copper tap water samples this year:

- Lead and copper samples shall be collected from an interior cold-water kitchen or bathroom sink tap. For non-residential buildings, samples shall be collected from interior taps typically used for human consumption.
- Lead and copper samples shall be collected as 'first-draw' samples (i.e. water should stand motionless in plumbing system for at least six hours before sample is collected).
- Lead and copper samples shall be submitted to a certified lab for analysis within 14 days of collection.
- If residents/consumers will be collecting tap water samples, please make them aware of these requirements prior to sampling.

To avoid a potential monitoring and reporting violation, ODW recommends sampling early in the monitoring period as additional sampling is required during the same monitoring period in the event of a lead or copper action level exceedance.

Please contact Laurie Poore at [laurie.poore@state.de.us](mailto:laurie.poore@state.de.us) with suggestions about the Lead and Copper Rule to appear in future editions of this newsletter.

the efficiency of the program and allow for getting the funding to projects in a timelier manner. We will keep everyone updated as the process moves forward.

Two items I would like to take a moment to bring to your attention. I want to congratulate all of those 30 water systems who received the CDC recognition for maintaining optimal fluoride levels during 2011. Fluoridation is recognized by the CDC as one of the top ten public health achievements in the 20th century.

Lastly, I want to thank Jimmy Porter, Environmental Control Technician II, for his many years of service to the Office of Drinking Water (ODW). Jimmy will be retiring at the end of June after 25 years of state service. I have worked with Jimmy the entire time and can say that he has done a very good job earning the respect of many of the people he dealt with in the field. He will be missed here in ODW and I want to wish him the best of luck as he moves into the next stage of his life.

### TCR Review

#### Total Coliform Rule (TCR): Sampling, Frequency and Repeat Sampling

The purpose of the TCR is to "improve public health by reducing fecal pathogens to minimal levels through control of total coliform bacteria<sup>1</sup>..." The rule applies to all public water systems and establishes a maximum contaminant level (MCL) based on the presence or absence of total coliforms in drinking water. The major provisions of the rule are the routine and repeat sampling requirements:

#### Routine Sampling Requirements

- Total coliform samples are collected at regular time intervals throughout the month.
- The sampling locations are those which will represent the water quality in the distribution system according to a siting plan submitted to ODW.
- The number of samples required for a system is based on the population of the system.
- Water systems serving 4,900 persons or fewer may collect all their samples on one day; however, water systems serving greater than 4,900 persons must collect their samples on different days throughout the month.
- If any routine sample is total coliform-positive, repeat samples are required.

#### Repeat Sampling Requirements

- Within 24 hours of learning of a total coliform-positive routine sample result, at least three repeat samples must be collected and analyzed for total coliforms (systems serving 1,000 persons or fewer must collect four repeat samples).
- The three repeat samples must be collected at the original tap, within five service connections upstream, and within five service connections downstream. If a fourth sample is needed, it may be collected anywhere.

#### Additional Routine Sample Requirements

- A positive routine or repeat total coliform result requires that a minimum of five routine samples be collected the following month for any system serving 4,100 persons or fewer.
- Systems serving more than 4,100 persons simply resume their regular routine sampling during the following month.

<sup>1</sup>EPA Total Coliform Rule: A Quick Reference Guide, March 2010.

## Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) News: Electronic Delivery

The EPA recently provided guidance of the CCR requirement to "directly deliver" a CCR to each customer by July 1st every year. The new CCR rule interpretation includes information about electronic delivery options such as email delivery or posting the CCR on a publicly accessible web page.

### Methods of Delivery for CCRs (EPA):

1. Mail a paper copy of the CCR. The Community Water System (CWS) mails a paper copy of the CCR to bill-paying customers or those customers that request a paper copy instead of electronic delivery.
2. Mail a notification that the CCR is available via direct URL. CWS mails bill-paying customers a notification that the CCR is available and provides a direct, prominently displayed URL to the CCR on a publicly available internet site where it can be viewed.
3. Email a direct URL to the CCR. CWS emails bill-paying customers a notification that the CCR is available and provides a direct URL to the CCR on a publicly available internet site. The URL or link must take the customer directly to the CCR without navigating web pages.
4. Email the CCR as a file attachment. CWS emails the CCR as an electronic file email attachment such as a PDF (portable document format).
5. Email the CCR embedded in the message. CWS emails the CCR

text and tables or an image inserted into the body of an email.

### Direct Link URL Definition (ODW Interpretation)

1. The Office of Drinking Water interprets a direct link URL as: A web URL where the entire CCR may be viewed, printed and saved (scrolling is acceptable).
2. The CCR should not be in a frame or separate window where it cannot be directly saved or printed without navigating or downloading.
3. It is highly recommended that the CCR be in a PDF format since that is the most accessible and universal file format at this time. The CCR could also be in an image format or html format although these formats may vary in quality from computer to computer.

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### From the mailbox:

The Office of Drinking Water offers an outreach program to Delaware's third grade students. During the program, the students learn about drinking water, groundwater, surface water and the water cycle. Following is an unedited student letter from Star Hill Elementary School:

*Dear Mr. Harrison,  
Thank you for coming to our class. I learned alot and now i don't take a long time in the shower. You and [Mr. Cottman] are really good at teaching groundwater, water cycle. Now I'm telling my Parents about the water cycle and groundwater and there proud of me and Thank you!  
As you can see I [drew] a well and a water cycle and under ground water known as groundwater.  
I learned about bacteria and some more  
You taught me about ground water and that we drink from it.  
That lesson almost washed me away!*

## Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)

### DWSRF Projects:

DWSRF activities for the past year include capital improvement water projects in: Wilmington, Georgetown, Selbyville, Artesian's New Castle County District, Blades, Delmar, Tidewater Utilities Inc. General's Greene District, Milford, Middletown, and Greenwood. Municipalities should submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) via DNREC for funding requests in August 2014.

### DWSRF Set-Aside:

DWSRF set-aside activities, through contracts with Delaware Rural Water Association (DRWA), support the capital improvement projects (DWSRF projects) and include: Check Up for Small Systems (CUPSS) providing asset

management software and support to water systems serving fewer than 3300 customers, sustainable infrastructure GIS mapping and data sets to water systems, technical circuit rider support and assistance to municipal and small water systems.

Delaware Technical Community College Environmental Training Center (DTCC) provides classroom and online training courses for water operators through federal funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Scholarships for six new water industry students are also provided as part of this funding. DWSRF supports water operators and decision makers in continuing education efforts at DTCC.

The Office of Drinking Water (ODW) provides oversight and

technical expertise to all public drinking water systems and proposed new systems in the State based on the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Set-aside funds from the DWSRF grant are used to support the Capacity Development Program, State Program Management and Public Water Supply Supervision (PWSS). DWSRF provides Semi-annual and annual reports to EPA Region 3 administration detailing the activities and expenditures of DWSRF.

DWSRF's website through DPH includes photographs and project descriptions of capital improvements funded by the federal grant and matching state funds provided through Twenty-First Century Fund. <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/hsp/dwsrf.html>

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## Reminders

- Water system owners are required to notify the Office of Drinking Water (ODW) when making any changes to water system operations.
- Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs) must be distributed to your customers by July 1, 2013 and are due to the Office of Drinking Water by July 10, 2013.
- Lead and copper samples must be collected by June 30, 2013 and reported to ODW by July 10, 2013 for all systems on standard 6-month monitoring schedules. Systems on reduced monitoring schedules are to collect samples between June 1 and September 30, 2013, and report results to ODW by October 10, 2013.

## Upcoming Approved Sampler/Tester Trainings (AST)

AST Basic and Refresher trainings are conducted on a monthly basis (except December). Trainings will be held in the ODW facility at 43 S. DuPont Hwy in the Edgehill Shopping Center, in Dover. We will be glad to hold a training class at your facility if you have at least six people. For more information or to register, contact Keith Harrison at: [Keith.Harrison@state.de.us](mailto:Keith.Harrison@state.de.us).

### Scheduled AST Trainings

#### AST Basic:

May 9, 2013  
June 13, 2013  
July 11, 2013  
August 8, 2013  
September 12, 2013  
October 10, 2013  
November 7, 2013

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