

TAPTALK H₂O!

Division of Public Health • Fall 2013

Tapping Into Good Health

Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) News: Reporting Violations in the CCR *By Keith Harrison*

It seems that even the best of water systems may incur a violation at some point in time. There are two types of violations that must be reported in the CCR: maximum contaminant level (MCL) violations and monitoring/reporting violations.

An MCL violation occurs when the MCL is exceeded for one of the regulated contaminants (listed in the National Primary Drinking Water Standards, see www.epa.gov and the State of Delaware Regulations Governing Public Water Systems, <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/hsp/odw.html>). Typically, the data is reported in the CCR's *Table of Regulated Contaminants* with a footnote. The footnote must include an explanation of the violation, the length of the violation, the health effects language¹, and steps taken to correct the violation. Although the health effects language is very specific, the rest of the footnote may be written to educate your consumers about the regular practices of your water system to ensure the safety of the water provided to your customers.

A monitoring and reporting violation occurs when the water system fails to monitor the water according to the compliance schedule, or fails to report required compliance data to the consumer. All monitoring and reporting violations also need to be reported in the CCR. The violation is reported similar to the MCL violation above, except the difference is that there may not be a health effects language statement available.

Of course, violations should be avoided if possible. However, when a violation occurs, it can be viewed as an opportunity to address a potential problem in the water system, and an opportunity to educate your consumers about your water system.

¹Health effects language: see the EPA's *Preparing Your Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report*, 2nd Revision, EPA 816-R-09-011, April 2010, page 79.



Know what's below. Call before you dig. IT'S THE LAW!

Delaware Law requires anyone digging to give notice at least two full business days (not counting weekends or holidays), prior to the day they plan to start work. This includes professional excavators as well as property and home owner's contractors. **Call Miss Utility of Delmarva at 811 or 1-800-282-8555**, or visit www.missutilitydelmarva.com any time of the day or night and take the following steps:

WAIT for the site to be marked with paint, flags or stakes by the utility line owners.

RESPECT THE MARKS

DIG WITH CARE This means hand digging within 2 feet either side of any marked facility.



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

The drinking water community lost two strong supporters recently and they will be greatly missed. Barry Walters was instrumental in establishing the backflow prevention training offered by the Delaware Rural Water Association (DRWA). Barry's background with Hydro Design, a company dedicated to preventing backflow into potable water systems, helped in making sure DRWA had the best trainers and equipment to provide the best training in the state. In fact, DRWA was the only ASSE-certified training on the Delmarva Peninsula. On a personal level, Barry was always fun to be around; his sense of humor and stories meant you always learned something even while having a great time. Barry never missed an opportunity to thank me after meetings and always followed up with an email to express his thanks as well. Barry was one of a kind and I will miss him.

The second loss was Gary Turner. While not directly employed in the water industry, Gary's wife, Sherry, is a circuit rider for the Delaware Rural Water Association and former employee of the Office of Drinking Water. Gary was always at DRWA conferences with his sense of humor making sure everyone was having a good time. He will be greatly missed.

At the beginning of October, the federal government shut down. The Office of Drinking Water was not directly impacted by the shutdown but may feel the effects later when Congress negotiates the new budget. I am sure that the federal government will be looking to reduce funding for many programs. Looking ahead, while the Office of Drinking Water was not impacted by the federal shutdown or budget negotiations this fall, we will be watching the new negotiations closely. It is too early to tell what cuts there will be to federally-funded programs, but we are committed to offering Delaware the same high quality service and advocating for our programs.

Finally, on a positive note, the Delaware Water/Wastewater Agencies Response Network (DEWARN) held its quarterly meeting in September and I am happy to report that they are up to 12 members. These 12 members represent over 98% of the population of Delawareans served by community water systems. This is a fantastic number and I am very impressed. They are still looking to get new members, so if you are interested, please contact Rob Penman of Artesian Water Company, Chairman of the DEWARN at 302-453-6946.



The Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act

By Keith Harrison

The Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act was enacted on January 4, 2011 and will become effective on January 4, 2014. Congress provided a three-year transition period after enactment of the new requirements. As of this writing, October 2013, the EPA has provided only a list of frequently asked questions as guidance. Below are two questions that reference public water systems:

Q. I manage a public water system. When a water meter needs repair, we typically remove the meter from service, repair it off site, and place the same meter back into service after it's been repaired. Does this meter now need to meet the new definition of Lead Free?

A. No, but certain parts used in the repair may need to meet the definition. The removal from service of the fixture for repair and replacement, by itself, does not trigger the requirements of Section 1417(a). Any part used in the repair of the meter that is a pipe, pipe fitting, plumbing fitting or fixture must meet the new definition of lead free, but the meter being repaired is not independently subject to the requirements in 1417(a) because it is not being used or installed for the first time in that location. The original purpose of Section 1417 of SDWA was to eliminate the future use of lead in water supply distribution systems (H.R. Rep. 99-575 at 38). This is reflected in the

legislative history of the recent amendments -- "This bill doesn't require people to buy replacements. No one is forced to replace their faucets." (156 Cong. Rec. H8617-01 (Dec. 17, 2010)).

Q. I operate a seasonal water system that temporarily removes fittings/fixtures, such as water meters, at the end of the season and then the next year returns the same fittings/fixtures to the same location without replacing or repairing the fittings/fixtures or components of the fittings/fixtures. Must these fittings/fixtures meet the new definition of Lead Free after January 4, 2014?

A. No. Because the seasonal water system is simply returning a fitting/fixture to the same location, and there has been no installation or repair, the fitting/fixture in question would not be required to meet the new definition of lead free.

The 5th Annual Water and Wastewater Operator Expo Sponsored by Delaware Rural Water Association September 27, 2013



Clockwise from the upper left: 1. Delaware Rural Water's Director Rick Duncan with Chelsey Procino, the 2013 Mar-Del Watermelon Queen. 2. Tidewater Utilities: winners of the Annual Water Tasting contest. 3. Operator training. 4. Operators enjoying crabs at the crab feast! 5. Good old-fashioned fun at the watermelon seed spitting contest.

Reminders/Notes

- Water system owners are required to notify the Office of Drinking Water (ODW) when making any changes to water system operations.
- The Delaware Rural Water Association's 24th Annual Technical Conference & Exhibition will be held February 25-27, 2014 at the Delaware State Fair Grounds in Harrington. See www.drwa.org for details.
- Lead & Copper: All public water systems that are on a 6-month sampling schedule need to have their samples finished by December 31, 2013 and the results to ODW by January 10, 2014.

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Approved Sampler/Tester (AST) Training

A sampler/tester is approved by Delaware Health and Social Services to conduct routine water sampling and water quality analyses for chlorine residual, pH, nitrate testing or water quality parameter testing and to enter that information into a log book. The approved sampler/tester typically works under the direction of a fully licensed operator. During the AST training, the participant will learn about waterborne bacteria and the Total Coliform Rule that regulates bacteria in drinking water. The participant will also learn about other chemicals/compounds that may enter drinking water such as nitrate or petroleum. The focus of the training is to help participants understand the Safe Drinking Water Act in relation to public health.

Upcoming AST Trainings

AST Basic and Refresher trainings are conducted on a monthly basis (except December). Trainings will be held in the ODW offices 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.

Scheduled AST Trainings

AST Basic:

January 9, 2014
February 13, 2014
March 13, 2014
April 10, 2014
May 8, 2014
June 12, 2014
July 10, 2014
August 14, 2014
September 11, 2014
October 9, 2014
November 13, 2014

AST Refresher:

January 23, 2014
February 27, 2014
March 27, 2014
April 24, 2014
May 22, 2014
June 26, 2014
July 24, 2014
August 28, 2014
September 25, 2014
October 23, 2014

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