

WHAT'S NEW WITH WUTAP

Robert Gott, WUTAP Program Coordinator

As many of you know, the Water Utilities Technical Assistance Program has been experiencing some funding problems. Up until a few months ago we weren't even sure if the program could survive financially. The good news is that our funding is now secure for one year. The program has successfully renegotiated contracts with the NMED Groundwater, Surface Water, and Construction Programs Bureaus, as well as the Indian Health Service, US EPA, and Santa Fe Community College. The NMED contract will allow us to continue to provide curriculum over site and instruction for NMWWA's Annual and Central Schools. We routinely renegotiate our contracts on a yearly basis so just one year of financial security is usual for us.

WUTAP will have some new directions for the program in the upcoming year. We'll be offering three wastewater security workshops free of charge. These workshops will be presented under the umbrella of US EPA via the new Homeland Security Department. We'll keep you posted on the times and locations of those workshops as they are scheduled. Additionally we will be working with Santa Fe Community College in the development of a new one-year Water Technology program that will evolve into an Associate Degree program some time in the future. As many of you know, there is a shortage of certified operators in New Mexico and this new program is hoping to fill some of that need. Projections for the future indicate that we are going to

lose a large percentage of our senior operators in the next few years due to retirement, so we need to keep operators flowing into the field and up the ladder.

We will still be providing wastewater training and on-site and telephone technical assistance through our NMED SWQB Facility Operations Section funding. But at this point in time we are forced to reduce our water training and technical assistance due to funding cuts. However, we will still be offering some surface and advanced water workshops through alternate funding sources. We truly regret having to scale back our water training and technical assistance in a time when it is needed more than ever, hopefully this situation will change sometime in the near future. The interpretation of the new water regulations has been a problem not only for water operators but for managers and trainers as well. In an effort to resolve this problem, WUTAP has set up a Water Regulations Workshop which will be presented by Rusty Rodkey of the NMED Drinking Water Bureau. It will be a part of the NMWWA Annual School held in Las Cruces January 27-31, 2003. WUTAP has always had a commitment to water quality in the state of New

Read more about how the need for more certified municipal operators is being addressed by Santa Fe Community College and the Dona Ana Branch Community College. *Details in this newsletter.*

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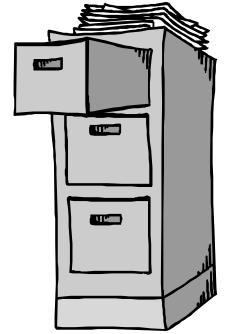
Mexico and our desire to help operators and municipalities is not removed simply because of funding interruptions. We still plan to field emergency situations as they arise.

WUTAP, through its Indian Health Service contract will continue to provide training and technical assistance to Acoma, Mescalero, Sandia, Santa Ana, San Juan, Jicarilla, and Jemez. Our new contract represents a reduction in the number of tribes served from our previous contract of 21 tribes. At this time WUTAP is focusing on the tribes with advanced water and wastewater systems. WUTAP will provide assistance to other tribal systems at the request of IHS.

Last, but not least, thanks for your letters and support when things were looking so grim several months ago. All of us here at WUTAP sincerely thank you for standing by when help was needed.

CERTIFICATION NEWS

The NMED Facility Operations Section has completed and published the New Mexico Water Study Guide. The New Mexico Water Study Guide is available on the website <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/fostop.html>. You may download the study guide from this site using Acrobat Reader. You may also request a copy of the study guide on CD rom from our office by calling 827-2804. A thanks to Fred Ragsdale and Associates for the time and effort spent on the new study guide.



A note from Violet Miera, Please remember that your renewal cycles are every three years and you must have documented 30 hours of training in that period of time to renew. Please do not send in your renewal applications if you do not meet the requirement to renew. If you have any questions on this please call me at 505-827-2804.

SANTA FE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DEVELOPS WATER TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Lou Schreiber, SFCC Director Academic Training Programs

Santa Fe Community College has received a grant from the US Department of Agriculture to develop a Water Technology program. This program will provide training for water and wastewater operators, to improve their on-the-job skills and prepare them for the varied levels of operator certification required by state law. It will also strive to attract new individuals to the field of water technology by recruiting at high schools, municipalities, public works facilities, pueblos and other appropriate locations.

In the first year of the grant project the program will begin by offering a certificate of 38 college credits in Water Technology. By the end of the second year an associate degree will be developed and offered. Technical staff from the Water Utilities Technical Assistance Program, city of Santa Fe Wastewater facility, and the New Mexico Environment Department are serving as advisors to the Santa Fe Community College staff, on the development of the program.

Santa Fe Community College is responding to a statewide need for trained and certified water and wastewater facility operators. Due to the rural nature of the New Mexico, the program will offer many of the courses in a distance education format, primarily on-line, in hopes of increasing access to the training for individuals who live and work far from Santa Fe Community College and/or are not able to frequently attend classes at Santa Fe Community College. A variety of alternative delivery systems will be used to increase access to the program.

The college will offer the first two courses in the spring semester of 2003, which begins in January of 2003. Those courses will be: Introduction to Water Treatment and Distribution Systems and Introduction to Wastewater Collection and Treatment.

For information about the program call 505/428-1617.

WATER TECH PROGRAM NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Bernie Garcia, WUTAP Field Training Specialist

The need for upper level certified water and wastewater operators is nearing a critical point in our state. Utilities throughout the state are having an increasingly difficult time finding qualified operators to staff our water and wastewater treatment systems. With this in mind, I would like to call attention to the situation at the New Mexico State University Dona Ana Branch Community College, Water Technology Program.

Many of the water and wastewater operators in New Mexico are graduates of the NMSU-DABCC program. For many of us, the program gave us our start in the field. Unfortunately, the NMSU-DABCC program is in a struggle for its very existence. The untimely death of our colleague, Cynthia Hiers-Robinson, along with the retirement of Doug Roby has left the program with but one full time faculty member. Terry Mount, the current coordinator, is working to keep the program viable, but she can not do it alone.

The DABCC has advertised for one new faculty member, but until help arrives, this program is in serious jeopardy. Most of us are familiar with the speed at which a bureaucracy moves, and the University is no different. It is time for the graduates of the DABCC program to repay the gift this program has given us.

We need to remind The DABCC of the time when the Water Utility program was the foundation of the DABCC. The DABCC was started in 1973. The Water utilities program was one of the first programs taught at the Community College and the cornerstone of the school. Indeed the seed money from the EPA 109-B grant helped build the original Community College structure in Las Cruces. Part of the mission statements for the DABCC is "To provide community

service and continuing education programs in response to the needs of the community." The need for the water utilities program in our "community" - New Mexico - is greater now than at any time in the past. This program has been the prime source of upper level certified operators in the field of water and wastewater, and municipalities from Farmington to Hobbs to Las Cruces have benefited from the skills taught at the DABCC.

I am asking that letters of support for the program be sent to the DABCC. The administration of the DABCC needs to know what a difference the DABCC has made to the quality of life in New Mexico. Let them know that the graduates from this program are responsible for the water quality in the state of New Mexico. Ask that every effort be made to expedite the replacement of the two faculty members with quality instructors that have experience in the field of water and wastewater technology. Ask that the Water Tech Program be assisted and supported by the DABCC until these replacements are in place. After this there is still a need for assistance in recruitment and grant writing.

The goal of a community college should be to support the community. The water technology program has done and continues to do this job. With continued support, the Water Tech Program will produce a steady stream of operators throughout New Mexico for many years to come. You can send, FAX, or e-mail your comments to:

Dr. Raul Ramirez, Campus Executive Officer
Dona Ana Branch Community College
Box 30001 MSC 3DA
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001
FAX: 505-527-7764; e-mail: rauramir@nmsu.edu

Dr. Margie Huerta, Campus Instructional Officer
Dona Ana Branch Community College
Box 30001 MSC 3DA
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001
FAX: 505-527-7764; e-mail: marhuert@nmsu.edu

NEWSLETTER DIRECTORY OF CONTACTS

NMSU DABCC Water Utilities Technical Assistance Program

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NM Water & Wastewater Association

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Española, NM 87532 FAX 505-753-9810

NM Environment Department, Certification & Training Office, NM Utility Operator Certification Advisory Board

Mike Coffman 505-827-0108
P.O. Box 26110 www.nmenv.state.nm.us
Santa Fe, NM 87502 FAX 505-827-0160

2002 NEW MEXICO TRAINING CALENDAR 2002

OCTOBER

NMWWA NORTHEAST SECTION WORKSHOP

TOPICS: Levels 1 – 2, Basic water & wastewater

DATE: October 16-17, Wednesday & Thursday

TIMES: 7:30 to 4:00 each day

LOCATION: Espanola, National Guard Armory

REGISTRATION: \$60, members; \$80, non-members

Advanced registration is requested

CREDITS: 13 hours

CONTACT: Andrew Medina, 505-662-8142

NMED EXAM: October 18,

8 to 2:30. *Submit your test application by Sept. 18th at the latest.*

Please note that there are *two different* test sites on October 18th, 2002 - Espanola and Clovis.

NMSU WUTAP

WORKSHOPS —

■ BASIC & ADVANCED

WASTEWATER SYSTEMS

TOPICS: water characteristics, wells, surface water treatment, disinfection, Total Coliform Rule

DATE: October 16, Wednesday

■ BASIC & ADVANCED WATERSYSTEMS

TOPICS: wastewater characteristics, lagoons, disinfection, collections, secondary treatment

DATE: October 17, Thursday

TIMES: 8-5, both days

LOCATION: Clovis, Clovis Community College, (Rm. 409) 417 Schepps Blvd.

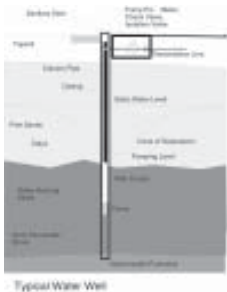
REGISTRATION: \$75 for both workshops or \$40 for one workshop.

Preregistration requested. Send to: P.O. Box 4192, Santa Fe, NM 87502

CREDITS: 7 hours per day

CONTACT: NMSU WUTAP, 505-984-0676, FAX 982-3137; e-mail wutap@qwest.net

NMED EXAM: October 18, 8 to 2:30. *Submit your test application by Sept. 19th at the latest.*



NMRWA TRAINING SESSION — SMALL WATER O&M

DATE: October 23-24, Wednesday & Thursday

LOCATION: Tucumcari, Convention Center

CONTACT: N.M. Rural Water Association,

505-884-1031, 1-800-819-9893,

FAX 505-884-1031, www.nmrwa.org

NMRWA TRAINING SESSION — WASTEWATER SAMPLING, RECORDKEEPING & REPORTING

DATE: October 29, Tuesday

LOCATION: Anthony, NMSU-DABCC Anthony Campus

CONTACT: N.M. Rural Water Association,

505-884-1031, 1-800-819-9893,

FAX 505-884-1031, www.nmrwa.org

NOVEMBER

NMWWA NORTHWEST SECTION WORKSHOPS

TOPICS: Levels 1 & 2, Basic Wastewater

DATES: November 7, Thursday

TIMES: 8 to 5

LOCATION: Bloomfield Multi Cultural Center

REGISTRATION: \$25, members; \$35, non-members.

Advanced registration is requested.

CONTACT: Cindy Huntsman, 505-334-8684

CREDITS: 7 hours for each workshop

NMWWA CENTRAL SECTION WORKSHOP

TOPICS: Levels 1 & 2, Basic Water & Wastewater

DATE: November 13-14, Wednesday & Thursday

TIMES: 8 to 5, both days

LOCATION: Albuquerque, UNM Continuing Education

Bldg. 1634 University Blvd., NE

REGISTRATION: \$60, members; \$80, non-members.

Advanced registration is requested.

CREDITS: 13 hours

CONTACT: John Kelley, 505-857-8286

NMED EXAM: November 15, 8 to 2:30 *Submit your test application by October 16th at the latest.*

FIELD TRAINING

The New Mexico State University, Water Utilities Technical Assistance Program (WUTAP) - Robert Gott, Robert George, & Bernie Garcia - can provide on-site, no cost training in operations & maintenance, process control, laboratory, & financial management of water supply or wastewater treatment operations to municipal facilities and Indian Pueblos.

505-984-0676; FAX 505-982-3137; e-mail wutap@swcp.com

2002 NEW MEXICO TRAINING CALENDAR 2003

NMRWA TRAINING SESSION — SMALL WATER O&M

DATE: November 13-14, Wednesday & Thursday

LOCATION: Tyrone, Community Center

CONTACT: N.M. Rural Water Association,
505-884-1031, 1-800-819-9893,
FAX 505-884-1031, www.nmrwa.org

DECEMBER

NMRWA TRAINING SESSION — SMALL WATER O&M

DATE: December 18-19, Wednesday & Thursday

LOCATION: Carlsbad, Pecos River Conference Center

CONTACT: N.M. Rural Water Association,
505-884-1031, 1-800-819-9893,
FAX 505-884-1031, www.nmrwa.org

JANUARY

NMRWA TRAINING SESSION — SMALL WATER O&M

DATE: January 9-10, Thursday & Friday

LOCATION: Gallup, Red Rock State Park

CONTACT: N.M. Rural Water Association,
505-884-1031, 1-800-819-9893,
FAX 505-884-1031, www.nmrwa.org

NMRWA TRAINING SESSION — INTRO TO WASTEWATER SYSTEMS LEVELS II & III

DATE: January 14-15, Tuesday & Wednesday

LOCATION: Tucumcari, Conference Center & WWTP

CONTACT: N.M. Rural Water Association,
505-884-1031, 1-800-819-9893,
FAX 505-884-1031, www.nmrwa.org

NMRWA TRAINING SESSION — SMALL WATER O&M

DATE: January 29-30, Wednesday & Thursday

LOCATION: Alamogordo, NMSU Alamogordo Branch

CONTACT: N.M. Rural Water Association,
505-884-1031, 1-800-819-9893,
FAX 505-884-1031,
www.nmrwa.org

NMWWA ANNUAL SCHOOL

TOPICS: This general water & wastewater operations workshop is for both basic and advanced, Levels 1-4. Includes special workshops.

You will note that the registration fees for the three major NMWWA Short Schools have been increased. This price increase is due to increased personnel, overhead, room rental, and equipment costs.

DATES: January 27-30, Monday through Thursday

TIMES: 8 to 5 each day [26 hours credit]

LOCATION: Las Cruces, Hilton Hotel, 705 Telshor Blvd.

REGISTRATION: \$200 for members, \$250 for non-members.

Advance registration is required for all classes.

CONTACT: NMWWA, Caroline Martinez,
505-753-8840, FAX 505-753-9810

CREDITS: 26 hours

NMED EXAM: January 31, 8 to 2:30.

Submit your test application by Jan. 1st at the latest.

FEBRUARY

NMRWA TRAINING SESSION — SMALL WATER O&M

DATE: February 12-13, Wednesday & Thursday

LOCATION: Taos, Convention Center

CONTACT: N.M. Rural Water Association,
505-884-1031, 1-800-819-9893,
FAX 505-884-1031, www.nmrwa.org

ON-GOING TRAINING

NM MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE ROCKY MOUNTAIN SECTION AWWA/WEA

DATES: 4th Tuesday of each month

TIMES: 11:45 AM to 1 PM

LOCATION: Furr's Family Dining, 109 Montgomery at the Intersection of Montgomery & San Mateo

CONTACT: Rocky Mountain Section AWWA/WEA, Joel Rife, 505-243-3200

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO

TOPICS: Water, Wastewater, Collections, Distribution

REGISTRATION & MANUAL: various

CONTACT: Kenneth Kerri, 916-278-6142,
FAX 278-5959

ARC PUBLICATIONS

TOPICS: Small Water, Small Wastewater, Math, Electrical Fundamentals, Cave-in Protection and Competent Person, O&M of Chlorine Systems, Water Distribution System Construction, Flash Certs™

REGISTRATION: various

CONTACT: 541-928-6199



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Albert Barela

Well half of the year is gone and we have all been pretty busy. At the last NMWWA Executive Board meeting which was held in Rio Rancho, we had Mr. Bill Bartell of the NMED Drinking Water Bureau give us a briefing on his program and his involvement with the Utility Operator Certification Program. He stated that this is a new relationship with the Certification Office and if there is anything that his program can do to enhance the certification training and enforcement his office is open for suggestions. Compliance is a big issue at this time and his office will be enforcing regulations so systems will be in compliance. His office can be reached at 827-1400 ext. 1001 for additional information. At the meeting it was also suggested that the Association set up an information booth at the different conferences throughout the State. Anybody interested in helping with this project can contact me at 642-2122. Any ideas are welcome.

We have set up the Good Housekeeping & Max Summerlot Award tour committee to inspect the systems sometime in October. If you are interested in nominating your plant please contact you local section president or Caroline Martinez.

The three major schools for the year 2003 have been scheduled. The Annual School will be held January 27-30 in Las Cruces, the May School will be held May 5-8 in

Farmington and the Central School will be held on September 22-25 in Albuquerque. Pre-registration forms for these schools will be available in this newsletter, from our web site at www.nmwwa.org or by contacting Caroline Martinez at 753-8840.

NMWWA MONTHLY SECTION MEETINGS

- Southeast Section
 - Ⓢ 1st Wednesday, rotating
 - ☎ Mark Earnest, 505-624-6731
- Southwest Section
 - Ⓢ 3rd Wednesday, Las Cruces
 - ☎ Louie Gomez, 505-528-3653
- West Central Section
 - Ⓢ 4th Wednesday, Gallup
 - ☎ Ray Espinoza, 505-863-1210
- Central Section
 - Ⓢ 1st Monday, Albuquerque
 - ☎ John Kelley, 505-857-8286
- Northeast Section
 - Ⓢ 2nd Monday, rotating
 - ☎ Andrew Medina, 505-662-8142
- Northwest Section
 - Ⓢ 1st Tuesday, rotating
 - ☎ Gary Lawrence, 505-632-2866

OPERATOR SPOTLIGHT - DAVID BUSTOS

Frank Naranjo, Northeast Section



Mr. David Bustos has been employed with the City of Espanola for 12 years. He was hired as a service worker/laborer for the collections system department of May 22, 1990. At that time he had no experience in the wastewater

or collections systems operations. He became the Collections System Foreman, on November 6, 1995. Today he is responsible for the operations of four major lift stations, new sewer laterals connections, new infrastructure development for the City of

Espanola, and also maintains the collection system which totals approximately 90 miles of sewer trunk mains, laterals, and service lines.

Through hard work and persistence with both the city staff and city council, Mr. Bustos was instrumental in the acquisition of two new Vactor units, a new Vactor storage building, and major equipment required to accomplish his goals in the collection system.

Mr. Bustos has been a great asset to the City of Espanola Utility Department. He currently holds a Level I Wastewater Operations Certification, and many other certifications. He has been a member of the NMWWA for the past 12 years. He also enjoys spending time with his son and family and is always willing to give a helping hand. Thank you Mr. David Bustos!!

**NEW MEXICO WATER & WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL SHORT SCHOOL - PRE-REGISTRATION FORM**

ANNUAL SHORT SCHOOL
January 27-30, 2003
Las Cruces Hilton Hotel
705 Teshor Blvd.
Las Cruces, NM

Payment in full must accompany this registration form or it will not be processed. Please call for payment arrangements.

NAME: _____ **SOCIAL SECURITY #:** _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____ **CITY:** _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

EMPLOYED BY: _____ **EMPLOYER PHONE #:** _____

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF NEW MEXICO WATER & WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION: YES NO

ARE YOU CURRENTLY CERTIFIED: YES NO

IMPORTANT: Student enrollment in any given category is limited to the number specified. Pre-registration is on a "first come - first served" basis. There will be *NO* registration at the door. Registration confirmation will *NOT* be sent. Call (505)753-8840 to confirm registration. Refunds apply *ONLY* if cancellation instructions are received one week before the specified short school. There will be a \$25 processing fee for all cancellations or substitutions.

REGISTRATION FEES:

Member Fee: \$200
 Non-Member Fee: \$250
 Extra Banquet Ticket: _____ \$20

NMWWA State & Section Dues (if not yet paid):

Active: \$30
 Corporate: \$28
 Associate: \$25
 Student: \$20
 Total: _____

CLASSES:

You **MUST** mark the *category* of classes that you will be attending in order for this form to be complete. You may attend one or two categories of classes. 26 credits each category:

ENOLLMENT	CATEGORY
55 people	Basic Water (I - II) _____
55 people	Basic Wastewater (I-II) _____
55 people	Advanced Water(III-IV) _____
55 people	Adv. Wastewater (III-IV) _____
55 people	Workshops (III-IV) _____

Make check payable to:

N.M. Water & Wastewater Association

Mail form & check to:

Caroline Martinez, Executive Manager
 P.O. Box 819
 Española, NM 87532
 FAX 505-753-9810.

Pre-Registration Deadline: January 21, 2003

Accommodations:

Make your motel reservations before January 8, 2003. Be sure to tell them you're with NMWWA to get these rates.

- The Hilton 705 Telshor Blvd.
\$61 single, \$61 double 1-505-522-4300
- Mesilla Valley Inn 901 Avenida De Mesillo
\$42 single, \$50 double 1-800-327-3314
- Super 8 245 La Posada Lane
\$36 single, \$40 double 1-505-523-8695