

SUMMER 2006

NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT UOC PROGRAM PROPOSES NEW REGULATIONS

On June 13, 2006 the Utility Operator Certification (NMED UOC) Regulations were proposed to the Water Quality Control Commission. Some of the proposed amendments were: the increase in application, renewal and reciprocity fees; the elimination of the definition of Certified Supervisor; the addition of new definitions for “operate” and “operator”; and the addition of two categories of certification. The UOC program will reveal the two new categories of Water Sampling Technician and Wastewater Laboratory Technician hopefully in October of 2007.

The WQCC did not make a final decision on the regulations in June. Deliberations will take place in August of 2006 at which time the regulations should be adopted. When the regulations are adopted, all amendments will become effective following the 30 day filing period with the State Records and Archives. However, the new certifications will not become effective until July of 2007. The fee increases will be announced on the NMED Web site: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/FOT/index.html> when they become effective. This could be as early as October of 2006.

One of the proposed amendments was changed during the hearing. As

originally proposed, the amendment would have included the Wastewater Laboratory Technician Certification as a part of the Wastewater Operator Levels 1-4 certificates. Input at the hearing resulted in a deletion of that provision. The WWLT 1-3 certification will now be stand alone certificates.

On the water side, the new levels of certification for the two levels of Water Sampling Technicians 1 and 2 will be included as a part of the Water Supply Certifications. This means that if an operator is certified in any of the levels of Water Certification, they will not be required to get the new Laboratory Technician license to take water samples. Please refer to Section 14 of the regulations 20.7.4.14 for clarification, once the regulations are adopted by the WQCC.

The Department would like to thank all the participants who spent their time and effort amending the UOC regulations. The Department feels that these amendments will further the cause of protecting the public health and the environment through trained and knowledgeable certified operators. For further information, please contact Mike Coffman at 505-222-9575, or email at mike.coffman@state.nm.us.



CERTIFICATION NEWS

UOC PROGRAM MOVES TO ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF TRAINING CREDITS

The New Mexico Certification Program is now requiring that all New Mexico Training Providers submit operator training credits electronically to the UOC Program. On May 18th the UOC program implemented a new module to the data system. This implementation will make the program more efficient in tracking training credits for operators.

How it works:

- Training providers will submit to the UOC Office the training course information and agenda to be approved prior to the training being provided. Training to be approved can be emailed to: mike.coffman@state.nm.us or mailed to:
NMED/SWQB/FOT
P.O. Box 26001
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502
- The UOC Office will assign the number of training credits and assign a Training Reference Number for that training. Each training session will have its own Reference #
- Once the Training Providers receives this information from the UOC Office, the Training Providers may provide the training.
- At the end of the training session the Training Providers need to submit the Electronic Submittal form to the UOC Office via email to: mike.coffman@state.nm.us

The Training Provider can download the Electronic Training Credit Submittal form from the following website address:

http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/FOS/Training/Instructor_Corner/index.html

Training Providers should submit the form after the training is completed. Training Providers will be responsible for making sure that the operator's information is complete and correct when filling out the form. The operators will be responsible for putting their correct information on the sign in sheets when attending the training. All Training Providers need to make sure that the information on the form is correct and includes the following:

- Subject
- Date
- Reference #
- Instructor Information

The UOC Program believes that this change will be good for the State of New Mexico and the Operators that serve its citizens. If any Providers or operators have any suggestions please email them to me at: mike.coffman@state.nm.us

*Mike D. Coffman,
NM Operator Certification Officer
NMED SWQB Facility Operations Section*



NEW MEXICO UTILITY OPERATOR ADVISORY BOARD ELECT'S TWO NEW MEMBERS

In June 2006 the New Mexico UOC Advisory Board recommended two new members to the Board. Mr. Dennis Fernandez and Mr. Remijio Gutierrez are the newest members of the Board. Mr. Gutierrez works for the City of Albuquerque where he is the Utility Wastewater Trainer. Mr. Gutierrez holds a Level 4 in wastewater and a Level 3 in water.

Mr. Dennis Fernandez was appointed to the Board by the WQCC at the June meeting. Mr. Fernandez comes to us from the Taos area where he owns and operates his own business, Roadrunner Septic Service. Mr. Fernandez is no stranger to the Board. He was elected to the Board in 2002. Mr. Fernandez holds a Wastewater Level 4 and Water 2 Certification.

I would like to congratulate each of you on your appointments. I am looking forward to working with you on many of the issues facing the Utility Operator Certification Program.

I would like to send out a very special thank you to Mr. Reymundo Gutierrez, City of Albuquerque and Mr. Joe Ramirez, City of Portales, for their service to the UOC Advisory Board. Mr. Gutierrez and Mr. Ramirez dedicated their time and efforts for the good of all operators in New Mexico. It has been a pleasure to work with both of these fine gentleman over the past six years, and I know I speak for the rest of the Board when I say "Thanks again Reymundo and Joe, job well done" and visit us once in a while.

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NM Utility Operator Certification Advisory Board**

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2006 NEW MEXICO TRAINING CALENDAR 2006

JULY

NMWWA WEST CENTRAL SECTION WORKSHOP

TOPICS: Levels 1 & 2, Basic Water & Wastewater

DATE: July 5-6, Wednesday & Thursday

TIMES: 8 to 5, each day

LOCATION: Gallup, Gallup Lions Club Hall, 3300 E Aztec

REGISTRATION: \$80, members; \$100, non-members.

Advanced registration is requested.

CREDITS: 13 hours

CONTACT: Pat Sanchez, 505-863-1211

NMED EXAM: July 7, 8 to 2:30

Submit your test application by June 7th at the latest.

NMRWA TRAINING – OPERATOR CERTIFICATION FUNDAMENTALS & MOCK EXAM

DATE: July 10-12, Monday - Wednesday

LOCATION: Reserve, Community Center

REGISTRATION: 505-884-1031, 800-819-9893

CONTACT: NM Rural Water Assoc., www.nmrwa.org

NMRWA TRAINING – SMALL WATER O&M

DATE: July, 12-13, Wednesday & Thursday

LOCATION: Bloomfield, Cultural Center

REGISTRATION: 505-884-1031, 800-819-9893

CONTACT: NM Rural Water Assoc., www.nmrwa.org

DABCC OEWS 270, SEC. 20 —

WATER CHEMISTRY ANALYSIS

TOPICS: general laboratory safety; gravimetric & volumetric measurement; pH; conductivity; titrations of acid, bases, alkalinity & hardness; dissolved oxygen; turbidity; jar testing; and precision & accuracy

DATE: July 17-21, 2006

TIME: 8 to 5 each day

LOCATION: Las Cruces, Dona Ana Branch Com. College

REGISTRATION: \$135.00 for Dona Ana County residents;

\$165 for out of district; + \$15.00 (non-refundable) application fee - Pre-registration required

CREDITS: 3 college credits (equals 30 Cert. Hours)

CONTACT: Terry Mount, 505-527-7584: tmount@nmsu.edu;

<http://dabcc-www.nmsu.edu/serv/admin/application.html>

NMRWA TRAINING – ACTIVATED SLUDGE PROCESS CONTROL - LEVELS 3 & 4

DATE: July 26-27, Wednesday & Thursday

LOCATION: Las Vegas, Las Vegas WWTP

REGISTRATION: 505-884-1031, 800-819-9893

CONTACT: NM Rural Water Assoc., www.nmrwa.org

AUGUST

DABCC OEWS 270, SEC. 21 —

WATER AND WASTEWATER MICROBIOLOGY

TOPICS: water and wastewater laboratory safety; water and wastewater sampling; solids analysis; microscopic examination of activated sludge; BOD analysis; and bacteriological analysis

DATE: July 31 - August 4, 2006

LOCATION: Las Cruces, Dona Ana Branch Com. College

REGISTRATION: 135.00 for Dona Ana County residents;

\$165 for out of district; + \$15.00 (non-refundable)

application fee - Pre-registration required

CREDITS: 3 college credits (transferable to 30 Cert. Hours)

CONTACT: Terry Mount, 505-527-7584: tmount@nmsu.edu;

<http://dabcc-www.nmsu.edu/serv/admin/application.html>

NMRWA TRAINING – OPERATOR CERTIFICATION FUNDAMENTALS & MOCK EXAM

DATE: August 2-4, Wednesday - Friday

LOCATION: Santa Fe, Municipal League

REGISTRATION: 505-884-1031, 800-819-9893

CONTACT: NM Rural Water Assoc., www.nmrwa.org

NMWWA SOUTHEAST SECTION WORKSHOP

TOPICS: Levels 1 & 2, Basic Water & Wastewater

DATE: August 9-10, Wednesday & Thursday

TIMES: 8 to 5, both days

LOCATION: Carlsbad, Pecos River Village Conference Center, 711 Muscatel St.

REGISTRATION: \$80, members; \$100, non-members.

Advanced registration is requested.

CREDITS: 13 hours

CONTACT: Leo Wilson, 505-397-9396

NMED EXAM: August 11, 8 to 2:30.

Submit your test application by July 11th at the latest.

NMRWA TRAINING – SMALL WATER O&M

DATE: August 16-17, Wednesday & Thursday

LOCATION: Portales, ENMU Campus Union

REGISTRATION: 505-884-1031, 800-819-9893

CONTACT: NM Rural Water Assoc., www.nmrwa.org

NMRWA TRAINING – CHEMICAL FEED PUMPS

DATE: August 17, Thursday

LOCATION: Las Cruces, Mesilla Park Rec Center

REGISTRATION: 505-884-1031, 800-819-9893

CONTACT: NM Rural Water Assoc., www.nmrwa.org

SANTA FE COMMUNITY COLLEGE – WWTT 150 ON-SITE WASTEWATER SYSTEMS

TOPICS: Basic wastewater treatment concepts; types of

2006 NEW MEXICO TRAINING CALENDAR 2006

on-site treatment systems; site specific applicability; O&M requirements; state & federal regulations. Go to <http://learn.sfccnm.edu/fall06coursedetails.asp> for the course details (scroll to the bottom of the yellow 100% on-line course listings)

DATE: August 19 to December 8, 2006

TIMES: 100% on-line

LOCATION: Anywhere with an internet connection

REGISTRATION: \$186.30, in-district; \$218.40 out-of-

district. ***Tuition and distance learning fees included***

CREDITS: 3 credit hours, equivalent to 30 NM certification credit hours

CONTACT: SFCC at <http://www.sfccnm.edu/sfcc/pages/1322.html> for on-line registration; or Robert Gott, 505-984-0676; rwgwutap@vcimail.com for details

SANTA FE COMMUNITY COLLEGE – WWTT 120 Intro to Wastewater Collections & Treatment

TOPICS: Introduction to wastewater treatment; package plants, small sewer systems, lagoons Go to <http://learn.sfccnm.edu/fall06coursedetails.asp> for the course details (scroll to the bottom of the blue web-blended course listings)

DATE: August 19 to December 8, 2006

TIMES: 5 Saturday classes at SFCC and on-line

LOCATION: Santa Fe, SFCC 6401 Richards Ave. & anywhere with an internet connection

REGISTRATION: \$186.30, in-district; \$218.40 out-of-district. ***Tuition and distance learning fees included***

CREDITS: 3 credit hours, equivalent to 30 NM certification credit hours

CONTACT: SFCC at <http://www.sfccnm.edu/sfcc/pages/1322.html> for on-line registration; or Kit Roush, Kit Roush, 505-881-4825; krroush@comcast.net for details

SEPTEMBER

NMWWA CENTRAL SCHOOL

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

DATES: September 11-14, Monday through Thursday

TIMES: 8 to 5 each day

LOCATION: Albuquerque, UNM Continuing Education Bldg. 1634 University Blvd., NE

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

Advanced registration is required

CREDITS: 26 hours

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

NMED EXAM: September 15, 8 to 2:30.

Submit your test application by August 16th at the latest.

NMSU WUTAP WORKSHOP —

LABORATORY PARAMETERS FOR NPDES REPORTING

TOPICS: This two day workshop will cover methodologies and in-lab demonstrations for E coli, BOD, TSS, & pH; the associated QA/QC procedures for each parameter; and an NMED SWQB discussion of EPA reporting requirements.

DATE: September 27-28, Wednesday & Thursday

TIMES: 8-5, both days

LOCATION: Roswell, Museum & Art Center; 100 West Eleventh Street; City of Roswell WWTP laboratory

REGISTRATION: \$100. ***Advanced registration is required***

CREDITS: 14 hours

CONTACT: NMSU WUTAP, 505-984-0676, FAX 982-3137, or wutap@vcimail.com

OCTOBER

NMRWA TRAINING – OPERATOR CERTIFICATION FUNDAMENTALS & MOCK EXAM

DATE: October 9-11, Monday - Wednesday

LOCATION: Tucumcari, Convention Center

REGISTRATION: 505-884-1031, 800-819-9893

CONTACT: NM Rural Water Assoc., www.nmrwa.org

NMWWA NORTHEAST SECTION WORKSHOP

TOPICS: Levels 1 – 2, Basic water & wastewater

DATE: October 11-12, Wednesday & Thursday

TIMES: 8:00 to 5:00 each day

LOCATION: Glorieta Conference Center, I-25N @ Exit 299

REGISTRATION: \$80, members; \$100, non-members

Advanced registration is requested

CREDITS: 13 hours

CONTACT: Nick Salayandia, 505-757-4287

NMED EXAM: October 13, 8 to 2:30.

Submit your test application by Sept. 13th at the latest.

NMRWA TRAINING – SMALL WATER O&M

DATE: October 18-19, Wednesday & Thursday

LOCATION: Alamogordo, Civic Center

REGISTRATION: 505-884-1031, 800-819-9893

CONTACT: NM Rural Water Assoc., www.nmrwa.org

NOVEMBER

NMRWA TRAINING – OPERATOR CERTIFICATION FUNDAMENTALS & MOCK EXAM

DATE: November 6-8, Monday - Wednesday

LOCATION: Ruidoso, Best Western

REGISTRATION: 505-884-1031, 800-819-9893

CONTACT: NM Rural Water Assoc., www.nmrwa.org

Calendar continued from page 4

NMWWA CENTRAL SECTION WORKSHOP

TOPICS: Levels 1 & 2, Basic Water & Wastewater

DATE: November 15-16, Wednesday & Thursday

TIMES: 8 to 5, both days

LOCATION: Albuquerque, UNM Continuing Education

Bldg. 1634 University Blvd., NE

REGISTRATION: \$80, members; \$100, non-members.

Advanced registration is requested.

CREDITS: 13 hours

CONTACT: Cynthia Arnold, 505-281-3294

NMED EXAM: November 17, 8 to 2:30

Submit your test application by Oct. 17th at the latest.

NMRWA TRAINING – SMALL WATER O&M

DATE: November 15-16, Wednesday & Thursday

LOCATION: Clayton, TBD

REGISTRATION: 505-884-1031, 800-819-9893

CONTACT: NM Rural Water Assoc., www.nmrwa.org

NMSU WUTAP WORKSHOP —

LABORATORY PARAMETERS FOR NPDES REPORTING

TOPICS: This two day workshop will cover methodologies and in-lab demonstrations for E coli, BOD, TSS, & pH; the associated QA/QC procedures for each parameter; and an NMED SWQB discussion of EPA reporting requirements.

DATE: November 15-16, Wednesday & Thursday

TIMES: 8-5, both days

LOCATION: Farmington, Civic Center, 200 W. Arrington, and the City of Farmington OMI Laboratory

REGISTRATION: \$100. *Advanced registration is required*

CREDITS: 14 hours

CONTACT: NMSU WUTAP, 505-984-0676, FAX 982-3137, or wutap@vcimail.com

DECEMBER

NMRWA TRAINING – SMALL WATER O&M

DATE: December 7-8, Thursday & Friday

LOCATION: Roswell, Convention & Civic Center

REGISTRATION: 505-884-1031, 800-819-9893

CONTACT: NM Rural Water Assoc., www.nmrwa.org

ON-GOING TRAINING

MEC TECH SERVICES

SERVICES: On-site training, technical support, on-site laboratory services

CONTACT: Nicole Mangin, 505-896-8018

www.mectechservices.com e-mail:

nicole@mectechservices.com

RAGSDALE & ASSOCIATES

SERVICES: on-site training, plant start-ups, O&M trouble shooting, technical assistance

CONTACT: Fred Ragsdale, 505-293-4658;

fredragsdale@comcast.net

WATER OPS

SERVICES: on-site training, technical assistance, project management, maintenance management consulting

CONTACT: Kit Roush, 505-881-4825; krroush@comcast.net

DONA ANA BRANCH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WATER TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM



DATES: Ongoing classes each semester

LOCATION: Las Cruces, 3400 South Espina St.

CONTACT: Terry Mount, 505-527-7584 or

<http://dabcc.nmsu.edu/>

SUMMER COURSE DETAILS:

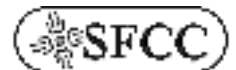
(See Training Calendar for registration specifics).

OEWS 270, Sec.20 - Water Chemistry Analysis - is designed to improve the lab skills of operators and lab technicians with limited lab experience and help surface water treatment operators develop process control analysis skills. (*Doug Roby instructor*)

OEWS 270, sec.21 - Water & Wastewater Microbiology - will assist operators and lab technicians to: further develop their analytical skills, understand why certain analysis is conducted, what information may be gained from the analysis, basic trouble-shooting, quality control requirements, and the important parameters and calculations required for each of the analyses. (*Doug Roby instructor*)

SANTA FE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WATER TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM



DATES: Ongoing classes each semester

LOCATION: Santa Fe, SFCC 6401 Richards Ave. &

anywhere with an internet connection

CONTACT: Al Reed 505-428-1314 or

<http://www.sfccnm.edu/sfcc/pages/1322.html>

FALL COURSE DETAILS:

(See Training Calendar for registration specifics).

WWTT 120 - Intro to Wastewater Collections & Treatment - is designed to deliver and improve on-the-job skills required in the water & wastewater industry and to prepare facility operators for levels 1 and 2 certification required by the NMED. (*Kit Roush, instructor*)

WWTT 150 - On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems - has been designed to help homeowners navigate through the available choices and regulations that govern on-site wastewater systems. It will also help environmentalists improve their knowledge of basic wastewater making them better able to assess on-site systems. Certified wastewater operators will improve their ability to provide the needed O&M for on-site systems. (*Robert Gott, instructor*)

NMWWA MEMBER CANDIDATE FOR PERA BOARD

Hello,

I am Debra Edwards. Some of you may know me through the New Mexico Water and Wastewater Association. My name is on the August 25, 2006 ballot for the PERA Municipal elections. I believe it's time for the southern part of New Mexico to be heard and have a voice in PERA.

I have worked for the City of Carlsbad for the past 12 years as secretary, advancing to executive secretary, for the wastewater and collections departments. I work closely with the superintendent overseeing daily operations and help him to maintain the budget for both departments.

At present, I am in my second year as secretary for the New Mexico Water and Wastewater Association SE Section. In the past, I have served as secretary/treasurer for a number of years at different times. I have been a board member for Jr/Sr Little League baseball serving in positions from president to groundskeeper. I have also coached junior league teams and a big league team.

I have worked for 3 different federal credit unions with more than 11 years experience, advancing to manager of a \$1.3 million federal credit union which included all investment decisions. My greatest accomplishment is taking a \$1.3 million dollar credit union from all hand posting and entering it on computer. This credit union was on the front porch of the past manager's house. We moved the credit union downtown to its current location.

I am committed to representing all public employees while protecting control of the PERA fund and Board for its members. I will work to improve customer service relations and provide faster responses to members. I will be a voice for smaller member communities.

The ballots will be sent to you the last week of August. I will appreciate your **VOTE FOR DEBRA EDWARDS!!** MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT.



NMWWA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Lu Ann Bustamante

Greetings to all members of the NMWWA.. The NMWWA Northern Short School was held the second week in May, 2006 in Farmington, NM. Thanks to all the volunteer trainers, the school was a success. Approximately 100 members attended the school which was held at the San Juan College. The short school was rated excellent or good by 90% of the respondents on the evaluations which were turned in. The comments on the evaluations were all very informative and positive, and will help us to set up the next school with the suggestions given.

I would like to take the time to thank all the instructors at the school for their time and dedication to the NMWWA. Their expertise is greatly appreciated and is important to making the schools, as well as the organization a success. A special thanks to Caroline Martinez and also to Cindy Huntsman for the help and support they provided at the school.

The NMWWA Sections will soon be accepting nominations for the Good Housekeeping & the Max Summerlot Awards. The sections will tour the facilities and nominate their best (2) to the State Association by August 31. The State GHK tour committee will then inspect the nominated facilities sometime in October. So if you feel your facility can compete, contact your section President or Caroline. Awards will be given at the 2007 Annual School Awards Banquet.

Have a wonderful summer and remember to conserve our precious water. *Agua es Vida!*

NMWWA MONTHLY SECTION MEETINGS

•Southeast Section

⊕ 1st Wednesday, rotating

☎ Leo Wilson, 505-397-9396

•Southwest Section

⊕ 3rd Wednesday, Las Cruces

☎ Martin Lopez, 505-571-3628

•West Central Section

⊕ 4th Wednesday, Gallup

☎ Ray Espinoza, 505-870-7626

•Central Section

⊕ 2nd Tuesday, rotating

☎ Cynthia Arnold, 505-281-3294

•Northeast Section

⊕ 2nd Monday, rotating

☎ Nick Salayandia, 505-757-4287

•Northwest Section

⊕ 1st Thursday, rotating

☎ John Eckley, 505-634-0539

NEW MEXICO WATER & WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION

2006 CENTRAL SHORT SCHOOL - PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

CENTRAL SHORT SCHOOL
September 11-14, 2006
UNM Continuing Ed. Building
1634 University Blvd., NE
Albuquerque, NM

Payment in full must accompany this registration form or it will NOT be processed or you can call 505-753-8840 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

PLEASE NOTE: Pre-registration is *required* and on a "first come - first served" basis. There will be **NO** registration at the door. You must specify which *category* you will attend. When a specific *category* has reached its student capacity, no further registration will be allowed in that area. Registration confirmation will **NOT** be sent. Call (505)753-8840 to confirm registration. Fax # 753-9810. Refunds apply **ONLY** if cancellation instructions are received one week before the specified short school and there will be a \$25 processing fee for all cancellations. **NOTE: Please bring your study guide if you have one. Classes are from 8:00 – 5:00.**

REGISTRATION FEES:

Member Fee: \$200 _____
 Non-Member Fee: \$250 _____

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

Active \$35 _____
 Corporate \$33 _____
 Associate \$30 _____
 Student \$25 _____

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:

<u>ENROLLMENT</u>	<u>CATEGORY</u>	_____
50 people	Basic Water (I - II)	_____
50 people	Basic Wastewater (I-II)	_____
50 people	Advanced Water(III-IV)	_____
50 people	Adv. Wastewater (III-IV)	_____
30 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

Pre-Registration Deadline: Sept. 5, 2006

Make your motel reservations before Aug. 15th
Be sure to tell them you're with NMWWA.

- **Super 8 Motel, 2500 University Blvd.**
 \$30 single, \$36 double 1-505-888-4884
- **Days Inn, 2120 Menaul Blvd. NE**
 \$40 single, \$45 double 1-800-444-7378
- **Roadway Inn, 2108 Menaul Blvd. NE**
 \$37 single, \$43 double 1-800-601-1873

OPERATOR SPOTLIGHT - FILIBERTO AGUIRRE JR.

Southwest Section

Filiberto (Fili) Aguirre Jr. has worked for the Mesquite MDWC&MSWA for about two and half years. In that time period he has obtained his Double Level II Certification for Water and Wastewater. Additionally he has attended and passed the Backflow Prevention Assembly Testing and the NM Safe Excavation Program. He and the other system operators have been instrumental in the overall operational improvements for Mesquite's water and wastewater facilities. Their dedicated work in 2005 earned Mesquite the Southwest Section's "Most Improved Facility" Award from the NMWWA and the "Large System of the Year" Award from the New Mexico Rural Water Association.

His primary duties include overseeing water production and wastewater treatment for Mesquite MDWC&MSWA and the water distribution for Vado MDWCA under an O&M contract. After experiencing several months of



complaints in 2005 for water discoloration and odor problems, Fili introduced the addition of Orthophosphates along with a balanced disinfection program which has reduced complaints and saved the operating costs due to reduced line flushing; reduced customers' complaint responses; and reduced chemical addition.

Another cost saving measure introduced and maintained by Fili was the synchronization of the water telemetry

system and the Mercoid controls and switches, which maintains a constant operating pressure eliminating over pressurizing by the booster stations and over pumping by the wells which in turn have stopped line breaks due to excess pressures and storage tank overflowing and spillage. This function in a small rural system is vital since many of the "Cadillac" technologies are not available due to funding constraints which forces an operator to make due with what is available.

Fili has been married to Mireya for 4 years and has two children, Filiberto III and Mireya and he does a great job of balancing his duties to both his family and his work. He is pursuing his Water Technology Degree at Dona Ana Branch along with his Level IIIs. The biggest challenge facing Fili is learning the "paperwork" of operations, which he has dived into head-first.