

## GUARDING AGAINST TERRORIST AND SECURITY THREATS

### WHAT WASTEWATER UTILITIES CAN DO NOW

One consequence of the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> is a heightened concern among citizens in the United States over the security of their critical wastewater infrastructure. The nation's wastewater infrastructure consisting of approximately 16,000 publicly owned wastewater treatment plants, 100,000 major pumping stations, 600,000 miles of sanitary sewers and another 200,000 miles of storm sewers, is one of America's most valuable resources, with treatment and collection systems valued at more than \$2 trillion. Taken together, the sanitary and storm sewers form an extensive network that runs near or beneath key buildings and roads, and is contiguous to many communication and transportation networks. Significant damage to the nation's wastewater facilities or collection systems would result in: loss of life, catastrophic environmental damage to rivers, lakes and wetlands, contamination of drinking water supplies, long term public health impacts, destruction of fish and shellfish production, disruption to commerce, the

economy and our normal way of life.

Although many wastewater utilities have already taken steps to increase security, the following recommendations provide many straightforward, commonsense actions to increasing security and reducing threats from terrorism. Many of these actions are recommended by the Association of Metropolitan Sewer Agencies, the Water Environment Federation, and other leading professional organizations. The recommendations include:

### Guarding Against Unplanned Physical Intrusion

- \* Lock all doors and set alarms at your office, pumping stations, treatment plants, and vaults, and make it a rule that doors are locked and alarms are set
- \* Limit access to facilities and control access to pumping stations, chemical and fuel storage



### Water Protection Task Force

In October 2001, EPA established a Water Protection Task Force to ensure that activities to protect and secure wastewater treatment works infrastructure are comprehensive and carried out expeditiously. The members of this group have proven expertise in different areas of water and wastewater protection. As needed they will be sending alerts on issues related to protecting wastewater treatment works infrastructure nationwide.

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areas, giving close scrutiny to visitors and contractors

- \* Post guards at treatment plants, and post “Employee Only” signs in restricted areas
- \* Control access to storm sewer
- \* Secure hatches, metering vaults, manholes and other access points to the sanitary collection system
- \* Increase lighting in parking lots, treatment bays, and other areas with limited staffing
- \* Control access to computer networks and control systems, and change the passwords frequently
- \* Do not leave keys in equipment or vehicles at any time.

### **Making Security a Priority for Employees**

- \* Conduct background security checks on employees at hiring and periodically thereafter
- \* Develop a security program with written plans and train employees frequently
- \* Ensure all employees are aware of communications protocols with relevant law enforcement, public health, environmental protection, and emergency response organizations
- \* Ensure that employees are fully aware of the importance of vigilance and the seriousness of breaches in security, and make note of unaccompanied strangers on the site and immediately notify designated security officers or local law enforcement agencies
- \* Consider varying the timing of operational procedures if possible so if someone is watching the pattern changes.
- \* Upon the dismissal of an employee, change passcodes and make sure keys and access cards are returned
- \* Provide Customer Service staff with training and checklists of how to handle a threat if it is called in.

### **Coordinating Actions for Effective Emergency Response**

- \* Review existing emergency response plans, and ensure they are current and relevant
- \* Make sure employees have necessary training in emergency operating procedures
- \* Develop clear protocols and chains-of-command for reporting and responding to threats along with relevant emergency management, law enforcement, environmental, public health officials, consumers and the media. Practice the emergency protocols regularly
- \* Ensure key utility personnel (both on and off duty) have access to crucial telephone numbers and contact information at all times. Keep the call list up to date
- \* Develop close relationships with local law enforcement agencies, and make sure they know where critical assets are located. Request they add your facilities to their routine rounds
- \* Work with local industries to ensure that their pretreatment facilities are secure
- \* Report to county or State health officials any illness among the employees that might be associated with wastewater contamination
- \* Report criminal threats, suspicious behavior, or attacks on wastewater utilities immediately to law enforcement officials and the relevant field office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

### **Investing in Security and Infrastructure Improvements**

- \* Assess the vulnerability of collection system, major pumping stations, wastewater treatment plants, chemical and fuel storage areas, outfall pipes, and other key infrastructure elements

- \* Assess the vulnerability of the storm water collection system. Determine where large pipes run near or beneath government buildings, banks, commercial districts, industrial facilities, or are contiguous with major communication and transportation networks
- \* Move as quickly as possible with the most obvious and cost-effective physical improvements, such as perimeter fences, security lighting, tamper-proofing manhole covers and valve boxes, etc.
- \* Improve computer system and remote operational security
- \* Use local citizen watches
- \* Seek financing for more expensive and comprehensive system improvements.

While wastewater utilities are the key to improving security of our wastewater treatment plants and collection systems, EPA, other Federal agencies, and both industry and managerial trade associations also provide help and support. EPA is working with AMSA and other groups to develop training courses and technical materials for wastewater utilities and State personnel on assessing vulnerabilities and improving security. EPA is working collaboratively with the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies and other groups to develop an Information Sharing and Analysis Center to bolster coordinated notification and response to threats and vulnerabilities at both water and wastewater facilities. A number of technical projects are underway to help increase security of the nation’s critical wastewater infrastructure.

*For more information on how to make your water & wastewater facilities more secure, visit the various World Wide Web addresses listed on page 3 .*

## KEY SITE TO VISIT ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

- \* EPA Counter-terrorism: <http://www.epa.gov/ebtpages/ecounterterrorism.html>
- \* EPA Alert on Chemical Accident Prevention and Site Security: <http://www.epa.gov/ceppo/pubs/secale.pdf>
- \* Association of Metropolitan Sewer Agencies: <http://www.amsa-cleanwater.org>
- \* Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies: <http://www.amwa.net/isac/amwacip.html>
- \* Water Environment Federation: <http://www.wef.org>
- \* National League of Cities: [http://www.nlc.org/nlc\\_org/site/newsroom/terrorism\\_response](http://www.nlc.org/nlc_org/site/newsroom/terrorism_response)

## CERTIFICATION NEWS

This is the projected operator certification exam schedule for 2002. Any additions or changes to this schedule will be published in appropriate newsletters. Address any questions, comments, or requests for information regarding the certification process to the Facility Operations Section (FOS). **Our phone number is (505)827-2804.**

Our mailing address is:

Facility Operations Section  
 NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau  
 P.O. Box 26110  
 Santa Fe, NM 87502



Please be sure to request a current application form (look for the date 02/12/01 in the lower right corner of the back page). Applications should be submitted to the FOS as soon as possible, but they *must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the exam date.* All applications for examination received in 2002 must be accompanied by the payment of the examination fee by check or money order. New application forms dated "02/12/01" contain this instruction. We will continue to accept application forms dated "11/00" provided they are submitted with the appropriate exam fee.

APPLICATION DEADLINE	EXAM DATE	LOCATION	TRAINING EVENT
1/02/02	2/1/02	Las Cruces	NMWWA Annual Short School
2/19/02	3/21/02	Albuquerque	NMRWA Annual Conference
3/06/02	4/05/02	Taos	NMWWA Northern Short School
4/10/02	5/10/02	Farmington	NMWWA NW Section Workshop
5/08/02	6/07/02	Las Cruces	NMWWA SW Section Workshop
6/12/02	7/12/02	Gallup	NMWWA WC Section Workshop
7/10/02	8/09/02	Carlsbad	NMWWA SE Section Workshop
8/14/02	9/13/02	Albuquerque	NMWWA Central Short School
*9/18/02	10/18/02	Española	NMWWA NE Section Workshop
*9/18/02	10/18/02	Clovis	WUTAP Workshop
10/16/02	11/15/02	Albuquerque	NMWWA Central Section Workshop

\*Two test sites will be conducted on the same day in two different locations.



# 2001 NEW MEXICO TRAINING CALENDAR 2001

REGISTRATION: \$75 for both workshops or \$40 for one workshop.  
*Preregistration requested.* Send to: P.O. Box 4192, Santa Fe,  
NM87502

CREDITS: 7 hours per day  
CONTACT: NMSU WUTAP, 505-984-0676, FAX 982-3137; e-  
mail wutap@swcp.com

## NMWWA SEMINAR —PUMPS O&M

TOPICS: theory of operation, pump components, pump hydraulics, troubleshooting, maintenance-pump packing, mechanical seals, bearings, and positive displacement pumps

DATE: March 15, Friday

TIMES: 8 to 4:30

LOCATION: Farmington, San Juan College, 4601 College Blvd.,  
Rm. 9012

REGISTRATION: \$25, *pre-registration is required.*

CREDITS: 7 hours

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

## NMRWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE & GENERAL MEETING

DATE: March 17-21, Sunday through Thursday

LOCATION: Albuquerque

CONTACT: N.M. Rural Water Association, 505-884-1031,  
1-800-819-9893, FAX 505-884-1032

NMED EXAM: March 21, 8 to 2:30.

*Submit your test application by Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> at the latest.*

## APRIL

## NMWWA NORTHERN SCHOOL

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

DATES: April 1-4, Mon. to Thurs.

TIMES: 8 to 5 each day

LOCATION: Taos, Civic Convention Center,  
120 Civic Plaza Drive

REGISTRATION: \$150 for members, \$180 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: April 5, 2021, 8 to 2:30. *Submit your test  
application by May 6<sup>th</sup> at the latest.*

## NMRWA TRAINING SESSION — SMALL WATER O&M

DATE: April 24-25, Wednesday & Thursday

LOCATION: Deming, TBA

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

## NMWWA SEMINAR —PUMPS O&M

TOPICS: theory of operation, pump components, pump hydraulics, troubleshooting, maintenance-pump packing, mechanical seals, bearings, and positive displacement pumps

DATE: April 26, Friday

TIMES: 8 to 4:30

LOCATION: Anthony, Gadsden Center,  
1700 E O'Hara Rd.

REGISTRATION: \$25, *pre-registration is required.*

CREDITS: 7 hours

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

## 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

## FIELD TRAINING

The New Mexico State University, Water Utilities Technical Assistance (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



# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Ray Espinoza

Well the year has sure gone by fast.... we are almost in 2002. The schedule of the 2002 schools is included in this newsletter and will be mailed out to all members in early December along with the ballot to vote for the 2002 State officers. Please take time to fill out your ballot and vote.

Changes in the 2002 school schedule include date changes for the 3 major short schools. The Annual School will be held January 28-31, in Las Cruces. The Northern School will be held in Taos, April 1-4, and the Central School will be held September 9-12, in Albuquerque.

The changes in the dates of these schools is a positive change for the operators. At these school now you are allowed to change classes if you are certified in both water and wastewater. You can acquire credits in both water and wastewater at one school. Pre-registration forms will still be available in the Water Utilities Newsletter or from Caroline by calling her at 505-753-8840.

We just completed the Central School in Albuquerque and according to the evaluations the school was once again a success. Special thanks to all of our instructors.

It has been a good year for the Association. The Technical Operation & Maintenance Seminars (TOMS) have had a pretty good attendance. Fred Ragsdale is a excellent instructor according to the seminar evaluations.

This will be my last President's report as my term ends in January at which time Albert Barela from Las Cruces will take office. I want to thank you all for supporting this great organization of our s,the NM Water & Wastewater Association.

## NEWSLETTER DIRECTORY OF CONTACTS

### NMSU DABCC Water Utilities Technical Assistance Program

Nancy Gott, Newsletter Editor 505-984-0676  
P.O. Box 4192  
Santa Fe, NM 87502 FAX 505-982-3137

### NM Water & Wastewater Association

Caroline Martinez 505-753-8840  
P.O. Box 819  
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  
Santa Fe, NM 87502 FAX 505-827-0160

## NMWWA

### PUMPS - TECHNICAL O&M SEMINARS

*Pre-payment & Pre-registration Required*

**Fee:** \$25 **Topics:** theory of operation, pump components, pump hydraulics, troubleshooting, maintenance-pump packing, mechanical seals, and positive displacement pumps.  
**Credits:** 7 Hours  
**Times:** 8:00-4:30  
**Instructor:** Fred Ragsdale

\_\_\_\_\_ Clovis Community College  
417 Schepps Blvd. Rm 104  
Clovis, NM  
Friday, February 22, 2002

\_\_\_\_\_ UNM - Taos (Klauer Campus)  
1157 County Rd. 110, Rm 110  
Taos, NM  
Friday, May 17, 2002

\_\_\_\_\_ San Juan College  
4601 College Blvd., Rm 9012  
Farmington, NM  
Friday, March 15, 2002

\_\_\_\_\_ UNM - Continuing Ed.  
1634 University Blvd.  
Albuquerque, NM  
Friday, June 7, 2002

\_\_\_\_\_ Gadsden Center  
1700 E O'Hara Rd.  
Anthony, NM  
Friday, April 26, 2002

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SSN# \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYED BY \_\_\_\_\_ EMP. PHONE# \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT:** Classes are limited and pre-registration is required. No registration at the door. Please call Caroline Martinez at 505-753-8840 to confirm registration. Refunds apply only if cancellation is received 1 week before seminar. (Fax: 505-753-9810)

Mail registration form & check to : Caroline Martinez, Executive Manager  
NM Water & Wastewater Association  
P.O. Box 819  
Española, NM 87532

# NEW MEXICO WATER & WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION

## PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Annual SHORT SCHOOL

January 28-31, 2002  
Las Cruces Hilton Hotel  
705 Telshor Blvd.  
Las Cruces, NM

*Pre-Registration Deadline:*  
January 21, 2002

*Make check or PO payable to:*  
N.M. Water & Wastewater Association  
*Mail form & check or PO to:*  
Caroline Martinez, Executive Manager  
P.O. Box 819  
Española, NM 87532

Northern SHORT SCHOOL

April 1-4, 2002  
Civic Convention Center  
120 Civic Plaza Drive  
Taos, NM

*Pre-Registration Deadline:*  
March 28, 2002

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:** Please note which school you are registering for in the appropriate check box. Payment in full must accompany this registration form or it will NOT be processed. Student enrollment is limited to the number specified for that category. 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 or for questions on payment process. Refunds apply ONLY if cancellation instructions are received one week before the short school and there will be a \$25 processing fee for all cancellations or substitutions.

REGISTRATION FEES: ( what you are paying)  
Member \$150 \_\_\_\_\_  
Non Member \$180 \_\_\_\_\_  
Extra Banquet Ticket ( Annual School only) \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

CLASSES:  
You MUST the categories of classes that you will be attending in order for this form to be complete. You may attend and receive credit for one or two CATEGORIES of classes. Each category offers 26 credit opportunities.

NMWWA State & Section Dues (if not yet paid):  
Active \$30 \_\_\_\_\_  
Corporate \$28 \_\_\_\_\_  
Associate \$25 \_\_\_\_\_  
Student \$20 \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \_\_\_\_\_

ENROLLMENT	CATEGORY
55 people	Basic Water (Levels I,II) _____
55 people	Basic Wastewater(I, II) _____
55 people	Advanced Water (III,IV) _____
55 people	Advanced Wastewater(III,IV) _____
40 people	Workshops (III,IV) _____

*Accommodations Annual School:*  
Make your motel reservations **before January 8th 2002.**  
Mention that you are 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 Mesilla  
\$42 single, \$50 double 1-800-327-3314
- Super 8 245 La Posada Lane  
\$34 single, \$38 double 1-5-5-523-8695

*Accommodations Northern School:*  
Make your motel reservations **before March 25, 2002.**  
Be sure to tell them you're with NMWWA.

- El Pueblo Lodge 412 Paseo Del Pueblo N.  
\$42 single, \$70 double 1-800-433-9612
- Days Inn 1333 Paseo Del Pueblo S.  
\$39 single, \$44 double 1-505-758-2230
- Katchina Lodge 413 Paso Del Pueblo  
\$49 single, \$59 double 1-800-522-4462  
(w/breakfast)

## OPERATOR SPOTLIGHT

### RUBEN AMARO

*RICHARD M. SANCHEZ, CENTRAL SECTION*

Ruben Amaro has been with the City of Socorro for 20 years. During that time he has worked in four different departments, streets, Gas, Water, and Production. His knowledge and experience is an asset to the City. He is certified in Water System Operations and is certified to collect Compliance samples.

During his 9 years as Production department foreman, Ruben has made many improvements to the operation of the City's water wells, storage tanks, and sampling program. He is also responsible for the City's collection system and lift stations. Ruben's assistance in the last major revision of Sewer User rates resulted in improved quality of service. He also played a key role in the completion of the City's



Wellhead Protection Program.

When Ruben is not working he keeps busy doing barbeques, hunting, umpiring, fishing, remodeling houses, and being with his family.

## NMWWA MONTHLY SECTION MEETINGS

•Southeast Section

⊕ 1st Wednesday, rotating  
☎ Art Sena, 505-745-3511

•Southwest Section

⊕ 3rd Wednesday, Las Cruces  
☎ Tony Parra, 505-528-3554

•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, 505-662-8141

•Northwest Section

⊕ 1st Tuesday, rotating  
☎ Cindy Huntsman, 505-334-8684