



NEW MEXICO WATER UTILITIES NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED FOR THE OPERATORS OF NEW MEXICO

WINTER 2010

CERTIFICATION OFFICE INTRODUCES OPERATOR EXCHANGE PROGRAM

By Mike Coffman, Certification Officer

In the next two months the New Mexico Operator Certification Program will be implementing a new training program for New Mexico water and wastewater operators. For years, New Mexico upper level operators have been looking for different options when it comes to obtaining training credits to renew their certification licenses. This new training program is an attempt to meet that ongoing renewal credit need. The basic concept of the program is to take an upper level certified operator from their respective system of employment and place them in another system in New Mexico. The exchange has several options.



Raul Martinez explains aspects of the Santa Fe plant schematic to Jerry Vargas.

Example 1:

An Operator from Las Cruces may work at a system in Santa Fe, while in the same week the Operator from Santa Fe is working in Las Cruces.

Example 2:

An Operator from Aztec spends a week working in Tucumcari. Two weeks later an operator from Hobbs works a week in Aztec. The nice thing about this program is its flexibility with the operators and the facilities.

The exchange operators would work at each other's facility for one week with host operators at each system. The idea is to transfer knowledge and information between seasoned operators. At the end of the exchange operators will provide the UOC Program with a report on the information and exchanges that occurred during the week. This report will be required to receive training hours from the UOC Program.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO OPERATORS?

- Each visiting operator will receive 30 hours of training for the 4 day exchange
- Each host operator will receive 15 hours of training for the 4 day exchange
- Each Facility would gain a constructive outside view of its operations

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- Educational and operational transfer of information
- Operators learn how other systems operate and gain ideas to better their systems
- Operators transfer ideas to assist visiting system.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO THE EMPLOYERS?

- Employers assist in training for operators
- Employers save money on training
- Employers have no loss of man hours because this is an operator exchange
- Employers provide per diem only
- Employer’s operators receive and exchange knowledge to better the operations of their respective systems

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE NMED UOC PROGRAM?

The UOC Program will coordinate the operator exchange between two participating facilities. The Operator Exchange Program will require each participating system to designate two upper level operators for review and approval by the UOC, one as the “exchange” operator and one as the “host”. All operators that are designated and agree to participate will have to meet the qualifications set by the UOC Program to be eligible for the exchange. Once the operator is approved by the UOC Program the operator will be matched with another participating system of equal classification. A list of operator qualifications will include items such as: operator must have a valid and current certification, the operator must meet the minimum years of experience, a short work history from the operator’s supervisor, and an operator must have supervisory experience.

For more information please visit the UOC Program website at: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqgb/UOCP/index.html>



OPERATOR CERTIFICATION NEWS

*Mike Coffman, Certification Officer
NMED SWQB Facility Operations Section*

NM ADVISORY BOARD SEEKS NOMINATIONS

The Utility Operator Certification Advisory Board is an important part of the operator certification program. The Board is appointed by the Water Quality Control Commission to advise the Commission and NMED on the administration of the Utility Operators Certification Act.

The Advisory Board seeks nominations of New Mexico certified operators to serve on the Board for three year term beginning July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2013. The Board will be seeking four (4) positions this cycle. The basic requirements for membership are current New Mexico utility operator certification and ability to attend the meetings of the Board. The Board will review all nominations at their meeting in May in Albuquerque, and pass their recommendations on to the Water Quality Control Commission. Contact Mike Coffman with the Operator Certification Program (NMED) at (505) 222-9575, or email Mike Coffman @ mike.coffman@state.nm.us for more information. Get involved in your profession, now is the time.

The next Utility Operators Certification Advisory Board meeting will be held **Thursday January 28, 2010** beginning at **9:00 a.m.**, at the **Hotel Encanto @ 705 Telshor Blvd. Las Cruces, NM 88001.**

REVISED - 2010 - REVISED

UTILITY OPERATOR CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

<i>Application Deadline</i>	<i>Exam Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Training Event</i>
12/30/09*	1/29/10	Las Cruces	NMWWA Annual Short School
2/10/10	3/12/10	Farmington	NMWWA NW Section Workshop
3/10/10	4/8/10	Albuquerque	NMRWA Annual Conference
4/15/10	5/21/10	Espanola	NMWWA Northern Short School
5/19/10	6/18/10	Ruidoso	NMWWA SW Section Workshop
6/16/10	7/16/10	Grants	NMWWA WC Section Workshop
8/18/10	9/17/10	Albuquerque	NMWWA Central Short School
9/15/10	10/15/10	Espanola	NMWWA NE Section Workshop
10/6/10	11/5/10	Albuquerque	NMWWA CT Section Workshop

*Deadline may be extended due to Holiday.

Test Dates, Locations, and Fees are subject to change.

GETTING TO KNOW THE GROUNDWATER RULE



The Groundwater Rule (GWR) for drinking water systems was finalized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in October 2006 and goes into effect on December 1, 2009. The GWR helps to protect people from groundwater that may be at risk of viral and bacterial contamination. The GWR applies to all public water systems that use groundwater as a drinking water source, and is overseen by the New Mexico Environment Department's Drinking Water Bureau (DWB).

The targeted, risk-based strategy of the GWR addresses risks through an approach that relies on four major components. Those components are (1) periodic sanitary surveys (inspections) of water systems that require the evaluation of eight critical elements of a public water system and the identification of significant deficiencies; (2) triggered source water monitoring when a system identifies a positive sample during its Total Coliform Rule; (3) corrective action for any system with a significant deficiency or source water fecal contamination; and (4) for water systems that forgo triggered source water monitoring, compliance monitoring to ensure that treatment technology installed to treat drinking water reliably achieves 99.99 percent (4-log) inactivation and/or removal of viruses.

What is 4-Log Inactivation/Removal of Viruses?

4-log inactivation/removal of viruses means that 99.99% of viruses are inactivated and/or removed before the first customer. Inactivation is normally achieved through the use of a disinfectant (such as chlorine), while removal is achieved through the use of membranes.

Achieving 4-log treatment may or may not be difficult depending on the unique conditions of the water system; i.e. storage time, water temperature, peak flow and chlorine concentration. Inactivation is a function of the disinfectant concentration and the amount of time the water spends in contact with the disinfectant before the first service connection.

Disinfection does not automatically guarantee that a water system is achieving 4-log treatment, so your water system must apply to the DWB to be certified as providing 4-log treatment. Application materials are available on DWB's website at: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/dwb/forms/>. Systems that currently treat to this level and are certified by the NMED DWB will not be required to collect "triggered" source samples, but will instead be required to meet treatment technique monitoring requirements.

What is Triggered Monitoring?

If you do not provide at least 4-log virus inactivation and/or removal for all your groundwater sources before or at the first

customer, you must conduct triggered monitoring if you are notified by your laboratory or the DWB of a total coliform-positive (TC-positive) routine sample collected under the Total Coliform Rule (TCR). This requirement is effective December 1, 2009.

For triggered monitoring, you must collect a source water sample from each well within 24 hours of being notified of a TC-positive sample and have the sample tested for E. coli. Triggered groundwater source samples must be collected before any treatment is applied. If any triggered monitoring sample is E. coli positive, you must collect five additional source water samples from the same source within 24 hours of being notified of the E. coli positive sample. The State may direct you to take corrective action after the first E. coli positive sample.

What are Significant Deficiencies?

Significant deficiencies include, but are not limited to, defects in design, operation, maintenance, or a failure or malfunction of sources, treatment, storage or distribution that the State determines to be causing, or have potential for causing, the introduction of contamination into the water delivered to the consumer.

Significant deficiencies are identified through sanitary surveys and/or site visits by DWB. Water systems with deficiencies have 120 days to correct the significant deficiencies or have a DWB approved corrective action plan in place. Once a significant deficiency has been corrected, the water system must provide proof of the correction (i.e., a photograph of the correction) to DWB.

What are the Corrective Action Options?

Water systems that must take corrective action, either due to an E. coli positive triggered source water sample or due to the identification of a significant deficiency, must perform one of the following corrective actions:

- 1) Correct all significant deficiencies;
- 2) Provide an alternate source of water;
- 3) Eliminate the source of contamination; or
- 4) Provide treatment that reliably achieves 99.99% (4-log) inactivation and/or removal of viruses.

These are the only corrective actions a water system can take to remedy a significant deficiency or address an E. coli positive source water sample. If the DWB does not require a specific corrective action, water systems have 30 days to consult with the DWB to determine the appropriate corrective action.

For more information on the GWR, please visit DWB's website at: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/dwb/regulations/GWR.htm>. Or contact the DWB at (505) 476-8620.

UPDATES FROM THE SCIENTIFIC LABORATORY DIVISION

ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING AFFECTED BY FURLOUGHS

The Scientific Laboratory Division will be closed the following dates due to mandatory furloughs.

- Friday, January 15, 2010
- Friday, March 5, 2010
- Friday, April 2, 2010
- Friday, May 28, 2010



We understand that this may affect sample collection schedules. Please contact the appropriate testing sections for information on sample receipt and testing. This is especially important if the samples have short hold times (7 days or less). Contact information can be found on our website <http://www.sld.state.nm.us> or by calling our main number at 505-841-2500.

We apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for your consideration.

SCIENTIFIC LABORATORY DIVISION MOVING SOON!

Scientific Laboratory Division will be moving from its current location to 1101 Camino de Salud, NE. in mid-Spring. (The actual move dates were not defined as of this newsletter's deadline.) The actual dates of the move and any subsequent down-time due to the move will be distributed as it becomes known.

This state-of-the-art building located off of I-25 frontage road (just south of Indian School) will not only allow SLD to continue to serve the citizens of New Mexico for the future, but will also allow for easier access for samplers to deliver samples.

SLD NEWSLETTER

The Scientific Laboratory initiated an electronic newsletter in Fall 2008. You can link to that newsletter from the main SLD website <http://www.sld.state.nm.us>. You will find copies of all the past newsletters on the website or you can link directly to the current edition right here: <http://www.sld.state.nm.us/documents/SLD2009Winter.pdf>.

You can check out an article from the current SLD Newsletter - **When is a Great Sample NOT Good Enough** - on Page 11 of *this* newsletter.



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PLEASE HELP! POST THIS NEWSLETTER

If you are reading this newsletter you must be on our electronic mailing list. Congratulations! But are your fellow work mates keeping informed?

Due to ever more scarce funding, our only means of distribution these days is electronic. Please help us spread the word about training events and other matters to New Mexico's public works community. ***Please share this newsletter.***

If you are in a supervisory position, please, at the very least, post a copy of the "Training Calendar" and the "Utility Operator Certification Examination Schedule" on your plant bulletin board. If you're not the supervisor, please talk to whoever is in charge and help get copies of the newsletter posted at your plant.

We are hoping to gather current e-mail addresses for *all* of New Mexico's operators. But we need your help in the effort. We realize that not everyone has an e-mail address, but at the very least we need some form of electronic contact with your plant personnel.

Take an informal survey of your operators and find out who is and who is not getting the newsletter. On page 10 you will find a simple form that you can print out, circulate around the plant, and send back to me. I'm Nancy Gott, the Editor of this newsletter. Once I get the input from you, I will enter those e-mail addresses into the "NM Water Utilities Newsletter" database. The *only* purpose for this database is to keep NM municipalities and operators informed of training and matters of interest to the public works community. We'll *never* sell your e-mail address or share it with persons that are not involved with operator training.

Right now we are only reaching about one-third of our former circulation and we don't want a single operator to miss out on needed training due to lack of information. You have my thanks in advance for your help.

MORE ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Check out the on-line version of "Treatment Plant Operator Magazine – Dedicated to Municipal Wastewater Professionals". It has lots of helpful links to other operator oriented magazines as well as numerous resources.

<http://www.tpomag.com/>

2010 NEW MEXICO TRAINING CALENDAR 2010

JANUARY

RAGSDALE & ASSOCIATES TRAINING SPECIALISTS, LLC – 3-DAY BASIC WATER CERTIFICATION

DATES: January 12-14, 2010; Tuesday through Thursday

TIMES: 8 to 5 each day

LOCATION: Moriarty, Civic Center, 202 Broadway

CREDITS: 21 hours

REGISTRATION: Free, Pre-registration required

Eligible for the Expense Reimbursement Program

CONTACT: Kat Ragsdale, 505-293-4658 or

www.ragsdaleandassociates.com

NMRWA TRAINING

– WATER OPERATOR CERTIFICATION REFRESHER

TOPICS: basic water chemistry; rules & regs; flow calculations; distribution systems; safety & security

DATE: January 12, 2010; Tuesday

TIMES: 7:30 to 4:30 CREDITS: 7 hours

– GROUND WATER RULE

TOPICS: Ground Water Rule overview, wells & watershed protection, disinfection CT calculations, sanitary surveys

DATE: January 13, 2010; Wednesday

TIMES: 7:30 to 4:30 CREDITS: 7 hours

– WATER SYSTEM MATH (1/2 DAY)

TOPICS: Math fundamentals; conversions & water calculations; dosages & chemical feeds

DATES: January 14, 2010; Thursday

TIMES: 7:30 to Noon CREDITS: 4 hours

– DISINFECTION & DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS (1/2 DAY)

TOPICS: Disinfection history, disinfection by-products, system optimization & maintenance

DATES: January 14, 2010; Thursday

TIMES: 12:30 to 4:45 CREDITS: 4 hours

LOCATION: Portales, Eastern New Mexico University, 17th St. & South Ave. K

REGISTRATION: Free, Pre-registration required. Bring your own calculator and a copy of the NM Water Systems Operator Certification Study Guide.

Eligible for the Expense Reimbursement Program

CONTACT: Susanne Lischer at 800-819-9893, susanne@nmrwa.org

ON-LINE REGISTRATION: www.nmrwa.org/registration.php

NMRWA TRAINING – WATER OPERATOR CERTIFICATION FUNDAMENTALS

TOPICS: Certification Program facts; basic water chemistry; sampling & reporting; disinfection/chlorination; math - conversions/formulas; safety; distribution systems design & quality control; pumps, motors, & mechanical systems; wells; math areas & volumes, flow calculations, Cl₂ dosage formulas; successful studying, test taking, & practice exams

NEWSLETTER DIRECTORY OF CONTACTS

Water Utilities Technical Assistance Program
Gott Consulting Services (WUTAP GCS)
Nancy Gott, Editor 505-466-8813
41 Calle Peligroso FAX 505-466-8813
Santa Fe, NM 87505 wutap.gcs@q.com

NM Environment Department, Certification
& Training Office,
NM Utility Operator Certification Advisory Board
Mike Coffman 505-222-9575
P.O. Box 5469 FAX 505-827-0160
Santa Fe, NM 87502
www.nmenv.state.nm.us.swqb/FOT/index.html

DATES: January 19-21, 2010; Tuesday through Thursday

TIMES: 7:30 to 4:30 each day

LOCATION: Anthony, Water & Sanitation District
Multipurpose Bldg, 1155 N 4th St.

CREDITS: 21 hours

REGISTRATION: Free, Pre-registration required. Bring your own calculator and a copy of the NM Water Systems Operator Certification Study Guide.

Eligible for the Expense Reimbursement Program

CONTACT: Susanne Lischer at 800-819-9893, susanne@nmrwa.org

ON-LINE REGISTRATION: www.nmrwa.org/registration.php

NMWWA 54TH ANNUAL SCHOOL

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

DATES: January 25-28, 2010; Monday through Thursday

TIMES: 8 to 5 each day

LOCATION: Las Cruces, Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces, 705 Telshor Blvd.

REGISTRATION: \$250 for members, \$300 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 29, 8 to 2:30.

Submit your test application by Dec. 31st at the latest.

NMRWA TRAINING

– BASIC OF DISINFECTION

TOPICS: Disinfection concepts, history & safety; SDWA development & DBP rules; dosage calculations, CT definitions & calculations; disinfection by-products; system optimization & maintenance

DATES: January 26, 2010; Tuesday

TIMES: 7:30 to 4:30

CREDITS: 7 hours

2010 NEW MEXICO TRAINING CALENDAR 2010

– GROUND WATER RULE

TOPICS: (see January 13, 2010 for details)

DATES: January 27, 2010; Wednesday

TIMES: 7:30 to 4:30 CREDITS: 7 hours

– DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS

TOPICS: fundamentals, maintenance & repairs, flushing & water quality maintenance, distribution system math

DATES: January 28, 2010; Thursday

TIMES: 7:30 to 4:30 CREDITS: 7 hours

LOCATION: Gallup, City Council Chambers, 110 West Aztec

REGISTRATION: Free, Pre-registration required.

Eligible for the Expense Reimbursement Program

CONTACT: Susanne Lischer at 800-819-9893, susanne@nmrwa.org

ON-LINE REGISTRATION: www.nmrwa.org/registration.php

FEBRUARY

NM ROADRUNNER PRE-TREATMENT ASSOCIATION

TOPICS: sources of pollution, sampling & protocol, EPA methods, types of discharges to collection systems, sample results analysis, NPDES permit requirements

DATES: February 5, 2010; Friday

TIMES: 9 to 3

LOCATION: Los Lunas, City Transportation Center

CREDITS: 5 hours

REGISTRATION: Free (call for details)

CONTACT: Benjamin Zimmerman, 505-873-7058 or Sarah Holcomb, 505-222-9587

NMRWA TRAINING –WATER OPERATOR CERTIFICATION FUNDAMENTALS

TOPICS: Certification Program facts; basic water chemistry; sampling & reporting; disinfection/chlorination; math - conversions/formulas; safety; distribution systems design & quality control; pumps, motors, & mechanical systems; wells; math areas & volumes, flow calculations, Cl2 dosage formulas; successful studying, test taking, & practice exams

DATES: February 9-11, 2010; Tuesday through Thursday

TIMES: 7:30 to 4:30 each day

LOCATION: Hobbs, NM Jr.

College Training & Outreach Center, Rm. 102; 4000 W Millen Dr.

CREDITS: 21 hours

REGISTRATION: Free, Pre-registration required.

Eligible for the Expense Reimbursement Program

CONTACT: Susanne Lischer at 800-819-9893,

susanne@nmrwa.org

NMRWA TRAINING –WATER OPERATOR CERTIFICATION FUNDAMENTALS

TOPICS: Certification Program facts; basic water chemistry; sampling & reporting; disinfection/chlorination; math - conversions/formulas; safety; distribution systems design & quality control; pumps, motors, & mechanical systems; wells; math areas & volumes, flow calculations, Cl2 dosage formulas; successful studying, test taking, & practice exams

DATES: February 16-18, 2010; Tuesday through Thursday

TIMES: 7:30 to 4:30 each day

LOCATION: Socorro, County Annex Building

CREDITS: 21 hours

REGISTRATION: Free, Pre-registration required.

Eligible for the Expense Reimbursement Program

CONTACT: Susanne Lischer at 800-819-9893, susanne@nmrwa.org

ON-LINE REGISTRATION: www.nmrwa.org/registration.php

RAGSDALE & ASSOCIATES TRAINING SPECIALISTS, LLC – 3-DAY BASIC WATER CERTIFICATION

DATES: February 16-18, 2010; Tuesday through Thursday

TIMES: 8 to 5 each day

LOCATION: Carlsbad, NMSU Carlsbad, 1500 University Dr.

CREDITS: 21 hours

REGISTRATION: Free, Pre-registration required

Eligible for the Expense Reimbursement Program

CONTACT: Kat Ragsdale, 505-293-4658 or

www.ragsdaleandassociates.com

NMRWA TRAINING

–WATER OPERATOR CERTIFICATION REFRESHER

TOPICS: (see January 12, 2010 for details)

DATE: February 23, 2010; Tuesday

TIMES: 7:30 to 4:30 CREDITS: 7 hours

– GROUND WATER RULE

TOPICS: (see January 13, 2010 for details)

DATE: February 24, 2010; Wednesday

TIMES: 7:30 to 4:30 CREDITS: 7 hours

– WATER SYSTEM MATH (1/2 DAY)

TOPICS: (see January 14)

DATES: February 25, 2010; Thursday

TIMES: 7:30 to Noon

CREDITS: 4 hours

–WATER SYSTEM SECURITY

TOPICS: Security regs. & background; NMED Emergency Response Plans & other security issues; USEPA Emergency Response Plan; water system awareness; preservation of evidence; distribution systems, backflow

Please Note: You are encouraged to bring your own copy of the “NM Water Systems Operator Certification Study Guide” or “NM Water Sampling Certification Study Guide” to all training sessions. This allows you to keep your personal training notes, etc. in one place. All study guides are available for download from the NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau - Utility Operator Certification Program website under *UOCP Essentials:* www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/fot/index.html

2010 NEW MEXICO TRAINING CALENDAR 2010

& back siphonage protection

DATES: February 25, 2008; Thursday

TIMES: 12:30 to 4:45

CREDITS: 4 hours

LOCATION: Alamogordo, Civic Center, 800 East 1st St.

REGISTRATION: Free, Pre-Registration required.

Bring your own calculator and a copy of the NM Water Systems Operator Certification Study Guide.

Eligible for the Expense Reimbursement Program

CONTACT: Susanne Lischer at 800-819-9893, susanne@nmrwa.org

ON-LINE REGISTRATION: www.nmrwa.org/registration.php

RAGSDALE & ASSOCIATES TRAINING SPECIALISTS, LLC – 2-DAY SDWA GROUND WATER RULE, SAMPLING & DISINFECTION

DATES: February 24-25, 2010; Wednesday & Thursday

TIMES: 8 to 5 each day

LOCATION: Farmington, Civic Center, 200 W Arrington St

CREDITS: 14 hours

REGISTRATION: Free, Pre-registration required

Eligible for the Expense Reimbursement Program

CONTACT: Kat Ragsdale, 505-293-4658 or

www.ragsdaleandassociates.com

MARCH

NMRWA TRAINING – WATER OPERATOR CERTIFICATION FUNDAMENTALS

TOPICS: Certification Program facts; basic water chemistry; sampling & reporting; disinfection/chlorination; math - conversions/formulas; safety; distribution systems design & quality control; pumps, motors, & mechanical systems; wells; math areas & volumes, flow calculations, Cl₂ dosage formulas; successful studying, test taking, & practice exams

DATES: March 2-4, 2010; Tuesday through Thursday

TIMES: 7:30 to 4:30 each day

LOCATION: Artesia, Wastewater Treatment Plant, 1702 N Haldeman Rd.

CREDITS: 21 hours

REGISTRATION: Free, Pre-registration required. Bring your own calculator and a copy of the NM Water Systems Operator Certification Study Guide.

Eligible for the Expense Reimbursement Program

CONTACT: Susanne Lischer at 800-819-9893, susanne@nmrwa.org

ON-LINE REGISTRATION:

www.nmrwa.org/registration.php

WUTAP GCS, LLC — BASIC & ADVANCED WASTEWATER

TOPICS: Wastewater characteristics; ponds; basic wastewater math; solids processing; collections; lift station troubleshooting; advanced fixed media; BOD methodology; activated sludge process control & math; and microscopic examination at the Socorro WWTP

DATE: March 3-4, Wednesday & Thursday

TIMES: 8-5, both days

LOCATION: Socorro, Socorro Public Library, 401 Park St. (3 blocks south of the plaza)

REGISTRATION: \$100 for both days, \$55 for one day.

Advanced registration is required

CREDITS: 14 hours

CONTACT: WUTAP GCS, 505-466-8813, or wutap.gcs@q.com

NMWWA NORTHWEST SECTION -

JOHN ALLISON MEMORIAL WORKSHOP

TOPICS: Levels 1 – 2, Basic water & wastewater

DATE: March 10-11, 2010; Wednesday & Thursday

TIMES: 8 to 5 each day

LOCATION: Farmington, McGee Park, 41 Road 5568, Bloomfield Hwy - Bldg #1

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

Advanced registration is requested

CREDITS: 13 hours

CONTACT: Eric Hall, 505-334-8684

NMED EXAM: March 12, 8 to 2:30.

Submit your test application by February 10th at the latest.

NMRWA TRAINING

– BASIC OF DISINFECTION

TOPICS: Disinfection concepts, history & safety; SDWA development & DBP rules; dosage calculations, CT definitions & calculations; disinfection by-products; system optimization & maintenance

DATE: March 16, 2010; Tuesday

TIMES: 7:30 to 4:30

CREDITS: 7 hours

– GROUND WATER RULE

TOPICS: Ground Water Rule overview, wells & watershed protection, disinfection CT calculations, sanitary surveys

DATE: March 17, 2010; Wednesday

TIMES: 7:30 to 4:30

CREDITS: 7 hours

– WATER OPERATOR CERTIFICATION REFRESHER

TOPICS: basic water chemistry; rules & regs; flow calculations; distribution systems; safety & security

DATE: March 18, 2010; Thursday

TIMES: 7:30 to 4:30 CREDITS: 7 hours

LOCATION: Santa Rosa, City Hall, 244 South 4th St.

You can find previous editions of this newsletter at
www.nmwwa.org
and
www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/FOT/index.html

2010 NEW MEXICO TRAINING CALENDAR 2010

REGISTRATION: Free, Pre-registration required. Bring your own calculator and a copy of the NM Water Systems Operator Certification Study Guide.

Eligible for the Expense Reimbursement Program

CONTACT: Susanne Lischer at 800-819-9893, susanne@nmrwa.org

ON-LINE REGISTRATION: www.nmrwa.org/registration.php

RAGSDALE & ASSOCIATES TRAINING SPECIALISTS, LLC – 3-DAY BASIC WATER CERTIFICATION

DATES: March 23-25, 2010; Tuesday through Thursday

TIMES: 8 to 5 each day

LOCATION: Tucumcari, Convention Center, 1500 W. Rt. 66 Blvd.

CREDITS: 21 hours

REGISTRATION: Free, Pre-registration required

Eligible for the Expense Reimbursement Program

CONTACT: Kat Ragsdale, 505-293-4658 or

www.ragsdaleandassociates.com

RAGSDALE & ASSOCIATES TRAINING SPECIALISTS, LLC – 2-DAY PUMPS O&M AND WELLS O&M

DATES: March 29-30, 2010; Monday & Tuesday

TIMES: 8 to 5 each day

LOCATION: Farmington, Civic Center, 200 W Arrington St

CREDITS: 14 hours

REGISTRATION: Free, Pre-registration required

Eligible for the Expense Reimbursement Program

CONTACT: Kat Ragsdale, 505-293-4658 or

www.ragsdaleandassociates.com

APRIL

RAGSDALE & ASSOCIATES TRAINING SPECIALISTS, LLC – 2-DAY SDWA GROUND WATER RULE, SAMPLING & DISINFECTION

DATES: April 1-2, 2010; Thursday & Friday

TIMES: 8 to 5 each day

LOCATION: Las Cruces, Dona Ana County Bldg., 845 Motel Blvd.

CREDITS: 14 hours

REGISTRATION: Free, Pre-registration required

Eligible for the Expense Reimbursement Program

CONTACT: Kat Ragsdale, 505-293-4658 or

www.ragsdaleandassociates.com

YOU CAN HELP US STAY IN TOUCH

Please share this newsletter with your colleagues. We need a current e-address for every water & wastewater facility, and every operator in New Mexico. See Page 10 to find out how.

NMRWA 32ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

TOPICS: Provides water and wastewater professionals the opportunity of learn about new trends, services, and industry products while networking with their peers.

DATES: April 5-7, Monday to Wednesday

TIMES: 8 to 5 each day

LOCATION: Albuquerque, Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town, 800 Rio Grande Blvd.

REGISTRATION: Full Registration - \$200 for members, \$300 for non-members; Single Day Registration \$85 for members, \$125 for non-members; Early Bird registration discounts available to NMRWA members if PAID IN FULL by 3/5/10; 800-819-9893. Form available at <http://www.nmrwa.org/2010conference/2010ConferenceRegistration.pdf>

CREDITS: 18 hours

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

NMED EXAM: April 8, 2010, 8 to 2:30. Submit your test application by March 10th at the latest.

RAGSDALE & ASSOCIATES TRAINING SPECIALISTS, LLC – 3-DAY BASIC WATER CERTIFICATION

DATES: April 13-15, 2010; Tuesday through Thursday

TIMES: 8 to 5 each day

LOCATION: Silver City, WNMU, 100 W. College St.

CREDITS: 21 hours

REGISTRATION: Free, Pre-registration required

Eligible for the Expense Reimbursement Program

CONTACT: Kat Ragsdale, 505-293-4658 or

www.ragsdaleandassociates.com

RAGSDALE & ASSOCIATES TRAINING SPECIALISTS, LLC – 2-DAY PUMPS O&M AND WELLS O&M

DATES: April 26-27, 2010; Monday & Tuesday

TIMES: 8 to 5 each day

LOCATION: Alamogordo, Civic Center, 800 First St.

CREDITS: 14 hours

REGISTRATION: Free, Pre-registration required

Eligible for the Expense Reimbursement Program

CONTACT: Kat Ragsdale, 505-293-4658 or

www.ragsdaleandassociates.com

RAGSDALE & ASSOCIATES TRAINING SPECIALISTS, LLC – 2-DAY PUMPS O&M AND WELLS O&M

DATES: April 29-30, 2010; Thursday & Friday

TIMES: 8 to 5 each day

LOCATION: Clovis Community College, 417 Schepps Blvd.

CREDITS: 14 hours

REGISTRATION: Free, Pre-registration required

Eligible for the Expense Reimbursement Program

CONTACT: Kat Ragsdale, 505-293-4658 or

www.ragsdaleandassociates.com

2010 NEW MEXICO TRAINING CALENDAR 2010

MAY

RAGSDALE & ASSOCIATES TRAINING SPECIALISTS, LLC – 2-DAY PUMPS O&M AND WELLS O&M

DATES: May 4-5, 2010; Tuesday & Wednesday

TIMES: 8 to 5 each day

LOCATION: Chamita, Community Center, County Road 56,
House 42

CREDITS: 14 hours

REGISTRATION: Free, Pre-registration required

Eligible for the Expense Reimbursement Program

CONTACT: Kat Ragsdale, 505-293-4658 or

www.ragsdaleandassociates.com

NMWWA NORTHERN SCHOOL

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

DATES: May 17-20, 2009; Mon. to Thurs.

TIMES: 8 to 5 each day

LOCATION: Espanola, Ohkay Casino & Resort Convention
Center

Hwy 68, 1 mile north of Espanola

REGISTRATION: \$250 for members, \$300 for non-members.

Advance registration is required for all classes.

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

FAX 505-753-9810; www.nmwwa.org

CREDITS: 26 hours

NMED EXAM: May 21, 8 to 2:30. Submit your test appli-
cation by April 15th at the latest.

JUNE

RAGSDALE & ASSOCIATES TRAINING SPECIALISTS, LLC – 3-DAY BASIC WATER CERTIFICATION

DATES: June 7-9, 2010; Monday-Wednesday

TIMES: 8 to 5 each day

LOCATION: Raton, Convention Center, 901 S. 3rd St.

CREDITS: 21 hours

REGISTRATION: Free, Pre-registration required

Eligible for the Expense Reimbursement Program

CONTACT: Kat Ragsdale, 505-293-4658 or

www.ragsdaleandassociates.com

NMWWA SOUTHWEST SECTION -

JAKE HANDS MEMORIAL WORKSHOP

TOPICS: Levels 1 & 2, Basic Water & Wastewater

DATE: June 16-17, 2010; Wednesday & Thursday

TIMES: 8 to 5, both days

LOCATION: Ruidoso, Inn of the Mt. Gods,

287 Carrizozo Canyon

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

Advanced registration is requested.

CREDITS: 13 hours

CONTACT: Raymond Parson, 575-644-9874

NMED EXAM: June 18, 8 to 2:30.

Submit your test application by May 19th at the latest.

JULY

NMWWA WEST CENTRAL SECTION WORKSHOP

TOPICS: Levels 1 & 2, Basic Water & Wastewater

DATE: July 14-15, 2010; Wednesday & Thursday

TIMES: 8 to 5, each day

LOCATION: Gants, Future Foundation Family Center, 551
Washington Ave.

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

Advanced registration is requested.

CREDITS: 13 hours

CONTACT: Edward Salazar, 505-887-2908

NMED EXAM: July 16, 8 to 2:30.

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

AUGUST

NMWWA SOUTHEAST SECTION WORKSHOP

TOPICS: Levels 1 & 2, Basic Water & Wastewater

DATE: August 4-5, 2010; 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: Debbie Edwards, 575-885-6313

SEPTEMBER

NMWWA CENTRAL SCHOOL

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

DATES: September 13-16, 2010; Monday through Thursday

TIMES: 8 to 5 each day

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

REGISTRATION: \$250 for members, \$300 for non-members.

Advanced registration is required

CREDITS: 26 hours

CONTACT: Caroline Martinez, 505-753-8840,

FAX 505-753-9810; www.nmwwa.org

NMED EXAM: September 17, 8 to 2:30.

Submit your test application by August 18th at the latest.

2010 NEW MEXICO TRAINING CALENDAR 2010

OCTOBER

NMWWA NORTHEAST SECTION WORKSHOP

TOPICS: Levels 1 – 2, Basic water & wastewater
DATE: October 13-14, 2010; Wednesday & Thursday
TIMES: 8 to 5 each day
LOCATION: Espanola, National Guard Armory, Industrial Park
REGISTRATION: \$80, members; \$100, non-members
Advanced registration is requested
CREDITS: 13 hours
CONTACT: Jake Martinez, 505-753-9606, or 505-470-7072
NMED EXAM: October 15, 8 to 2:30.
Submit your test application by Sept. 15th at the latest.

NOVEMBER

NMWWA CENTRAL SECTION WORKSHOP

TOPICS: Levels 1 & 2, Basic Water & Wastewater
DATE: November 3-4, 2010; 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: Dave Thomas, 505-681-1121
NMED EXAM: November 5, 8 to 2:30.
Submit your test application by October 6th at the latest.

ON-GOING TRAINING

GOTT CONSULTING SERVICES

SERVICES: On-site training and technical assistance for private, municipal, and on-site wastewater and water operations, on-line instruction and development
CONTACT: Robert & Nancy Gott 505-466-8813
e-mail: Gott_ConsultingServices@q.com

MEC TECH SERVICES

SERVICES: On-site training, technical support, on-site laboratory services
CONTACT: Nicole Mangin, 505-459-6832; Fax 505-891-4578
www.mectechservices.com
e-mail: nicole@mectechservices.com

RAGSDALE & ASSOCIATES TRAINING SPECIALISTS, LLC

SERVICES: on-site training, plant start-ups, O&M trouble shooting, technical assistance
CONTACT: Fred Ragsdale, 505-293-4658;
e-mail: fredragsdale@comcast.net

NM MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SECTION AWWA/WEA
DATES: 4th Thursday of each month
TIMES: 11:30 AM to 1 PM
LOCATION: Golden Corral, 3401 NM Hwy 528
CONTACT: Kathy Fitch, 505-243-3200

KEEP THE INFORMATION FLOWING

Since this newsletter is only being distributed electronically, we are trying to collect e-mail addresses for all the water & wastewater operators in the State of New Mexico. Because we realize that not every operator has an e-mail address, we also trying to obtain an e-contact for every water & wastewater facility in the state.

Please ask your colleagues if they are still getting the Training Calendar. If they are not, ask them to fill out the following form. It can be returned via e-mail to wutap.gcs@q.com

or via snail-mail to: Nancy Gott, Editor
NM Water Utilities Newsletter
P.O. Box 4192
Santa Fe, NM 87502

To avoid database errors please PRINT clearly. Thank you.

Name: _____
E-Address: _____
Facility Name: _____
Facility E-Address: _____

OPERATOR SPOTLIGHT - ANTHONY GARCIA

NMWWA Northwest Section

Anthony Garcia has worked for the City of Aztec Water & Wastewater Treatment Plants for 13 months. He currently holds a Level IV in both Water & Wastewater. Before he came to the City of Aztec he had 20 years experience as an operator and supervisor for the City of Bloomfield.

Anthony is a go-getter and excels at anything that is asked of him. He is self motivated and has a high knowledge in many different areas. Anthony has lived in Aztec all his life and transferred over to the City of Aztec in Nov. of last year. His hobbies include baseball, softball, volleyball, bowling, fishing, hunting, and any other outdoor activities that he can find time for. Anthony is married and has 3 children who are all grown up now. He has been a great asset to the City of Aztec.



NMWWA MONTHLY SECTION MEETINGS

- Southeast Section
 - ⊕ 1st Wednesday, rotating
 - ☎ Randy Lawson, 575-397-9315
- Southwest Section
 - ⊕ 3rd Wednesday, rotating
 - ☎ Raymond Parson, 575-644-9874
- West Central Section
 - ⊕ 4th Wednesday, Gallup
 - ☎ Edward Salazar, 505-287-2908
- Central Section
 - ⊕ 2nd Tuesday, rotating
 - ☎ Dave Thomas, 505-681-1121
- Northeast Section
 - ⊕ 2nd Monday, rotating
 - ☎ Jake Martinez, 505-470-7072
- Northwest Section
 - ⊕ 1st Thursday, rotating
 - ☎ Eric Hall, 505-334-8684



**New Mexico
Water & Wastewater
Association**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The year has come and gone as has my Presidency. I wish to thank the Executive Board, the Section Officers, the members, and the many others involved in the activities and functions of the Association. A special "thank you" goes out to Caroline Martinez, our Executive Manager.

I am happy to report that the Association has achieved most of my goals to include becoming financially sound and establishing a Reserve Fund. The Fund has enabled the Association to develop and implement a Marketing Program which provides information to many of Municipalities and

organizations which employ operators in an effort to gain visibility for the Association.

Additionally, the Fund will be used as "seed" money to develop and provide other types of training similar to the one- or two-day specialized training provided by some of the Sections. These specialized trainings would enable the Association to free-up space at the short-schools and Sections Workshops for entry or lower level operators, while allowing for advanced or "outside-the-box" training for upper levels operators and other non-traditional participants.

Finally, I would like to encourage the entire membership to become active in their respective Sections and the Association as a whole. We as the members need to ensure the professionalism of our Association continues and only through our dedication it be achieved.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve and ask you to continue supporting our Association!

Martin G. Lopez
2009 President, NMWWA

When is a Great Sample NOT Good Enough

By Twila Kunde, MPH, MBA
Laboratory Deputy Director
And Gary Oty, M.S., Supervisor,
Quality, Safety, Security, and
Emergency Preparedness
Office

Samples and their subsequent results are the lifeblood of our laboratory. Unfortunately, the results are dependent on more than just the sample. There is nothing more frustrating for the laboratory and the submitter than to have a sample rejected because it is not transported properly, it is too old, or the request form is not completed properly!

What happens to the specimen before it is received at SLD is important to the testing process. How the sample is shipped and the amount of time between collection and testing is mandated by the test method or testing kit product insert, neither of which can be deviated from. Compliance with these requirements is intensely reviewed during our regulatory inspections (CLIA, US EPA, USDA, ABFT, Select Agent and Toxins) as well as inspections of our shipping and handling procedures (DOT and FAA).

If the sample is not shipped at the correct temperature (room temperature, cold, or frozen), the sample integrity can be compromised resulting in the sample being rejected. Please note that you may have packaged the sample correctly, but if it does not arrive at SLD in that condition, it is not considered an appropriate sample. For example, if a sample is to be shipped on dry ice, but the dry ice has dissipated by the time it arrives at SLD, the sample has



not been kept frozen until arrival. If the sample is not packaged appropriately, not only can the sample integrity be compromised, but the safety of the shipping personnel may be jeopardized. This could result in the sample being rejected, and the *shipper* being fined up to \$500,000 and potential jail time.

It is important to be familiar with the holding times for the various tests offered at SLD. While many samples are delivered early in the morning, some deliveries occur in the afternoon—this takes valuable holding time and may not allow enough time for the sample to be set up for analysis. While we know the normal delivery times, there may be circumstances that delay delivery such as weather or traffic delays. These delays may push the sample past the hold time, resulting in the sample being rejected.

Another consideration is SLD's need to batch samples due to reagent costs or workload requirements. We are constantly evaluating our testing processes in order to deliver the highest quality results cost effectively. We look at costs, sample workload, batch capacity, instrument capacity and staffing availability. Some methods require sample preparation steps, such as extractions, before testing. All of these considerations determine if samples

are set up throughout the day, once a day, or only a couple times per week. While we make every effort to test each sample, it may not be feasible if a sample comes in near the end of its hold time. If you have any questions about the test procedures, processes, or timing, you are

encouraged to contact the testing section. They would be happy to give you the information that you require.



Finally, the sample request form, whether it is for biological, chemical or toxicological testing, is considered a legal document. SLD staff can not make corrections without express instruction of the submitter. The various regulatory agencies allow different methods of correction. For example, CLIA requires that the submitter send a corrected request form, while EPA allows a correction with a corroborating email that expressly states what needs to be corrected. Waiting for the corrected form can potentially delay testing or results. However, if the form is not correct, the test is cancelled.

A reliable test result is the culmination of a sample that has been properly collected, documented/requested and shipped within its hold time. The staff at SLD strive to give you the best possible results, but they need your help! If you have any questions at any stage of the process, please do not hesitate to contact the testing section. We're happy to help!

Top photo: the 7/2009 updated SLD requisition form. Middle photo: Specimen Receiving staff member, Carmen Griego, accesses samples and enters submitter information into the LIMS. Bottom photo: SR staff member, Bruce Casias, verifies patient information and sample identification.

Photos by Twila Kunde