

ATTAC NEWS

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Alaska Training/Technical Assistance Center

Issue 2, October, 2001

In This Issue

- ▶ *New Regulations for Small Systems*
- ▶ *Upcoming Events*
- ▶ *AWWMA SE Conference Success*
- ▶ *The Drinking Water Academy*
- ▶ *Rural High School Poster and Essay Contest*
- ▶ *Training Calendar*
- ▶ *ATTAC Services*
- ▶ *Free Publications*
- ▶ *Training and Technical Assistance*



A T T A C

Serving small public water systems in Alaska

New Regulations for Small Systems

Revisions to the Operator Certification regulations became law on January 18, 2001. As of that date, all Class A public water systems *regardless of size* are required to have a certified operator. This also applies to those Class B systems using surface water or groundwater under direct influence of surface water (GWUDISW). A small water system is defined as a water system serving less than 500 people per day and having less than 100 service connections.

A certified operator must meet specific requirements set by the state. Certification for small system operators will be given two classifications: small treated and small untreated. Small untreated systems do not add chemicals to the water. Included in this category are systems that use passive water treatment methods. Examples of passive water treatment are cartridge filtration, ion exchange softening, and UV disinfection. Those systems that add a single chemical will be classified as small treated systems.

A Well Owner's Guide and certification exams for small untreated systems have been developed. ATTAC is currently providing on-site visits for operators wishing to take the small untreated certification exam. This 25 question multiple choice exam is site specific and based on the Well Owner's Guide. Operators also have the option of attending a four-hour training course with a 50 question multiple choice exam available after the course for non-site-specific certification. Operators wishing to obtain non-site specific certification must attend one of the four-hour training courses (see course listings under Upcoming Events).

Operators passing the on-site 25 question exam will be certified to act as the supervising operator of ONLY that system. Operators passing the 50 question exam will be certified to act as the supervising operator of any small untreated system.

For more information or to arrange an on-site visit, please contact ATTAC toll free at (888) 750-3823. Training materials and exams are now being developed for the small treated system classification.



Upcoming Events

AWWMA Northern Region Conference
Fairbanks, December 5-7



Water/Wastewater Operator Math
Anchorage, December 6-7



Training and Certification for Small
Untreated Groundwater System
Owners/Operators
Fairbanks, December 6



Training and Certification for Small
Untreated Groundwater System
Owners/Operators
Anchorage, December 11



17th Annual AWWMA SE Training Conference A Success

The AWWMA SE Region Conference September 26-28 in Sitka was a great success! We had eighty participants from throughout SE Alaska in attendance. Many commented that it was the best conference they had attended in years.

The three-day conference offered participants a variety of "hands-on" labs and lecture classes. Some of the classes included Basics of Electricity, EXCEL Spreadsheets, Operating Characteristics and Rebuilding Electrical Motors, Hot Tapping of Water Mains, GIS Applications in Water and Wastewater, Impact of the New Microbial and Disinfection By-Products Rules, Rebuilding Alaska's Water Permit Program, Operator Math Review and Identifying Microbes Using Genetic Mapping. The special guest speaker was Jamie Bourne with the USEPA Drinking Water Academy (see article below).

Operator of the Year awards were presented to Joseph Smith of Wrangell and James Bellarosa of Ketchikan.



Cross Connection Class with Dan Cox of the City of Sitka

The Drinking Water Academy

Jamie Bourne with the USEPA Drinking Water Academy (DWA) was the guest speaker for the AWWMA SE Conference. Mr. Bourne gave an overview of the DWA and discussed how southeast communities could benefit from it.

Established by the USEPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, the DWA was formed to help EPA, States, and Indian Tribes enhance program capability to meet the public health protection objectives of the SDWA requirements. Training offered by the DWA promotes better compliance and encourages greater public health protection. In addition to providing classroom and Web-based training, the DWA will act as a resource for training materials pertaining to SDWA implementation. Some training sessions are available "upon demand." Upon request, these training sessions can be scheduled in your area.

To learn more about the DWA visit their web site at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwa.html> or contact Jamie Bourne at (202) 260-5557.



Dates may change!

If you have questions about any of the above classes or would like to register, please contact ATTAC. Classes may be canceled or rescheduled at the discretion of the instructor or if minimum registrations are not met.

Toll free: (888) 750-3823

Email: tnnad@uas.alaska.edu

Drinking Water and Wastewater Poster/Essay Contest

ATTAC is sponsoring the third statewide Drinking Water/Wastewater Poster and Essay Contest for rural Alaska high school students.

The purpose of the contest is to encourage rural high school students to learn more about their community's water and wastewater systems and to develop an appreciation for the role that these systems have in the health and economic well being of the community. It

The statewide winner will receive a one-year tuition scholarship for any branch of the University of Alaska system.

is also designed to foster interest in careers related to water resources and community health.

The contest is designed for high school students (grades 9 through 12) whose permanent residence is a rural Alaska community with a population of less than 5,500. Students will study the drinking water or wastewater systems in their community and prepare for competition a descriptive poster and supporting essay about their system.

Prizes will be awarded. For more information and a copy of the official rules, contact Nicole at (907) 747-7756 or email nicole.duclos@uas.alaska.edu.



Paula Jackson rebuilding a pump during a workshop in False Pass



Sewer Cleaning Demo at the SE Conference with Pat Weiler of Pacific Utility Equipment

Training Calendar

ATTAC in cooperation with ADEC publishes the statewide Training Calendar twice a year (January - June and July - December). Training from various agencies and individuals related to water and wastewater operations, maintenance and management are listed on the calendar.

The calendar is mailed to every certified operator in the state. If you do not currently receive the calendar and would like to, please contact Nicole at (907) 747-7756. It may also be viewed and printed at www.water-alaska.org.

ATTAC Services

ATTAC offers a variety of services:

- Wastewater systems OIT workshops
- Water systems OIT workshops
- Water/wastewater math reviews
- Workshops and preparation for OIT exams
- Sanitary survey training
- Public education presenters and materials
- Educational materials for high school classrooms
- Lending library
- Interactive web page with monthly operator review questions

Please contact us to discuss your training needs.

Free Publications

To receive any of the publications listed below, please call (907) 747-7756.

- Resource Guide to Financial and Technical Assistance for Water and Wastewater Projects
- Getting Sick Stinks (sanitation placard about honeybuckets, hauling water and hand washing)
- Instructional Activities for Community Sanitation (a teacher's resource guide)

ATTAC News

ATTAC News is published quarterly by the Alaska Training/Technical Assistance Center (ATTAC). ATTAC does not necessarily endorse, approve or recommend names, products or other services mentioned.

ATTAC Staff:

Lee Michalsky, Program Director (907) 747-7755
Peter Nathanson, Trainer (907) 747-7713
Nicole Duclos, Program Assistant (907) 747-7756
Paula Jackson
Dan White
Craig Woolard
Andy Holt

Please contact ATTAC if you would like to use any articles in other publications. Credit should be given to ATTAC. For information on contributing or receiving this publication call toll free (888) 750-3823 or email tnnad@uas.alaska.edu.



Training and Technical Assistance For Small Public Water Systems

Safe drinking water is essential to public health. Having properly trained individuals is vital to community sanitation. ATTAC provides training and technical assistance relating to small public water systems. Water, wastewater, utility and sanitary survey workshops are offered throughout the state of Alaska.

ATTAC is one of ten regional centers funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Office of Water. The center in Sitka Alaska is a cooperative effort involving the three major academic units of the University of Alaska; UAS, UAA and UAF. The engineering programs at UAA and UAF are completing the research portion of ATTAC's objectives. These basic objectives are to conduct research on issues relating to rural water supply and treatment.

Dr. Dan White at UAF is addressing disinfection by-product formation and removal in Alaska's small water systems. Dr. Craig Woolard at UAA is carrying out demonstration projects to investigate, under full operating conditions, alternative and innovative drinking water treatment technologies. You can learn more about this research and ATTAC services on our web site at www.water-alaska.org.

ATTAC
University of Alaska Southeast
1332 Seward Ave.
Sitka AK 99835
Toll Free: (888) 750-3823
(907) 747-7756
Fax: (907) 747-7753
www.water-alaska.org