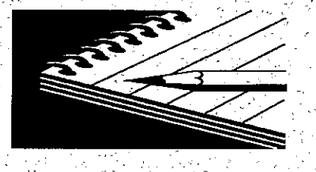


Training Calendar

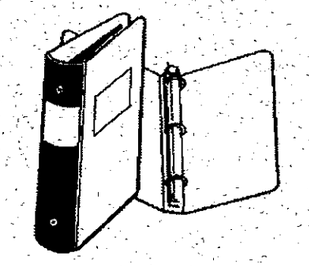
Southeast Massachusetts Drinking Water Fair. June 19, Bourne, MA. Trade show, round table, and technical sessions on the State Revolving Fund (SRF) and Capacity Requirements, Spills and Pump House Safety, Title 5 and Zone IIs, Source Protection Planning, and Bacteria Testing. Earn up to 4 TCHs. Barnstable County Utilities Association and Plymouth County Water Works Association (508) 477-2766.

Backflow Inspectors Certification Course. June 16 - 19, Harrisburg, PA. $500. Contact New England Water Works Association at 508-478-6996 or fax 508-634-8643.

Introduction to Cross Connection Control Surveying. June 23, NEWWA Training Center, Milford, MA. $75 per member, $95 per nonmember. Contact NEWWA at 508-478-6996 or fax 508-634-8643.

Cross Connection Control Surveyor Training and Certification. June 24-26, NEWWA Training Center, Milford, MA. $325 per member, $375 per nonmember. Contact NEWWA at 508-478-6996 or fax 508-634-8643.

Iron and Manganese Removal. June 25, Cambridge, MA. $90 per member, $120 per nonmember. Contact NEWWA at 508-478-6996 or fax 508-634-8643.



In The Main
DEP Drinking Water Program
One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108-4746

Printed on recycled paper

DEP Discourages Cell Antennas on Storage Tanks

Paul S. Niman

With the increasing popularity of cellular telephones, companies which provide mobile service are under pressure to install more antennas to improve their service. Since water storage tanks are commonly located on the highest ground, local water departments are receiving financial offers for allowing antennas to be located on the tanks. These offers, often ranging from $10,000-50,000, are very appealing to water departments which are always looking for funds. However, these offers need to be carefully considered because the risks to the water system can be great.

During recent sanitary surveys, the Drinking Water Program has encountered a number of instances where the installation of antennas on tanks has compromised the public water supplier's ability to deliver fit and pure water in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 111, Section 160. In one instance the antenna was welded to a tank, causing damage to the interior paint lining which resulted in the tank being off-line for repairs for most of the summer. In another instance the antenna installer drilled holes in the tank without any concern for the drinking water contained inside. And in still another case, the installer opened the hatch on top of the tank for no apparent reason and it remained open when he left.

The antenna installer opened the hatch on top of the tank and it remained open when he left

The Drinking Water Program recommends that the PWS not allow antennas to be mounted on water storage tanks. Alternatively, a free-standing tower can be erected on the site of a water storage tank without coming in contact with the tank. If the PWS decides not to follow this recommendation, or if the PWS already has an antennas mounted on a storage tank, access to the tank should not be permitted unless a representative of the PWS is present. DEP will be working on a policy to address these concerns.

In The Main

The Technical Assistance Newsletter for Massachusetts Drinking Water Suppliers • Spring 1997

Charting a New Course for DEP's Drinking Water Program

Following months of intensive work in its offices across the state, Commissioner David Struhs in February announced the realignment of the Department of Environmental Protection's organizational framework, a major step toward making DEP more integrated, more accountable to the cities and towns, businesses, and citizens with whom we work. Setting a course that will yield better and more cost-effective environmental protection, Struhs said the new shape of DEP strengthens coordination and consistency of action between Boston and the regional offices.

For public water suppliers who work closely with DEP, realignment of the Bureau of Resource Protection and its water supply programs will bring, first of all, the service and technical expertise of DEP staff closer to you. By shifting a number of staff from Boston to the regional offices, and by grouping water supply professionals with others working in water-related programs, the Bureau of Resource Protection today is reorganized in teams to plan for the needs of the state's 27 watersheds.

Linking loan and grant funding to watershed priorities, a new Division of Watershed Management within the Bureau is designed to better identify and target significant sources of water pollution and to further protect the quality of water supplies, rivers, streams, ponds, and lakes.

continued on page 2

Basin by Basin, DEP Regions Now Coordinate Action for Watersheds

With a significant relocation of staff from the Boston headquarters to DEP's four regional offices, the Bureau of Resource Protection today is realigned in teams to more efficiently, more cost-effectively manage and protect Massachusetts watersheds.

Northeast Region
•Boston Harbor North/Mystic River •Boston Harbor South/Neponset River
•Charles River •Ipswich River •Merrimack River •North Coastal
•Parker River •Shawsheen River •Suasco

Southeast Region
•South Coastal •Cape Cod •Buzzards Bay
•Ten Mile and Islands •Taunton

Central Region
•Basin West (Millers, Chicopee, French, Quinebaug)
•Basin Central (Blackstone, Nashua)
•Basin East (Merrimack, Assabet, Charles)

Western Region
•Housatonic/Hoosic
•Deerfield/Westfield/Farmington/Western Connecticut
•Chicopee/Millers/Quinebaug/Eastern Connecticut

In This Issue

Board Suspends Operator Licenses

Darren Hersh

The Board of Certification of Operators of Drinking Water Supply Facilities has suspended the licenses of three Massachusetts drinking water supply certified operators for failing to satisfy the Training Contact Hour (TCH) license renewal requirement.

Certified operators are required to renew their licenses every two years. There are two criteria for renewal: Operators must pay a renewal fee and must obtain Training Contact Hours (TCHs). The number of TCHs an operator must accumulate over the two-year period depends on the grade of license held. For instance, a Very Small System (VSS) operator is required to obtain five TCHs, a grade 1 or 2 operator must acquire ten, a grade 3 operator fifteen, and a grade 4 operator twenty. The TCHs must be completed by the end of the two-year cycle.

The Board first introduced the TCH requirement for the renewal period ending December 31, 1995. Operators holding licenses from grades 1 through 4 were required to obtain ten TCHs by that date. VSS and Vending (VND) operators were exempt.

In a random audit of fifty certified operators, the Board found that three operators failed to submit any documentation as evidence that they had fulfilled the TCH requirement. The licenses of these three operators were suspended. Two of the operators surrendered their licenses without dispute; the third license was retrieved by a Board investigator.

The three operators are eligible to have their licenses reinstated by completing ten TCHs by December 31, 1997, as well as the TCH requirement for the current renewal period. If they again fail to meet the deadline, their licenses will be revoked.

Of the other 47 operators audited, several who submitted a portion of the required ten TCHs were granted a brief extension to complete the training time. Two operators sent letters informing the Board that they had retired as drinking water operators. The Board informed each of the retired operators that they could hold an inactive status license and maintain their current license without acquiring TCHs, should they wish to continue to pay the biennial renewal fee. The retired operators also agreed not to act as an employee, directly or indirectly, in the on-site operation of a public water supply.

The majority of operators demonstrated a commitment to the profession

The Board would like to thank the operators who participated in the audit for their cooperation. The majority of operators who complied with the certificate renewal requirements demonstrated a commitment to the drinking water profession and are to be commended. Continuing education provides a means to increase the overall competence of operators in the performance of their duties and keeps them informed of the rapidly changing drinking water laws and regulations. The Board reminds certified operators that current licenses expire December 31, 1997, and the renewal process will begin shortly thereafter.

In The Main

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William F. Weld, Governor
Argeo Paul Cellucci, Lt. Governor

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Trudy Coxe, Secretary

Department of Environmental Protection
David B. Struhs, Commissioner

Bureau of Resource Protection
Arleen O'Donnell, Assistant Commissioner

Division of Watershed Management
Glenn Haas, Director
David Y. Terry, Deputy Director for Drinking Water

Published quarterly by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Watershed Management
Drinking Water Program
One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108
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New Course

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At the same time, the Bureau's new Division of Municipal Services also is being regionalized to deliver services closer to the cities and towns with which these people work. Generally speaking, water supply staff whose work has involved outreach and technical assistance to public water suppliers — such as the highly successful circuit rider program — now will be consolidating their efforts in the regions with other water program staff who work chiefly with municipal officials. With revisions of the regulations governing the State Revolving Fund coming soon, both technical and financial assistance staff within the Division will focus their work on nonpoint pollution sources, water supply protection, and priorities that emerge from five-year plans developed by the watershed teams.

1997 Public Water System Awards

As part of National Drinking Water Week in May, DEP joined with the Massachusetts Water Works Association and the Northeast Rural Water Association to recognize 11 public water suppliers for their efforts in providing the highest quality drinking water to their customers.

Best Overall Community System
Dartmouth Water Department

Most Improved Community System
Stockbridge Water Department

Very Large Community System
Cambridge Water Department

Large Community System, Groundwater Source
Sharon Water Department

Large Community System Surface or Groundwater/Surface Source
Dartmouth Water Division

Consecutive System
Framingham Water Department

Medium Community System, Groundwater Source
Brewster Water Department

Medium Community System, Surface or Groundwater/ SurfaceSystem (tie)

South Hadley Fire District #2
Athol Water Division

Small Community System
West Brookfield Water Department

Very Small Community System
Hardwick Center Water District

Reflections

continued from page 7

passed floor drain regulations and provided inspection services through Jacob Moss and Ron Stelline.

In 1994, when the Division of Water Supply marked its 20th anniversary, we received a state "Pride in Performance" award for the Source Protection Waiver Program. Unfortunately, it was also the year we lost Mary Wheeler, who is dearly missed. The new buzzword was "watershed initiative," an integrated approach to managing and protecting resources among state agencies, local governments and the public. The Neponset River Watershed Pilot Project was launched to set the pace for 27 other river basins statewide. We expanded our circuit rider program to the Blackstone Basin with the help of Central Region's Neil O'Leary, BRP, Bob Higgins, and the late Judy Gibree, who is also missed.

We grew...Tom Lamonte, Nancy Baker, Kristin Mutchler, and Catherine Sarafinas joined our Wellhead Protection Team. Approximately 50 percent of the towns served by groundwater now have zoning protection districts, and our maps are prepared using geographic information system (GIS) computerized programs. Liz Kotowski joined DWS and started taking us on a new bridge, the Internet, where you can access many of our source protection documents.

It's 1997...and you grew! There are now 183 municipalities that have groundwater protection overlay districts, and hundreds of other controls in place. There are numerous regional groups focusing on resource protection. Thirty-five systems (21 municipal, 14 districts) meet our state wellhead protection standards for 155 wells in 37 municipalities. You continue to site nonthreatening land uses in Zone IIs of your public wells.

During the last ten years, several things have remained constant: your continued support and appreciation of our planning assistance, your efforts to get wellhead protection in place, and your advice! We were fortunate to have Dave Terry, all along the path, who offered support and encouragement of "better ways to build the bridge."

It has been a wonderful journey for me! Thank you to all the public water suppliers, commissioners, planners, friends, and colleagues who have made the journey so special. Although Nancy and I will not be doing compliance-based technical assistance in the future, we hope to connect with you as we build a new bridge in the Municipal Assistance unit.

Kudos for Surface Protection Plans

Congratulations to the **West Springfield** and **Rockport** water departments for receiving disinfection log credit under the Surface Water Treatment Rule. These filtered systems developed surface water protection plans that met DEP approval, making them eligible for the cost-saving credit.

If disinfection log credit could help your system — now or in the future — under the Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule, consider updating your protection plan to meet DEP criteria and call your regional contact to discuss your interest.

Source Protection News

Reflections of a Community Technical Assistant

Jude Hutchinson

During the last year, we have been preparing for an agency reorganization. Some of us will embark on a new journey, another bridge to you. Both Nancy Baker and I are joining the Municipal Assistance program in Boston, under John Higgins. Tara Gallagher will continue to manage the Source Protection Program, assisted by Catherine Sarafinas and Kathy Romero. Tom Lamonte is now working in DEP's wastewater program under Mike Rapacz. Ron Stelline continues with UIC/floor drain work. And Kristin Mutchler left for law school.

As I prepare to begin building a new program in Municipal Assistance, I reflect back on my decade of service in the Division of Water Supply. Dave Terry hired me as the "Community Technical Assistant" for groundwater protection in July 1987. I was assigned to assist close to 131 municipalities that depended on groundwater sources for part or all of their water supply.

Aquifer Land Acquisition staff were actively working with 25 towns, and the Water Management Program was in the registration phase. At least 88 municipalities had adopted specific groundwater protection bylaws. "Zone II" was the new term on the map, and overlay maps were done by hand. Our overlays were widely used by many consultants, with the assistance of our budding hydrogeologist, Bruce Bouck.

In 1988, Mary Wheeler joined me and developed the Clean Water Act 604(b) grants program for regional planning agencies. Good planning happened, and with your help, a lot of local protection zoning and health regulations were adopted.

Many regional committees flourished, such as the Mattapoisett River Water Supply Protection Committee ('81), Canoe River Aquifer Advisory Committee('87), and the Barnes River Aquifer Committee. Towns such as Sudbury adopted zoning bylaws that included Interim Wellhead Protection Areas of one-half mile around all their wells. Dennis, Bedford, Westwood, and Littleton developed health regulations for handling of hazardous materials. Foxboro and Falmouth were using innovative measures to control development.

In 1990, after much input from public water suppliers, consultants, planners,

During the last ten years, several things have remained constant: your continued support and appreciation of our planning assistance, your efforts to get wellhead protection in place, and your advice!

and many others, we promulgated state regulations that mandated zoning and non-zoning controls for Zone IIs of all new wells pumping more than 100,000 gallons per day. Your comments helped make these regulations work to your advantage and to our mission. Holden, Hudson and Mashpee were three of the first towns to meet these standards. And Stoughton passed a comprehensive general regulation to control both existing and new land uses in recharge areas of their public supplies.

Nationally, Massachusetts became one of the first 10 states to receive approval for its Wellhead Protection Program. Dave Terry, Sandy Mullaney, and I received awards for our work. Tara Gallagher of the Cape Cod Aquifer Management Project (CCAMP) joined our group and set the course for more federal monies, more staff, and expanded programs such as the Underground Injection Well Program (floor drain inspections).

Many of you gave us suggestions for improving and expanding the program. We continued to preach resource protection balanced with economic development. However, many towns were not requesting assistance.

We started telling people about all the good work happening in your communities through the "Salutes" column in *In the Main*, edited by Tony Abruzese. And John Desmond, Water Supply Chief in the Central Regional Office, suggested we hit the road like the circuit rider judges of old.

The Circuit Rider Program was born in February 1991 in Worcester and travelled across the Commonwealth through 1995. You started receiving operator certification credits for your attendance. By 1991, approximately 120 communities had adopted aquifer protection districts under their zoning authority. This number climbed to 162 by the end of 1992.

In 1992, federal regulations required more testing for primary water supply contaminants and added more costs to you and your customers. And so, we designed the Source Protection Waiver Program. We approved 886 waiver protection plans the first year, and approximately 2,500 to date, saving suppliers millions of dollars statewide. We reached many of our small water systems through this program. DEP

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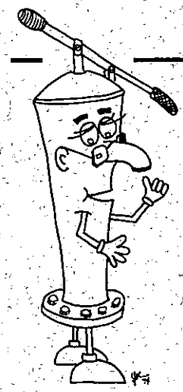

Ask Dr. Wells

In this column, Dr. Philmore Wells, eminent small systems expert, answers questions pertinent to small community water supplies (those serving 3,300 people or less) and nontransient noncommunity water supplies.

Dear Dr. Wells:

I've heard some good news through the "pipeline"! I understand that the federal Safe Drinking Act Amendments of 1996 provide states with a new revolving loan fund for improvements to drinking water systems. As the owner of a small community system, I would like to know if this fund is available for the corrosion control unit I need to install for compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule. How can I find out if my project qualifies for funding, and what should I do to apply?

With interest,
Ivanna Loan

Dear Ms. Loan:

The SDWA provides state revolving fund (SRF) money to states for distribution to community and not-for-profit noncommunity public water systems. Small system owners should start to identify their needs now because 15 percent of the annual SRF allotment is reserved for their use.

A public water system will be eligible for SRF funding only after DEP has determined that it possesses the technical, managerial, and financial resources to comply with the requirements of the SDWA. Therefore, if your small system plans to apply for an SRF loan, you should prepare to meet these capacity development requirements by developing a Water Supply Master Plan that identifies your system's needs for the next five to 10 years.

As part of this plan you should identify your costs for operating your system for the foreseeable future. In addition, you should develop the rate structure and funding options to meet those costs. For more details on EPA's new capacity development requirements, please refer to page 5 of this issue of *In the Main.*

DEP is now in the process of setting up the regulations and mechanisms to allow the disbursement of SRF funds starting in 1998. We will provide further information on the SRF application process by the summer.

Very truly yours,
Dr. Philmore Wells

Boston Offers Residents Lead Service Line Replacement

For many years the Boston Water and Sewer Commission has been replacing lead service pipes — from the water main to the property line — at no cost to the property owner. BWSC would then inform the property owner of the lead service line that remained and recommend that it be replaced.

Under the new Lead Water Service Replacement Program, for eligible residential property owners who have a lead water service pipe within their property, BWSC will offer to replace that part pipe at a reasonable cost. The BWSC will allow property owners to pay for the cost of the work in a lump sum payment, or in twelve equal installments incorporated into their water and sewer bill. For additional information on this program, please contact the Boston Water and Sewer Commission at (617) 330-9400.

The Pipeline

Revised Regulations Now Available

The comprehensive review of 310 CMR 22.00, the Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations, was recently completed in response to Governor Weld's Executive Order 384.

Public hearings were conducted and comments received. For information regarding the regulations changes, see related articles or call the DEP regional office nearest you.

The revised regulations were published by the Massachusetts Regulations Division on March 21, 1997.

Copies can be ordered from the State Bookstores for $19.25 plus $2.75 for shipping and handling. Checks payable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts should be mailed to State Bookstore, State House - Room 116, Boston, MA 02133.

For questions about the new regulations, please contact James Holeva at 617-556-1191. For questions on ordering, call the State Bookstores in Boston (617-727-2834) or Springfield (413-784-1376).

NeRWA Offers Signs Urging Protection

Blue and white metal signs reading **DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AREA -- PLEASE PROTECT IT** can be purchased from the Northeast Rural Water Association (NeRWA). The signs are $2.50 each, including delivery, and can be ordered by contacting NeRWA at 6 Prim Road, P.O. Box 622, Colchester, VT 05446, 802-660-4988, FAX 802-660-4990.

CONNECTION UPDATE

CROSS

Otavio DePaula-Santos

Reform Produces Revised Rules

The final revised version of 310 CMR 22.00 (the Drinking Water Regulations, which include the cross connection language, 310 CMR 22.22) was filed with the Regulations Division on March 7 of this year and took effect March 21. Noteworthy changes in the cross connection regulations include:

Public Water Systems (PWS) Responsibilities: The regulations require PWSs to prevent the contamination of drinking water by a cross connection to the last free flowing outlet or the consumer's tap.

Annual Device Testing Requirements: The revised regulation eliminates the owners' annual testing requirement for reduced pressure backflow preventers (RPBPs). The regulations still require PWSs to ensure that protective devices are tested in accordance with frequencies identified in 22.14 and do not preclude more frequent testing by the PWS.

All RPBPs are now required to be tested twice a year. The PWS may continue to take responsibility for testing the devices, or the PWS may require the owner of devices to perform the tests. Small systems may also turn to the local plumbing inspector to do the tests. Regardless of the option chosen, all tests must be performed by a Massachusetts Certified Backflow Tester. If you chose to change your existing testing program, you are required to notified the Department in writing.

Unknown or unprotected cross connections may pose more of a threat than cross connections that are protected but tested less frequently

Cross Connection Survey Program: Certified surveying of all facilities within the PWS service area will offer greater protection of public health than the conventional annual testing of existing devices. Unknown or unprotected cross connections may pose more of a threat than cross connections that are protected but tested less frequently.

Fire Sprinkler Systems Protection: The Legislative Study Commission on Backflow has not made its final determination on the need to further protect existing fire sprinkler systems, and the AWWA Research Foundation (RFP 158) conclusions are not yet final. Until the Department and the Commission can review the study's findings and assess public health concerns, the Department will suspend the requirement for protection devices on existing fire protection systems as defined at 310 CMR 22.22 Table 22-1 19.a & 19.b. Therefore, the Department under the revised regulations will conditionally approve and permit all type "a" & "b" fire protection systems that are registered with the PWSs by December 31, 1997, and installed prior to March 21, 1997. An evaluation and registration form will be provided to PWSs by the Department for this use.

Permitting: The annual permit fee has been eliminated for cross connections located in PWSs that have a delegated cross connection control program in place. Annual permits will still be issued by Department for all cross connections as required by 310 CMR 22.22. Owners of cross connections located within PWSs with a non-delegated cross connection control program will be required to pay the annual cross connection permit fee. Cross

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And Keep This in Mind...

■ PWSs are **no longer** required to submit their supplier's semiannual test result forms to DEP. The result forms should be kept by the PWS for at least seven years and make them available to DEP for inspection at any time.

■ All PWSs that did not attend the 1996 Cross Connection Control Program Annual Workshop last May-June should contact Mrs. Alyse Rosa to obtain the complete workshop package. Beginning in July, all PWSs are responsible for assigning the device ID# (DIN) to new devices installed in their systems. All the necessary information is in the workshop package.

■ As part of self-registration, all PWSs should write their PWS ID# on the inspection and maintenance report form containing the initial test result and submit it to DEP as soon as possible.

■ **DEP will NO longer accept initial test results without the following information**: PWS ID#, Owner ID# (for existing facilities), Device ID#, Owner Information (name, complete mailing address, contact person, phone number) and Device Information (device address, device exact location, make, model, size and serial #). If you have further technical or programmatic questions, please contact Otavio Paula-Santos at (617) 556-1085. For questions regarding device information and updates, please contact Alyse Rosa at (617) 292-5732.

Plan Now for Capacity Development to Meet Revolving Fund Eligibility

George Zoto

In response to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Amendments of 1996, DEP is required to develop and implement a program to assess the capacity of all public water systems to comply with its requirements. States that do not carry out this requirement will be subject to a 20 percent withholding of drinking water state revolving funds (SRF). Public water systems (PWSs) are therefore advised of the capacity/viability development requirement. This provision requires PWSs to provide the necessary technical, managerial, and financial resources for sustained and reliable operation of their system to protect public health 24 hours per day in perpetuity.

What does this mean and how does it affect your system? In a nutshell, systems that have been determined by DEP to lack the necessary resources may not have access to SRF monies without meeting certain compliance requirements. The easiest way to achieve this capacity is to have a plan that identifies your SDWA compliance obligations and the steps that must be taken to achieve them. For example, a municipal community system should have a current master plan that identifies present and future infrastructure capital improvement and replacement needs, anticipated new treatment requirements, daily operation and maintenance costs, salaries, emergency reserves, staffing and training needs, and the rate structure for ensuring these obligations are met.

Privately owned community and nontransient noncommunity systems — such as condominiums, workplaces, restaurants, and nonprofit NTNCs (with 501(c)3, tax exempt federal status) such as churches, nursery schools, etc. — should have a section in their business plan that identifies the compliance needs of that system and the resources that must be provided for SDWA compliance.

Help in getting started or in revising a plan that needs updating is just a phone call away for systems serving 10,000 or fewer people. Contact the Rural Community Assistance Program at (508) 297-5300 . Speak with Ted Cady (ext. 504) or Larry Stepenuck (ext. 232).

Regulatory Reform

continued from page 4

connection permits will be issued only upon the payment of the fee.

Enforcement: DEP will maintain its enforcement powers and audit public water systems' cross connection control programs which now include an informational program for residential consumers.

Plan Approval: As of January 1, 1999, all PWSs will be required to have a program for approval of cross connection control plans.

The Department continues to review and approve plans for the installation of backflow devices for all non-delegated public water systems, but this responsibility will end as of January 1, 1999, when all PWSs become delegated systems. A PWS may change to a delegated status at any time by applying to the Department. For more details call the cross connection program coordinator at your DEP regional office.

The Lab Corner

Damon Guterman

WES Launches Proficiency Testing Program for Bacteria Laboratories

The William X. Wall Experiment Station (WES) recently rolled out its Microbiology Proficiency Testing (PT) Program for those certified laboratories that analyze bacteria samples for the Total Coliform Rule. This program mirrors the current EPA program for chemical proficiency testing.

Starting in 1997, labs applying for microbiology certification must successfully complete a PT round. Additionally, currently certified labs must pass a PT round by the end of June and once every year thereafter to maintain their certification. The PT program will be run by independent third party laboratories certified by WES. The costs of the PT program will be borne by the labs seeking certification.

Currently certified labs that fail their PT round will have their certification downgraded to "provisional." These labs will be required to take corrective actions and then pass another PT round. Labs that do not take corrective actions, or that fail two PT rounds in a row, will be decertified.

The current requirement for labs to submit five percent of their bacteria samples to WES for split sample analysis has been temporarily suspended.

WES, in conjunction with USEPA, will review the split sample program and implement a more effective quality control program in the near future.