

The Water Spot

April 2012

Volume 16, Issue 2

The Chief's Review by Joanna Seto

What a year it's been! One of the goals for my first year was to meet the people who keep our State drinking waters safe. Learning the water system names and numbers, drinking water rules, Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) acronyms, and the Safe Drinking Water Branch (SDWB) budget were other goals. I'm still learning!

In late March, I was privileged to meet some of the Kauai, Kona, Hilo, and Maui water system operators at our SDWB Monitoring Meetings. I'm looking forward to meeting our Molokai operators in April and hope to meet the Oahu operators soon. It's nice to put names and faces together. Dan Chang, Steven

Matsuda, Kumar Bhagavan, Ann Zane, and Craig Watanabe presented upcoming innovations on how you'll be able to schedule your system's required sampling and testing, the status of the monitoring waiver, Stage 2 monitoring and Ground Water Rule requirements, and upcoming training opportunities from SDWB. If you missed the presentation, you may view them on <http://dohcolab.doh.hawaii.gov/sites/ftpsdwb3/default.aspx> in the 2012 Monitoring Meeting folder using your water system user name and password.



Best morning coffee view in the State!

Hawaii Department of Water Supply (DWS) spent showing us their systems. Theresa McGeehan-Takiue of our SDWB-Hilo office drove us on the scenic 20-mile round-trip trek to see the Hawaii National Guard Youth Challenge Academy (HNGYCA) System.

From January through March, the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Road Show was taken to the Counties of Maui, Kauai, Honolulu, and Hilo. Deputy Director Gary Gill, Environmental Management Division (EMD) Chief Stuart Yamada, Mike Miyahira, Alain Carey, and Susan Polanco de Couet of the EPA PICO office promoted the lower

Following the Monitoring Meetings, we travelled to two majestic and impressive surface water systems - Grove Farm Water Treatment Plant and Waimea Water Treatment Plant. We appreciated the time Garrick of Aqua Engineers and Andrew of



Waimea Water Treatment Plant headworks



Special points of interest:

- Additional DSO exam test date scheduled
- Chromium 6 measures in the Legislature
- CCR reminders by the circuit rider

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Operator Certification

WTPO Exam Pass Rate Drops

The overall pass rate for the January Water Treatment Plant Operator (WTPO) exam dropped to 29%, making it the third lowest passing rate since 2001. The passing rates by grade are displayed in the table to the right.

Congratulations to those who passed!

The Association of Boards of Certification (ABC) Individual Mastery Reports will be distributed to each examinee who did

not pass. This report provides details on the various examination objectives, the total number of questions related to the objectives, and the number of questions the examinee scored correctly within the objective. With this information, examinees will be able to determine which areas they

Grade	Passed	Examinees	Passing Rate
1	2	6	33%
2	2	5	40%
4	0	3	0%
Total	4	14	29%

WTPO exam pass rate drops to 29%.

are in need of improvement so they may concentrate their efforts during studying.

The next WTPO exam will be given during the last week of July 2012. Registration for that exam will be due on April 24.

Additional DSO Exam Scheduled

At the February 28, 2012 meeting, the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators, unanimously approved an additional Distribution System Operator

(DSO) exam date. This date will coincide with the WTPO exam held in July 2012.

Operators approved to sit for the DSO exam will be allowed to sit for the exam in July 2012. However, an operator can only choose to take either the DSO

or the WTPO exam (if approved). Only one exam will be allowed per operator.

The Board approved the additional date since DSO examinee numbers have been rising and seat availability is limited to the examination site capacity.



“... the Board ...

unanimously

approved an

additional

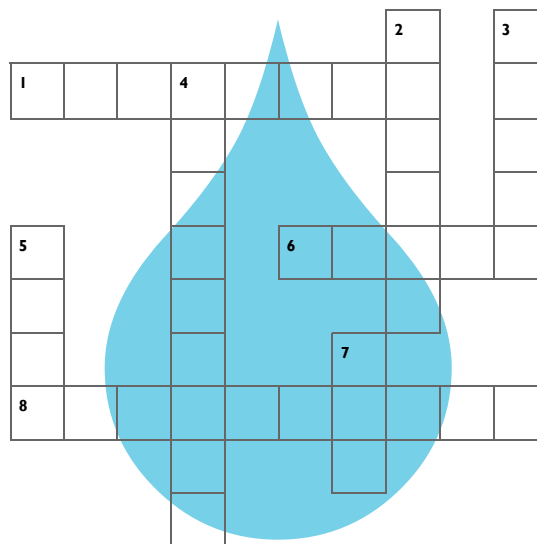
Distribution

System Operator

(DSO) exam

date.”

Puzzled?



Across

- When analyzing for ____, chlorine must be neutralized in the water sample.
- What national agency establishes drinking water standards?
- What is one characteristic that is shown on a pump curve?

Down

- Trihalomethanes may cause ____.
- What is the acronym for Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition?
- What parameter indicates water clarity?
- What type of water main layout will generate poor water quality complaints?
- In general, how many feet should a water pipe be horizontally separated from a sewer pipe?

Answers: Across (1) bacteria, (2) cancer, (3) SCADA, (4) turbidity, (5) efficiency, (6) USEPA, (7) ten tree, (8) ten

Operator Certification

Certification Renewal Period Explanation

Many operators have been questioning the length of time of the certification periods at renewal and the resulting continuing education units or CEUs.

For clarification, all initial certification periods after you first pass an exam or are certified through reciprocity are 2 years in length. Required CEUs for those first 2 years are 0.8 CEUs or 8 contact hours for Grades 1 and 2 and 1.6 CEUs or 16 contact hours for Grades 3 and 4. There is no difference for Distribution System Operators or Water Treatment Plant Operators.

After the initial period, operators are split into 2 categories. Those with last names beginning with A-K will renew every odd number year and those with last names beginning with L-Z will renew every even number year. Depending on your last name, your second renewal cycle will be either 1 year or 2 years in order to get you on the correct cycle. Also, the number of CEUs you need to renew will be prorated accordingly.

For example, if your last name is Doe, and you passed your Grade 1 exam in 2010, your first certification period was

from 2010 to 2012 and you required 0.8 CEUs to renew. When you renew in 2012, you will be given a new certification period of 1 year, 2012 to 2013, because your last name begins with the letter D and those operators will renew in odd number years. The CEUs you require in that 1 year cycle will be prorated, therefore you will need 0.4 CEUs to renew in 2013. From then on, you will have 2 year cycles every odd number year.

All renewal fees are \$10 per year. Therefore, a 1 year cycle will be \$10 and a 2 year cycle will be \$20.

“Those with last names beginning with A-K will renew every odd number year and those with last names beginning with L-Z will renew every even number year.”

Operators Wanted

The following public water systems have indicated a need for certified operators. Please contact them directly for more information.

- ◆ **DSO 1, DSO 2, WTPO 1, WTPO 2 PWS 355 Kalaeloa - Barber's Point, Oahu**
Contact: Laurie Matsunami (808) 447-3393
laurie.matsunami@puralwater.com

WANTED

DSO Test Preparation Training by H2O in Motion

Announcement!

H2O in Motion is recommended by committee members at ABC, writers of the DSO exam. A 3-day DSO Test Preparation Training will be free at two locations.

Oahu - April 11-13

7:30 am - 4:00 pm

Safe Drinking Water Branch Office

5th Floor

919 Ala Moana Blvd., Honolulu, Oahu

Maui - April 16-18

8:00 am - 4:30 pm

State Building

Conference Rooms B & A

54 High St., Wailuku, Maui

Contact Jodi Yamami at 808-586-4263 to register.
Priority will be given to operators approved to take exams.

FREE

Contact Operator Certification

Contact: Jodi Yamami

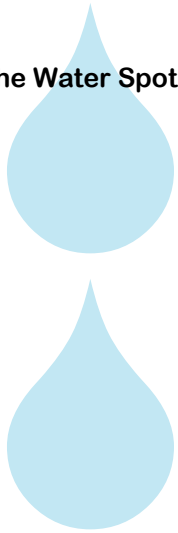
Phone: 808-586-4263

Fax: 808-586-4351

Email: jodi.yamami@doh.hawaii.gov

www.hawaii.gov/drinkingwater/opcert

The Water Spot



New Systems Improve Data Exchange

The Safe Drinking Water Branch (SDWB), Environmental Health Administration, and Environmental Health Analytical Services Branch (EHASB) completed on February 8, 2012, the first phase of a project to implement a Lab to SDWIS/State data exchange. Analytical drinking water sample and result information will now be input at the State Laboratories Division and transferred electronically to SDWB's SDWIS/State system through a Sample

Analysis Tracking System (SATS). This will improve the quality of information, increase its timeliness, and improve the ability of SDWB to track the progress of drinking water compliance monitoring activities. Previously, laboratory results were transmitted by paper copy and input at SDWB.

The next phase of the project, the Sample Collection and Reservation System (SCRS), will focus on the sample collec-

tion of monitoring.

It will involve the development of a system to schedule sampling activities through a laboratory reservation system, and to track the sample collection done by public water system staff.

Congratulations to all those who worked diligently to bring the project to completion!



“Analytical drinking water sample and result information will now be input at the State Laboratories Division and transferred electronically ...”



AWWA Hawaii Section presents 38th Annual Conference

Hawaii Convention Center
Honolulu, Hawaii
April 18-20, 2012



Pre-Conference
April 17, 2012
Distribution Systems Operations

*Ke 'Ike Nei Me Ka Mahalo I Ka Waiwai O Ka Wai
Recognizing with Appreciation the Value of Water*

Legislature Deliberates Chromium 6 Measures

Both houses of the Hawaii State Legislature considered measures that proposed setting a state standard for chromium 6 in the current session. House Bill 2117 and Senate Bill 2471 were introduced this year in their respective houses proposing to amend Chapter 340E Hawaii Revised Statutes to create a maximum contaminant level for chromium 6 of 0.06 micrograms per liter or parts per billion (ppb). This level is thought to have been based on a public health goal established by the California Office of

Health Hazard Assessment who in setting a goal recognizes that an actual health standard would need to consider both technical and financial feasibility.

The Department of Health and the county water suppliers opposed this measure on both the technical and financial feasibility of the proposal. The proposed MCL would have required all public water systems in the State to remove chromium 6 to below 0.06 ppb. Recent testing showed public water systems had chromium 6

at levels which indicated natural occurrence, but exceeded the proposed standard. Technically, treatment systems have not been tested for long term removal capability at this level. This requirement would have imposed severe financial hardship on all water systems and their customers. Fortunately, committees in both houses decided to defer (not pass) these measures. Senator Josh Green of the Senate Health Committee would like to continue to track national progress on a standard for chromium 6.

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 O & E Plan Due	3	4	5	6 HOLIDAY	7
8	9	10 CT Report Due MRDL Report Due TCR Report Due Enhanced Coagulation Report Due Chemical Quarterly Monitoring Report Due	11 H2O in Motion Training - Oahu	12 H2O in Motion Training - Oahu	13 H2O in Motion Training - Oahu	14
15	16 H2O in Motion Training - Maui	17 H2O in Motion Training - Maui AWWA Hawaii Pre-Conference	18 H2O in Motion Training - Maui AWWA Hawaii Conference	19 AWWA Hawaii Conference	20 AWWA Hawaii Conference	21
22	23 Maui & Kona DSO Exam	24 Oahu & Hilo DSO Exam DSO/WTPO Applications Due	25 Molokai DSO Exam	26	27	28
29	30					

May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 CT Report Due TCR Report Due	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Board of Certification Meeting	23	24	25	26
27	28 HOLIDAY	29	30	31		

June 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Start of Lead & Copper Monitoring	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 CT Report Due TCR Report Due	9
10	11 HOLIDAY	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Quarterly Schedule



- **4/2 Operations & Emergency Plan Due**
Surface Water Systems
- **4/10 CT Report Due**
Surface Water Systems
- **4/10 MRDL Report Due**
Disinfection Systems
- **4/10 TCR Report Due**
Systems who complete their own tests
- **4/10 Enhanced Coagulation Report Due**
Conventional Treatment Systems
- **4/10 Chemical Quarterly Monitoring Report Due**
Systems with quarterly monitoring requirements
- **4/11-13 H2O in Motion Training**
Oahu
- **4/16-18 H2O in Motion Training**
Maui
- **4/17 AWWA Hawaii Pre-Conference**
Hawaii Convention Center
- **4/18-20 AWWA Hawaii Conference**
Hawaii Convention Center
- **4/23-25 DSO Exam**
Maui, Kona, Oahu, Hilo, & Molokai
- **4/24 DSO/WTPO Applications Due**
July 2012 Examinees
- **5/10 CT Report Due**
Surface Water Systems
- **5/10 TCR Report Due**
Systems who complete their own tests
- **5/22 Board of Certification Meeting**
Location TBD
- **6/1 Start of Lead & Copper Monitoring**
Select Water Systems
- **6/8 CT Report Due**
Surface Water Systems
- **6/8 TCR Report Due**
Systems who complete their own tests

The Water Spot

“Remember, any detected levels of chemicals need to be reported to the consumers.”

Reminder from the Circuit Rider



Well, Water System Operators, the holiday rush is behind us now and the decorations have been re-stowed for another year. Water system operations and maintenance is once again a focus of our lives. One of the things that does not seem to get top billing is bragging, or should we say, reporting to our customers what a great service we are doing and how great their water is.

Did you do any water quality tests over the last calendar year? You did keep the sample results as well as report them to the Safe Drinking Water Branch (SDWB), right? Well, it is time again to report this to your customers. Remember, any detected levels of chemicals need to be reported to the

consumers. This means all chemicals, even the ones that are below the actionable levels. There are specific wordings to be used that tell the consumer about the effects of these chemicals. The Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is both your report card to your customers and a very good chance to show that you are a professional organization that does the job of delivering safe water effectively.

Here are some resources to help you accomplish this task.

- ◆ The SDWB staff have been hard at work to set up a share point site to help you track your system’s water quality testing. For most small systems, your reported test results are posted. Even future test dates your system

requires are posted. This is a valuable tool for planning your future testing and filling out your cur-

rent CCR.

- ◆ There is a program for helping to produce a correct CCR for your system called CCR Writer. It is regularly updated and has the correct language to describe the effects of various chemicals found in the water. It will even print out your certification form verifying that you sent out your completed CCR to your customers. <http://www.ccriwriter.com/>
- ◆ Kumar Bhagavan of the SDWB will review your draft CCR before you release it to the consumers in your system if you ask him nicely before May. You may email him at kumar.bhagavan@doh.hawaii.gov.
- ◆ Your local circuit riders from RCAC can help you produce an accurate CCR for your system. Please call Kevin Baughman at 808-896-3886 or Joy Gannon at 808-345-1246.



Call your circuit riders, Kevin Baughman and Joy Gannon of RCAC for help.

Remember, the deadline of the annual distribution of your CCR is July 1, so it is best to take the time now to get it started.

CCR Deadline



July 1

July 1 is the deadline for annual distribution of CCRs to customers & SDWB for calendar year 2011 report.

Congratulations to PWS 248, Kawela Plantation for being the first to submit their CCR to the SDWB!



Hawaii State
Department of Health
Safe Drinking Water Branch

919 Ala Moana Blvd.
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E-mail: SDWB@doh.hawaii.gov

The mission of the Safe Drinking Water Branch of the Department of Health is to safeguard public health by protecting Hawaii’s drinking water sources (surface water and groundwater) from contamination and assure that owners and operators of public water systems provide safe drinking water to the community. This mission is accomplished through the administration of the Safe Drinking Water Program, Underground Injection Control Program (UIC), Groundwater Protection Program (GWPP), and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF).

We’re on the Web!

www.hawaii.gov/health/environmental/water/sdwb/index.html

We provide access to our activities without regard to race, color, national origin (including language), age, sex, religion, or disability. Write or call our Affirmative Action Officer at Box 3378, Honolulu, HI 96801-3378 or at 808-586-4616 (voice) within 180 days of a problem.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor of Hawaii

LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health
Promoting Lifelong Health & Wellness

GARY GILL
Deputy Director for Environmental Health



Chief’s Review

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

interest rates for the Drinking Water SRF loans and informed the counties of the proposed commitment letter. With the counties’ quarterly payment requests and ideas to streamline the loan application and process, Hawaii will demonstrate to EPA Headquarters and Congress that these SRF

funds are much needed and will be utilized for the purposes that they were granted to Hawaii.

The Environmental Health Administration’s e-Permitting System is up and running. Please contact us to learn more about the electronic web-based applications for the Underground Injection Control Program. Jodi Yamami is also planning to develop web-based applications for our operator certification program. Let us know if you have an idea that we may incorporate.

Other online tools are the existing Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS) Viewer, new Sample Analysis

Tracking System (SATS), and upcoming Sample Collection and Reservation Systems (SCRS). As I mentioned to Lauren of the Hawaii DWS, these are “living” systems which will be modified as needed. We need your input on how to make these tools work for you. Please give us a call with your ideas.

I hope to meet more of you who keep our State’s drinking waters safe. Some of the SDWB staff and I will be at the upcoming American Water Works Association (AWWA) Hawaii Section Conference which will be held April 18-20, 2012 at the Hawaii Convention Center. See you there!



HNGYCA water system overview