

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
OPERATOR CERTIFICATION SECTION

Water & Wastewater Digest

WINTER 2011

Inside This Issue

Water Analysis Cards

Need Your Password to Login?

**Electronic Permitting
for Wastewater**

**Voucher Program
Continues in 2012**

**State Legislature
Approves Compensation
for Board Members**

**Department of Natural
Resources' Operator
Certification and Training**

**January is Sludge
Reporting Time!**

Visit us on the Web!

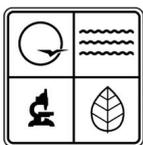
Drinking Water Primacy Fee Faces Renewal

Next year marks a milestone for Missouri public water consumers – the state public drinking water primacy fee turns 20 years old. This fee, which costs the average Missouri household each year about the same as one commercial bottle of water, helps ensure the safety and reliability of the state's public water supplies. The fee is up for renewal during the upcoming 2012 legislative session.

The legislature enacted the primacy fee in 1992 to provide Missouri the resources to implement federal public drinking water requirements. The legislature has renewed the fee every five years since its inception. Currently the fee is set to expire Sept. 1, 2012 unless it is renewed.

Customers served by community water systems pay the primacy fee, with most households paying from \$1.08 to \$3.24 per year. The amount is based on the size of population served by the water system. For customers with larger water meters (for example, businesses, industrial users, etc.), the fee generally ranges from \$7.44 to \$82.44 per year. Two percent of the fee can be kept by the water system to cover their administrative costs for collecting the fee.

The fee generates \$3.9 million annually and provides 43 percent of funding needed by the Department of Natural Resources to ensure safe drinking water is provided to the public. The primacy fee provides funding for technical assistance, inspections, vulnerability assessments, testing for contaminants, engineering reviews and permitting, compliance and enforcement activities, and other critical drinking water protection activities. The Department of Health and Senior Services began receiving an appropriation from the public drinking water primacy fee in state fiscal year 2010 for their bacteriological work, which was previously funded by general revenue.



MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

dnr.mo.gov

“Water testing alone is a major benefit to water systems because Missouri law requires the state to analyze all water samples needed to ensure the safety of Missouri’s public drinking water supplies,” said Steve Sturgess, chief of the department’s Public Drinking Water Branch. Maintaining primacy also reduces monitoring costs for Missouri public water systems, and their customers, through vulnerability assessments performed by the department. The EPA does not perform such assessments and would require the full scope of monitoring regardless of the system’s lack of vulnerability to the contaminant.

If the fee lapses and Missouri’s resources become insufficient to adequately administer, implement and enforce the public drinking water primacy program, EPA could withdraw primacy. Public water systems in Missouri would be regulated by EPA and Missouri would lose federal drinking water funding, including the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. The fund provides low-interest loans to public water systems and is available only to states that maintain primacy.

Water Analysis Cards

The department has noticed a recent rise in the number of bacteriological samples submitted for analysis with incomplete water analysis cards. Incomplete cards often result in the samples being invalidated and can lead to non-compliance for the drinking water system. Below are some of the most common problems. Please take time to complete water analysis cards so your samples don’t run the risk of being invalidated.

Collection Point Location:

Routine samples must be collected from the distribution system – not at the wells. If a routine sample is collected at the well, the sample may be invalidated, potentially causing the system to be in noncompliance with the Total Coliform Rule monitoring requirements. The collection point must be filled out and collected out in the distribution system, according to the site sampling plan on record with the department.

Date and Time:

Failure to correctly put the date and time (please use military time) on the water analysis card will cause the sample to be invalidated. E. coli and Total coliform bacteria die over time. The collection time is necessary to determine if the 30-hour holding time limit has not been exceeded. Without the sample date and time, the sample will be invalidated – again, potentially causing noncompliance.

Chlorine Residuals:

Systems that disinfect with chlorine are required to record both free and total chlorine residuals on the water analysis cards. This data is important for several reasons. It’s important to determine compliance with the maximum residual disinfectant residual levels (MRDL). It’s also used to determine compliance with the minimum distribution disinfection levels and, maybe more importantly for the water operators, to give information regarding the water system. Typically, free chlorine residual should be 80-85 percent of the total residual. If it is less than that, there may be a high demand that indicates water quality concerns in the distribution system. To be in compliance with disinfection regulatory requirements and standards and for optimum water system operation, the chlorine residuals must be recorded.

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Todd Eichholz with the department’s Public Drinking Water Branch at 573-751-4090.

Need Your Password to Login?

Certified operators are encouraged to access training reports by visiting the department’s website at www.dnr.mo.gov/operator. To login, the password is the last four digits of your social security number.

In addition to checking training hours and renewing certificates online, this site provides a convenient place to view and update important contact information for public drinking water systems including the chief operator, sample collector and administrative contact.

For more information, contact the department’s Operator Certification Section at 800-361-4827 or 573-751-1600.

Electronic Permitting for Wastewater

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is developing a process for electronic permitting (i.e., ePermitting). The tool is being developed to allow permits to be applied for online and potentially receive electronic Missouri State Operating Permits for discharges covered under general permits. Individuals will be able to go online and fill out their application, locate their project using a GIS program, submit payment, and receive the permit online and all on the same day.

The ePermitting project will use a phased approach for permit issuance. The Land Disturbance general permit will be the first permit to be phased in and is anticipated to go online in June 2012. Eventually, applicants will be able to renew, modify, and terminate most General Permits, Permits by Rule, and Construction Sewer Extension permit types.

This online tool will reduce the wait time between submission of an application and issuance of the operating permit, and allow the department's permit writing staff to focus on more complex permits, thereby also reducing timeframes for more complex site-specific permits.

In order to provide a program that can be easily used, the department is seeking people in the regulated community to help test this new program. If you are interested, please contact Michael Abbott by phone at 573-526-1139 or by email michael.abbott@dnr.mo.gov.

Voucher Program Continues in 2012

The Department of Natural Resources will be issuing drinking water operator training vouchers for next year. Vouchers will automatically be mailed to the administrative contact on record for eligible drinking water systems.

To help reduce the number of voucher packets returned as undeliverable, operators are encouraged to visit the department's website at www.dnr.mo.gov/operator to search for their drinking water systems and review and update the contact information for the system's administrative contact as needed.

For more information about the Voucher Program and the Drinking Water Operator Expense Reimbursement Grant that makes it possible, visit www.dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/opcert/opr-vouchers.htm. For questions, please contact Darlene Helmig, with the department's Operator Certification Section at 800-361-4827.

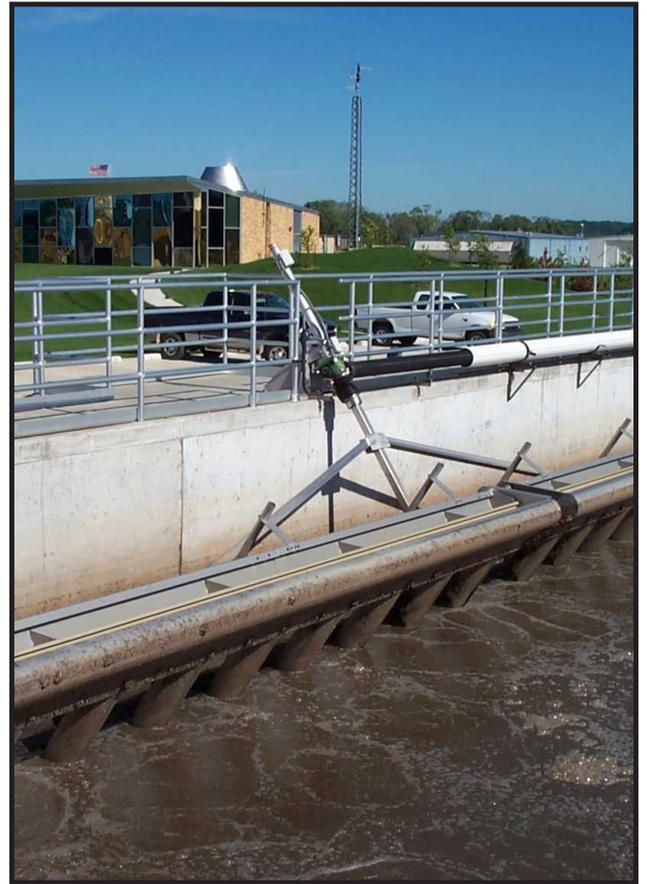


State Legislature Approves Compensation for Board Members

Effective Aug. 28, 2011, public water supply districts may elect to pay board members up to \$100 per meeting for attending regular and special meetings. However, he or she must first complete a minimum of six hours of training covering the responsibilities of the board and its members. The board president may receive up to \$150 per meeting. The Missouri Legislature passed the provisions as part of House Bill 89 during the 2011 regular session and Gov. Jay Nixon signed it into law Aug. 11.

To receive the attendance fee or compensation for expenses, board members must first receive training concerning the basics of water treatment and distribution, budgeting and rates, water utility planning, the funding of capital improvements, the understanding of water utility financial statements, the Missouri sunshine law, and chapter 247 of Missouri Revised Statutes concerning public water supply districts.

For more information about House Bill 89, please visit: www.house.mo.gov/billssummary.aspx?bill=HB89&year=2011&code=R.



Missouri Department of Natural Resources Operator Certification and Training

Exam Date	Location	Filing Deadline
Dec. 6, 2011	Department of Conservation Powder Valley Nature Center, Kirkwood	Nov. 6, 2011
Dec. 6, 2011	Department of Natural Resources 1101 Riverside Dr., Jefferson City	Nov. 6, 2011
Jan. 3, 2012	Department of Natural Resources 2155 N. Westwood Blvd., Poplar Bluff	Dec. 4, 2011
Jan. 3, 2012	Department of Natural Resources 2040 W. Woodland, Springfield	Dec. 4, 2011
Jan. 3, 2012	Department of Natural Resources 1101 Riverside Dr., Jefferson City	Dec. 4, 2011
Feb. 7, 2012	Department of Natural Resources 1709 Prospect Dr., Macon	Jan. 8, 2012
Feb. 7, 2012	Department of Natural Resources 500 NE Colburn Rd., Lee's Summit	Jan. 8, 2012
Feb. 7, 2012	Department of Natural Resources 1101 Riverside Dr., Jefferson City	Jan. 8, 2012

Regular wastewater examinations are scheduled for 9 a.m., and the water supply examinations are scheduled for 1 p.m., unless otherwise noted on the admission letter. For an application, visit www.dnr.mo.gov/forms/780-1089.pdf.

Water & Wastewater Digest Subscriptions

- New subscriber to the Digest? Complete section 2 below.
- Change of Address: Complete sections 1 and 2 or certified operators can update information online at dnr.mo.gov/operator.
- Cancelling subscription? Complete section 1 below.

Mail or Fax to:

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Operator Certification Section
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176.
Fax: 573-751-0678

Section 1 - Previous Address

Name _____

Operator Certificate # _____

Street _____

City/State/ZIP Code _____

Section 2 - New Address

Name _____

Operator Certificate # _____

Street _____

City/State/ZIP Code _____

Daytime Phone with Area Code _____

January is Sludge Reporting Time!

Annual Form S sludge reports for domestic wastewater treatment facilities are due Jan. 28, 2012. All domestic wastewater treatment facilities are required to send in this annual report. Major lagoon facilities are required to submit annual reports to EPA even if no land application occurs. This requirement can be met by submitting a statement of no application and the required certification statement. Non-major lagoon facilities only need to submit the report if sludge was removed from the lagoon during 2011. Minor facilities with a permitted pretreatment program are also required to submit a Form S sludge report.

You can download copies of Form S Sections 1 through 6 from the department's website www.dnr.mo.gov/forms/index.html. Scroll down the page to Water Pollution and find "Sludge."

Mail a signed copy of your completed form to your Missouri Department of Natural Resources regional office. If your wastewater facility is a "major facility" (has a design flow of 1.0 MGD or more), send an additional copy of the report to EPA Region 7 at U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7, ATTN: Biosolids Coordinator, 901 North 5th Street, Kansas City, Kansas 66101.

Also, any minor facility that has a permitted pretreatment program also has to submit a Form S sludge report to EPA Region 7. Be sure to keep a copy for your files.

You can view the department's regional office map at www.dnr.mo.gov/regions/regions.htm. Call Tony Dohmen with the department's Water Protection Program at 573-751-1398 or toll free at 1-800-361-4827 for answers to your biosolids questions. The EPA Region 7 "503 Biosolids Program" contact is Rob Bryant, 913-551-7354.

Visit us on the Web!

The list of approved training changes frequently as new courses are reviewed and approved by Department staff or trainers adjust schedules. By the time this newsletter reaches you, there may be new courses available in your area.

Visit us at www.dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/opcert to view an up-to-date list of approved operator certification courses.

Newsletter Survey

The department's Operator Certification Section would like your help in evaluating the effectiveness of the Water & Wastewater Digest. Historically, this newsletter was the primary source for certified operators to find out about upcoming courses. With today's technology, the schedule of upcoming approved courses is available online, as soon as the course is approved. The course list provided in this newsletter is not as up-to-date as the list on our website because it takes several weeks for printing and mailing. To help us evaluate the need for this newsletter, your input is needed. Please complete the survey below and let us know what you think or go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/wwdigest to complete the survey online.

1. Which of the following statements is most accurate about this newsletter?

- I read all of it.
- I read most of it.
- I read some of it.
- I only look at the upcoming course schedule.
- I don't read it.

2. What is the most important information that you receive from this publication?

- List of upcoming courses
- Reminders about upcoming events (annual sludge reminders, ect.)
- Articles about regulations
- Other: _____

3. I would prefer to receive the Water & Wastewater Digest:

- Paper, mailed to me
- Electronic, available online
- Newsletter format is not important; e-mail me articles as they arise
- I don't want to receive this publication

4. Which of the following statements is most accurate? I usually find out about upcoming operator certification courses from:

- Other people I know (co-workers, supervisor, ect.)
- Flyers or announcements from trainers I receive in the mail
- Visiting DNR's Operator Certification Web site
- This newsletter

5. How easy would it be for you to access the Water & Wastewater Digest if it were only available electronically?

- Easy, I have internet access.
- Internet is available to me, but I don't prefer to use it
- I do not have internet access and have to ask someone who does
- I would not be able to access it at all.

6. What types of articles would you like to see?

Please return this survey to the department's Operator Certification Section by mail or fax at the following:

MDNR/Operator Certification Section, PO Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102
FAX to 573-751-0678

Or go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/wwdigest to complete the survey online.

Place
Postage
Here

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Operator Certification Section
PO Box 176
Jefferson City MO

Training

The mailed version of this publication included a two page list of approved training courses and exam schedule that was available at the time of printing. For a current listing of training, please visit:

www.dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/opcert/oprtrain.htm



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Operator Certification Section

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