

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
OPERATOR CERTIFICATION SECTION

# Water & Wastewater Digest

FALL 2012

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## **Water Conservation Measures Urged**

By the time you read this article, hopefully the wide-spread, historic drought conditions the nation has endured this summer will be over. Unfortunately, the long range weather predictions don't show a quick end to the drought. As a result, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources is urging public water systems to implement water conservation measures until drought conditions subside.

The hot and dry conditions mean many of Missouri's 1,500 community water systems have experienced substantial increases in customer demand for water at a time when the supply has declined. The lack of rain means water levels in lakes, reservoirs, rivers and even wells are dropping to a greater degree than in normal years. Many water systems are fortunate to have emergency interconnections that allows them to purchase water from other suppliers if conditions worsen. However, each water system is unique. Some will have a steady supply of water regardless of the ongoing drought, whereas others need for customers to curtail use. Many groundwater systems are lowering well pumps or drilling wells deeper or drilling additional wells. Surface water systems are taking advantage of any auxiliary sources they may have to keep their drinking water reservoirs as full as possible until rainfall becomes available.

The department encourages all water suppliers to closely monitor their water supply status by regularly measuring static water levels in their wells and water levels in their reservoirs, repairing leaks and tracking customer usage and other factors. Public drinking water systems should contact their local Missouri Department of Natural Resources Regional Office if they have questions or are experiencing drought related difficulties. A list of regional offices and contact information is available online at [www.dnr.mo.gov/regions/regions.htm](http://www.dnr.mo.gov/regions/regions.htm) or by calling 800-361-4827.

In order to ensure a steady supply of water, public water systems should consider initiating water conservation measures. As of Aug. 1, one-fourth of Missouri's water systems had implemented either voluntary or mandatory water conservation measures. These measures are primarily intended to curb outdoor water use (lawn and garden irrigation, filling of pools, etc.). Information about water conservation tips, drought issues and model conservation ordinances are available on the department's website at [www.dnr.mo.gov](http://www.dnr.mo.gov).

## **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/oprtrain](http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/opcert/oprtrain) to view an up-to-date list of approved operator certification courses.



**MISSOURI**  
DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES

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

[dnr.mo.gov](http://dnr.mo.gov)

## **5th National Prescription Drug Take-Back Event - Saturday, Sept. 29**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey Report, dated 2007-2008, revealed nearly half of all Americans use prescription drugs on a regular basis. Nearly a third of these Americans use two or more drugs, and one in 10 use five or more prescription drugs regularly. It is important unused and unwanted drugs are disposed of properly to protect Missouri public water supplies. Public and private wastewater systems are not designed to take these pharmaceuticals out of the water before they are discharged into rivers, streams and lakes.

To keep pharmaceuticals from entering the drinking water, consider participating in a National Prescription Drug Take-Back Event. The next event is scheduled for Saturday Sept. 29. Registration for these events is done by contacting the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration at [www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov). General information is available at [www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback/](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/). If you have questions or need assistance, water systems can also contact Brad Rayburn with the Missouri Rural Water Association at 573-657-5533 or by email at [brayburn@moruralwater.org](mailto:brayburn@moruralwater.org).

In 2010, the DEA hosted the first National Pharmaceutical Take-Back Event, at which the American public turned in more than 121 tons of drugs. Since then the DEA has hosted three more drug take-back events. On April 28 this year, citizens turned in a record-breaking 552,161 pounds (276 tons) of unwanted or expired medications for safe and proper disposal at the 5,659 take-back sites that were available in all 50 states and U.S. territories. Combining the results of the four take-back days, the DEA and its state, local and tribal law-enforcement and community partners have removed more than 774 tons of unused medication from circulation.

After the event is over, the DEA collects the pharmaceuticals and delivers them to Illinois where they are incinerated. This incineration process keeps the drugs from entering the environment and potentially entering a drinking water supply. It also keeps them out of medicine cabinets and trash where they may be found and abused, or sold to others.

## **Need to Check Your Training Hours?**

Certified operators are encouraged to access training reports by visiting the department's website at [www.dnr.mo.gov/operator](http://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.

## **Online Reporting for Sanitary Sewer Overflows and Bypasses**

The department has developed an online electronic reporting program that can help wastewater officials quickly and easily report Sanitary Sewer Overflows, or SSOs, and bypasses in order to meet Missouri's reporting requirements established in permit conditions. The program also serves as a database to store and update overflows and bypass information. To use the program, facilities must log in to the Citizen's Application Gateway to gain access at [www.dnr.mo.gov/modnrcag](http://www.dnr.mo.gov/modnrcag). Helpful instructional videos about how to use the online program and search functions are available at [www.dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/bypass/index.htm](http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/bypass/index.htm).

An SSO is defined as an untreated or partially treated sewage release from a sanitary sewer system. Overflows can be caused by a variety of reasons including blockages, line breaks, sewer defects, lapses in sewer system operation and maintenance, inadequate sewer design and construction, power failures and vandalism. They can occur during dry or wet weather and at any point in the collection system, and include overflows from manholes. A bypass is a release of untreated or partially treated wastewater at the treatment plant.

Wastewater systems are encouraged to use this application rather than telephoning or mailing in reports – both the “24-hour” report and the “5-day” final written report. Wastewater system staff can still phone or write in. Department staff in the regional offices will enter the data in the e-reporting application. The current e-reporting function is designed to receive information from facilities with a Missouri State Operating Permit (NPDES permit). Future plans are to expand the program to receive information from other facilities, such as satellite systems that discharge to a permitted facility. If you have questions about the online reporting program, please contact Keith Bertels at 573-526-4227.

## 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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Operator Certification and Training

Exam Date	Location	Filing Deadline
Nov. 6, 2012	Department of Natural Resources 1709 Prospect Dr., Macon	Oct. 7, 2012
Nov. 6, 2012	Department of Natural Resources 500 NE Colburn Rd., Lee's Summit	Oct. 7, 2012
Nov. 6, 2012	Department of Natural Resources 1101 Riverside Dr., Jefferson City	Oct. 7, 2012
Dec. 4, 2012	Department of Conservation Powder Valley Nature Center, Kirkwood	Nov. 4, 2012
Dec. 4, 2012	Department of Natural Resources 1101 Riverside Dr., Jefferson City	Nov. 4, 2012
Jan. 8, 2013	Department of Natural Resources 2155 N. Westwood Blvd., Poplar Bluff	Dec. 10, 2012
Jan. 8, 2013	Department of Natural Resources 2040 W. Woodland, Springfield	Dec. 10, 2012
Jan. 8, 2013	Department of Natural Resources 1101 Riverside Dr., Jefferson City	Dec. 10, 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-f.pdf](http://www.dnr.mo.gov/forms/780-1089-f.pdf).

The following people contributed to the production of this issue of Water & Wastewater Digest: Susan Bloomer, Keith Bertels, Elisha Bonnot, Van Beydler, Mike Flaton, Darlene Helmig, Jennifer Lamons, Linda McCarty and Brad Rayburn, MRWA

Comments, questions, articles, suggestions, ideas and photographs submitted for publication are welcome and appreciated. Please address correspondence to Darlene Helmig, Department of Natural Resources, Certification Section, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176 or email [darlene.helmig@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:darlene.helmig@dnr.mo.gov).

## **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:

<http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/opcert/oprtrain.htm>



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Deliver Promptly. Dated Material Enclosed.

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