

TAPTALK H₂O!

Division of Public Health • Spring 2011

Tapping Into Good Health

An Introduction to the Ground Water Rule Requirements

By Kevin Cottman

This is the first article in a series of articles by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Delaware Office of Drinking Water (ODW) to help ground water systems navigate through the Ground Water Rule (GWR) requirements. The purpose of the Ground Water Rule (GWR) is to reduce the risk of illness caused by microbial contamination in public ground water systems. The GWR became effective December 1, 2009, and applies to all public water systems (PWSs) that use ground water, including consecutive systems, except that it does not apply to PWSs that combine all of their ground water with surface water or with ground water under the direct influence of surface water prior to treatment. The GWR affects the Total Coliform Rule in that when a system

meeting the GWR requirement receives a total coliform positive (TC+) sample, source water monitoring is triggered. Under the GWR, a water system with a TC+ sample not meeting four-log virus inactivation is required to collect at least one sample from each active source within 24 hours of being notified.

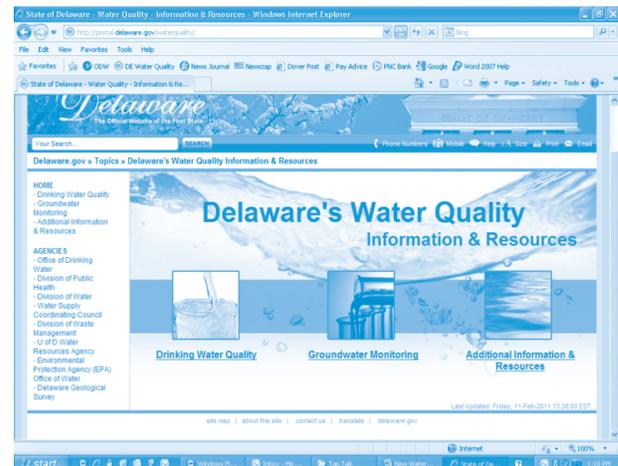
Ground water systems with multiple wells entering the distribution system at various locations may submit a sampling plan for approval by the ODW to reduce the required number of source water samples. A source water sample is a sample that is collected before any treatment occurs. Source water monitoring can be waived if the source of the TC+ can be identified, i.e. water main break. When experiencing an unusual event such as a water main break, ODW must be notified of the event prior to the TC+ sample in order to waive the source water monitoring.

The state of Delaware uses E. coli as the fecal indicator that triggers a corrective action. If a source water monitoring sample is E. coli positive, a corrective action must be put in place. In addition, the system must distribute a boil water notice to its customers even if the distribution system samples are total coliform and E. coli negative. When a violation has occurred, the water system must notify the public and any consecutive systems of the source water violation within 24 hours. If the state does not require corrective action in response to a fecal indicator positive triggered source water sample, the ground water system must collect five additional source water samples (from the same source) within 24 hours of being notified of the fecal indicator-positive sample. There are several corrective action options available. Contact the ODW at (302) 741-8630 to discuss these options.

DPH & DNREC Launch New Water Quality Website

The Office of the Governor, in conjunction with the Division of Public Health and DNREC, launched a water quality website that makes information about vital services and resources more accessible to the public. The new site provides easy access to drinking water quality data, including water quality reports (CCRs), water quality violation notices, well test information and detailed and regularly updated testing and quality information about Delaware's public water sources. The website also links to the Office of Drinking Water and the EPA websites and databases. You can access the website @ www.waterquality.delaware.gov.

By Sheri Morris



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Division of Public Health

Office of Drinking Water

The Administrator's Corner



By Ed Hallock

Program Administrator
Office of Drinking Water

Well, we are back after a long break. The Office of Drinking Water (ODW) has been through some changes, people have come and some have gone and we have reorganized. We have also moved to a new location. I want to begin by noting that Sheri Morris is the new Tap Talk editor and has the dubious honor of ensuring that I get this column completed in a timely manner. I wish her much luck.

We have two new program managers as well. Kevin Cottman has accepted the position of capacity development program manager and Rebecca Fahey has accepted the drinking water state revolving fund program manager position. Both have worked in ODW and bring considerable knowledge to their new positions. I am looking forward to continuing the coordination of these programs with our traditional drinking water program.

Another big change since our last newsletter is the creation of the Office of Engineering. Doug Lodge heads up this office and has four employees to ensure that plan reviews are conducted in a timely manner. Bill Milliken is still reviewing drinking water plans and is familiar to many of you. Susan Burr is the new public health coordinator working with restaurants on their plan reviews. Natasha Timmons continues to provide administrative support for the office. Doug has recently filled the last vacancy, an engineer II position. The new engineer II should be onboard by the time you read this.

Delaware Rural Water's 21st Annual Technical Conference & Exhibition Wrap Up

Delaware Rural Water held its 21st Annual Technical Conference & Exhibition on February 22 - 24, at the Delaware State Fairgrounds in Harrington, DE. The annual conference gives water and wastewater system personnel and local officials the opportunity to network with industry vendors and state and federal agencies.

There were 74 vendors, including three state offices - ODW, DNREC and DeIDOT as well as two federal agencies, U.S. EPA and USDA - RD. The 926 attendees included local, state and federal officials, engineers, and personnel representing water and wastewater systems throughout Delaware and Maryland.

Tap Talk will be coming to you quarterly and I hope we are providing you with useful information. Speaking of information you can use; ODW is now on the internet with our Drinking Water Watch website that will allow you to log on and find out the most recent information about your water system including water sample results. You can access Drinking Water Watch through the Governor's webpage at www.waterquality.delaware.gov and follow the drinking water links. We are excited to be able to provide this information to all Delawareans and if you review the data and find an error, please let us know so we can correct it as quickly as possible.

2011 Delaware River Basin Forum Held

On March 10, the Source Water Collaborative, a coalition of 23 national organizations and agencies, sponsored the first Delaware River Basin Forum. The forum occurred simultaneously in six locations, with a central session in Philadelphia and locations in Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. The purpose of the forum was to heighten awareness of issues and decisions affecting water resources, to connect basin-wide and local issues and needs, and to create a framework for ongoing collaboration among officials, planners, water suppliers, and other stakeholders and practitioners. Delaware held their forum at the University of Delaware's Trabant Center with over 50 attendees, including representatives from DPH, DNREC, Rural Water, City of Wilmington, and Delaware Technical Community College.

Borrowers Conference

WRAP-UP

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) hosted the 2011 DWSRF Borrower's Conference on March 31 at Jonathan's Landing in Magnolia, Delaware. The purpose of the conference was to provide information about DWSRF benefits and advantages to communities, and to encourage networking and resource sharing between federal, state, municipalities and industry representatives. The response and attendance from municipalities was extremely positive with over 30 water systems represented at the conference.

DWSRF receives federal funds annually to lend in the form of low-interest loans to the community and qualifying non-transient public water system seeking financial resources. The loans help fund infrastructure repairs, upgrades, and green projects that protect and benefit the public health of Delaware residents.

In Observance of Drinking Water Week • May 1 – 7, 2011



Pictured from left are **Thom May**, DPH Health Systems Protection chief, **Ed Hallock**, ODW program administrator, **Governor Jack Markell**, **Kevin Cottman**, ODW Capacity Development program manager, **Elaine Hallock** and **Anita Beckel**, ODW PWSS program manager.

Photo by Sheri Morris

Delaware Rural Water Association Receives National Recognition

By Sheri Morris

Delaware Rural Water's training center received national recognition and accreditation from the American Society of Sanitary Engineering (ASSE) for Cross Connection Control Certification. This accreditation is designed to provide national certification and performance criteria for backflow prevention assembly testers in the state of Delaware and across the United States. According to the EPA, cross-connections are defined as actual or potential connections between a potable water supply and a non-potable source in which the possibility exists for a contaminant to enter the drinking water supply. External contaminant introduction diminishes the water quality of drinking water distribution systems. While there are cross-connection control programs in place in many locales, many others lack such programs. The problem is a dynamic one, because piping systems are continually being installed, altered, or extended. Control of cross-connections can be achieved through thorough knowledge, vigilance and education. Questions about cross connections or the ASSE Certification Program should be directed to the Delaware Rural Water Association at (302) 424-3792.

Health Systems Protection Establishes Office of Engineering

Created in October 2010, the new Office of Engineering, overseen by Doug Lodge, P.E., is responsible for performing plan reviews for water systems modifying their current infrastructure. This includes water system expansions, renovations, changes to treatment, etc. You can reach the Office of Engineering at (302) 741-8640. Plans should be submitted to the Office of Engineering at 43 S. DuPont Hwy, Dover, DE 19901.

Employee Spotlight Welcomes:



Heather Warren recently accepted the position of management analyst III with Health Systems Protection. Heather previously worked as the DWSRF manager with the Office of Drinking Water. Heather will be assisting Rebecca Gibbs Fahey as she transitions into her new role as DWSRF manager. Heather can be reached at (302) 744-4546.

Rebecca Gibbs Fahey, RS accepted the position of drinking water state revolving (DWSRF) fund manager for Health Systems Protection. Rebecca previously worked as the Lead and Copper Rule Manager in the Office of Drinking Water. Her role is to work closely with community and eligible non-transient public water systems (PWS) in accessing low cost loans from the federal government. The funds are available to PWS to improve infrastructure, treatment, and maintain compliance while protecting the health of Delawareans. Rebecca can be reached at (302) 744-4856 in the Jesse Cooper Building.



Kevin Cottman accepted the position of capacity development program manager. Kevin previously worked as an environmental health specialist II in the Office of Drinking Water for the past 4 ½ years. You can reach Kevin at (302) 741-8582.

Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR) Update

The calendar year 2010 CCR packages have been mailed. An important change this year is that systems will generate their own 2010 CCR Fact Sheet directly from Delaware's new Drinking Water Watch web site.



Delaware Drinking Water Watch: <https://drinkingwater.dhss.delaware.gov/>

The package also contains a supplemental report that reflects any detects for analytes regulated at the state level. This data, in conjunction with the data provided to you by Drinking Water Watch, must be included on your 2010 CCR. If you have not received your packet, please contact the Office of Drinking Water at (302) 741-8630.

ODW has completed its review of the 2008 and 2009 CCRs. Thank you for your patience as we worked through the backlog.

Office of Drinking Water
43 S. DuPont Hwy
Dover, DE 19901