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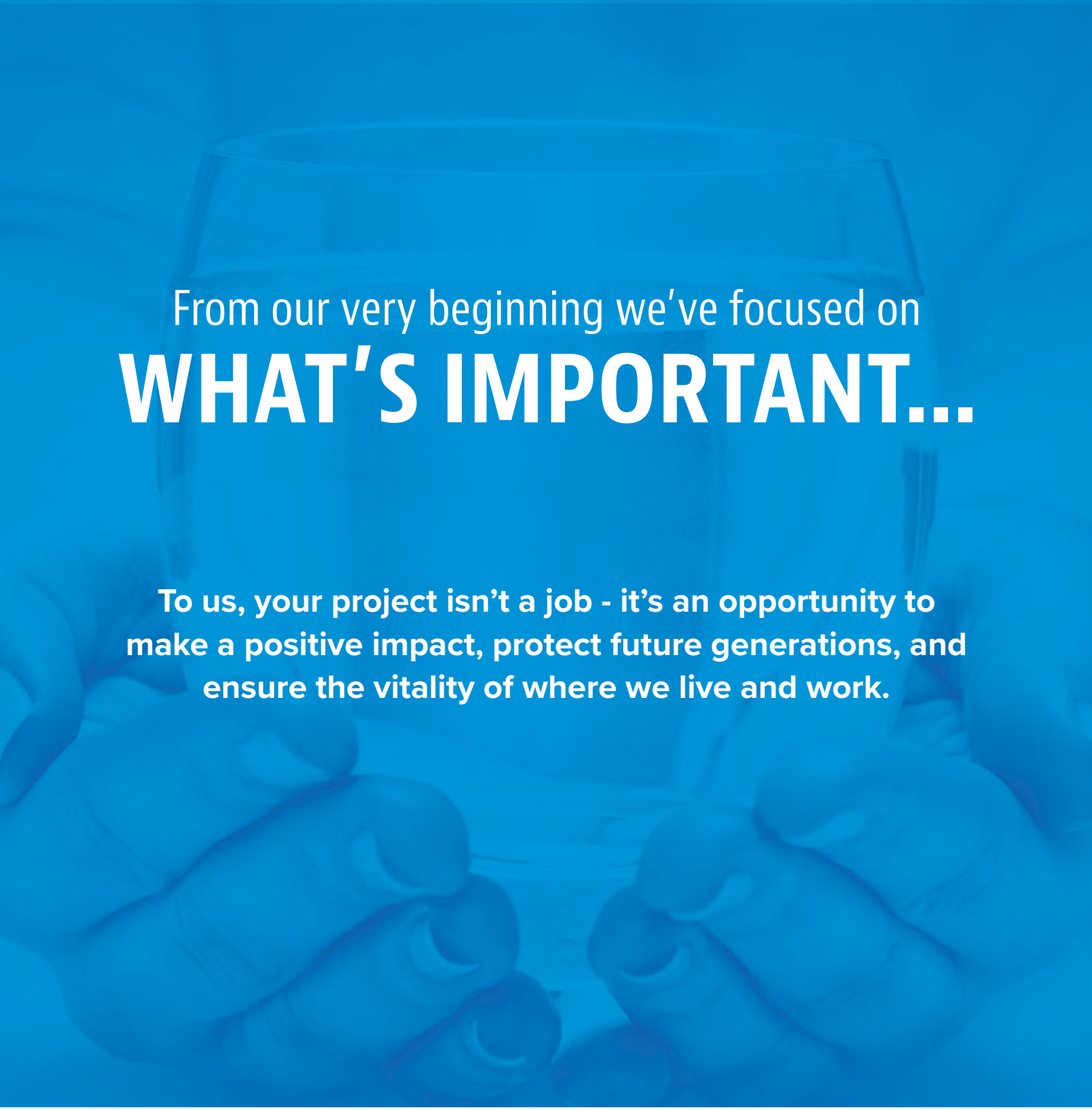

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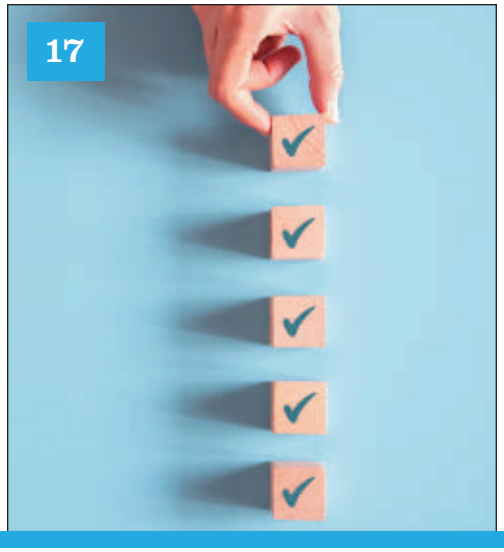

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Executive Director's Report

By John Camden, Executive Director

Moving Forward in 2022!!!

FOR THE PAST TWO years, we have all struggled with COVID-19 and how it has affected our lives as the pandemic is still a reminder…but the future is bright for Montana Rural Water Systems (MRWS)!

This February, the Montana Department of Labor Apprenticeship program approved the work plan for the MRWS Apprenticeship program. With a signed contract through National Rural Water Association, Montana became the 34th state to have a water/wastewater apprenticeship training program. The apprenticeship program will be managed by Lynora Rogstad, who brings over 30-plus years of work experience to the program. She is excited to get the program moving forward and will be contacting utilities to explain the program and asking for your support. If you are interested in the apprenticeship program, please contact Lynora by visiting our website at www.mrws.org.

Over a year ago, the MRWS Board of Directors supported establishing an apprenticeship program for the future water and wastewater specialists in Montana. In addition, we have had great support from government and education leaders throughout Montana.

The apprenticeship program is a "shining star" for MRWS and the utilities in Montana. A special thanks go out to Barb Coffman, who spent hours putting the program together, along with Julie Allen, myself and Shannan Walton from NRWA.

And the "star" shines even brighter! The board of directors is moving forward with plans to develop a training facility for MRWS. In addition, we are consulting with Sweetgrass Economic Development to apply for grant funding, hiring an architectural firm and working on a buy/sell agreement for a five-acre parcel northwest of Great Falls.

Why five acres – one area that lacks in training is distribution! We are looking at leak detection, trenching and trench safety, pipe repair/replacement, valve and hydrant repair, manhole gas monitoring, how to operate and maintain a distribution system, disinfection of new and repaired lines and techniques for recognizing hazards and developing safety procedures and safety programs. We are excited to provide this training to the distribution specialists!

The initial concept is an 8,600 square foot training building with 100-seat capacity, a large shop area, plus administrative offices. Not only will we have on-site training, but we will have the ability to provide training through either zoom meetings or webinars. The ability to have speakers in different cities or states is endless!

Stay tuned for further building project updates. ■

With a signed contract through National Rural Water Association, Montana became the 34th state to have a water/wastewater apprenticeship training program.

National Director's Report

By Allen Kelm,
Montana's NRWA National Director

NRWA is your voice in Washington D.C. with EPA, DNRC and the Department of Labor.

NATIONAL RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION (NRWA) is the parent association of each state rural water association. NRWA is also your voice in Washington D.C. with EPA, DNRC and the Department of Labor. Below are some of the items NRWA is currently working on to make them more applicable and affordable for small rural water systems. These are some of the issues brought forward by state rural water that NRWA and staff are working on.

- **Apprenticeship program** – NRWA has worked with the Department of Labor to address the coming shortage of operators in each state and implement an apprenticeship program for states to enroll to train new operators.
- **Risk management plan** – NRWA, with others representing water utilities and local governments, are cautioning the EPA on new revisions to the risk management plan rule, increasing federal requirements under the risk management plan rule.
- **Flushable wipes** – NRWA is backing new federal legislation to stop flushable wipes from fouling wastewater collection systems, including backing and fully supporting Congresswoman McClain of MI – this legislation would dramatically reduce negative consequences of improper labeling and disposal.
- **Waters of The United States (WOTUS)** – In a statement on February 4, 2022, NRWA urged the EPA to purpose a Waters of the United States rule consistent with the Constitution and Clean Water Act as it replaces the Trump Administration's WOTUS Rule. The rule should respect the states' primary responsibility for the lands and water within their borders and give local communities clear guidance on when the CWA's requirements apply.
- **PFAS** – NRWA and other associations have advocated for water utility exemption from Superfund liability for PFAS because it would make local communities liable under Superfund for Actions by PFAS manufacturers and industrial users. The effort to exempt water utilities from future Superfund liability for PFAS will likely move to Congress for legislative relief.
- **PFAS** – NRWA is supporting the nominations of Liz Royer of Vermont Rural Water, Brad Sawyer of Maine Rural Water and John Jones of New Mexico Rural Water to participate in the EPA Review Panel on proposed PFAS standards. This will allow rural water to provide recommendations to ensure EPA carefully considers small water systems and small community concerns.
- **EPA** – President Baird and Matt Holmes participated in a virtual meeting with EPA's top water official Radhika Fox. She initiated this effort last year to meet quarterly, in person, to discuss the significant issues facing the water sector. Rural water has a seat at the table – that hasn't always been the case in the past – and David was the only elected official representing their group. This speaks to the knowledge, commitment and time put in by the leaders of our NRWA board-driven association. The primary concerns raised were the new LCR requirements, PFAS health advisories, cybersecurity, buy American requirements, supply chain, WOTUS, and of course, implementing the $55 billion through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Radhika gave special recognition to our Apprenticeship Program and discussed the significant amount of technical assistance that will be available in the coming months and years.

- **The power of state associations** – West Virginia and Delaware Rural Water Associations testified before the U.S. Senate Water Committee, standing up for rural water before the Senate's water committee leadership. The committee's bill to reauthorize the drinking water and wastewater state revolving funds passed the Senate in April 2021.
- **Disinfection byproduct regulations** –NRWA supported the nominations of Jana Littlewood (Alaska and NRWA Rural Water Associations' Board of Directors), John Choate (Tri-County Regional Water Distribution District and Arkansas Rural Water Association Board of Directors), and Gary Williams (Executive Director, Florida Rural Water Association) to represent you on EPA's newly formed panel to negotiate new disinfection byproduct regulations. This EPA Federal Advisory Committee Act panel will be negotiating the next version of the DBP rules. Our representatives on the panel will be negotiating for the best possible rule on your behalf.

The legislative staff of NRWA, based out of Washington D.C., do an excellent job getting the proper people together to promote our cause and take care of much of the items mentioned earlier. In addition, this legislative staff is supported by our Political Action Committees (PACs) through donations, raffles and silent auctions being held at state and national conferences. So, when you see a PAC raffle or silent auction, please contribute to the success of your grassroots cause.

Remember, National Rural Water takes the message from the state rural water organizations to Washington D.C. to get things accomplished. Washington realizes that the message is coming from the grassroots of America – you and your rural water systems that are the heart of America. ■

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PFAS – Should I Be Concerned?

By Kyla Terry, Source Water Protection Specialist

IF YOU'VE BEEN TO a water conference or training in the last couple of years, chances are you've seen or heard about PFAS. Should you be concerned about new PFAS regulations?

PFAS stands for per- and polyfluoralkyl substances, including PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid), PFOS (perfluorooctanesulfonic acid), and other chemicals. PFAS are manufactured chemicals widely used in the production of Teflon, firefighting foams and other industrial processes since the 1940s. The greatest concentration of PFAS is at manufacturing, disposal or use sites. In Montana, military bases often have the most significant concern of PFAS contamination due to compounds containing PFAS used to extinguish jet fuel fires. Due to the lack of breaking down in the environment, PFAS are called "forever chemicals." These "forever chemicals" enter water systems via rainwater runoff into surface water or seeping into the soil and groundwater. If ingested in large quantities over an extended period, PFOA and PFOS in human blood have shown an increased risk for several health effects, including thyroid disease, cancer (kidney and testicular) and decreased liver and immune system responses.

However, due to the extensive use of PFAS and many different types of PFAS, the full potential of human and environmental health risks is still under research. As part of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 3 (UCMR3) from 2013-2015, several PFAS chemicals were included in the sampling events as a basis for future regulatory actions. In 2016, the EPA issued a health advisory level for PFOA and PFOS at 70 parts per trillion. Health advisories are non-enforceable and non-regulatory but aim to provide information to state agencies on drinking water contamination. Some states have implemented a statewide regulation on PFAS due to the lack of EPA federally enforceable limits. In 2020, Montana implemented an action plan against PFAS with the Department of Environmental Quality, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of Health and Human Services, the Montana Department of Agriculture, and Lewis & Clark Public Health. Sampling is ongoing to determine impacts in the state of Montana's groundwater, surface water, sediments, and of course, public water supplies.

Overall, PFAS regulations are something to keep an eye out for. As we learn more about these chemicals and testing becomes more widely available, the EPA may set a more definitive maximum contaminant level. For example, at Energy Labs in Billings, MT, their current PFAS tests analyze for 18 contaminants at a detection level of two nanograms per liter or two parts per trillion.

For more information on Montana's PFAS action plan, visit https://deq.mt.gov/cleanupandrec/Programs/pfas.

For more information on the EPA's current PFAS regulations, visit https://www.epa.gov/pfas. ■

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Emergency Response Plans, Operation and Maintenance Manuals and Daily Logs

By Robin Franzen, Wastewater Tech

In the past several months, Montana communities have faced emergencies where people were overwhelmed with managing situations. Newly elected mayors, council members and other board officials having taken office in January might not have the benefit of experience to manage and lead through a crisis. Coupled with an abundance of personnel changes recently, we have the recipe for potential catastrophe.

We as operators need to team with our community leaders to develop a plan tailored to each resource and how any number of incidents might affect each of those resources. I suggest forming a committee, going through every one of your critical assets and determining what you would do if it suddenly became incapacitated and was no longer in service. The plan should include short-term, long-term and permanent losses. Brainstorm ideas from large to small and focus on prevention and recovery. Make a list of professional contacts such as electricians, contractors, suppliers and anyone else you may need at a moment's notice.

We need to plan for extreme emergencies such as fire and flood and minor emergencies, and what might seem to be an annoying inconvenience. For example, a bird or squirrel could cause a loss of overhead power just as high wind could blow a tree on the same power line. If that happens, what do you do? First, develop a plan and have it reviewed by as many people as possible to ensure that it can be understood and the actions conducted. If someone does not understand your intended message, it needs to be rewritten so they do understand. Once you have a plan, it needs to be reviewed and updated any time there is a personnel change and at a minimum annually. Board members and all staff need immediate access to the plan at any given time to minimize the loss of critical assets and to maintain public health and safety. *If you have any type of incident or emergency, take notes throughout the event as to what happened and update your plan as needed*.

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O&M Manuals should be developed and updated as needed. For example, suppose you are suddenly incapacitated and no longer able to perform duties as an operator. In that case, someone should be able to come in, look through your O&M Manual and keep the water flowing. List specific steps taken to operate each piece of equipment and instructions on maintaining them properly and safely. Keep a log of when the equipment was last serviced, the type of service and the next service due.

Daily logs are vital to water and wastewater systems. A simple log type is a calendar kept near the pump or motor. Annotate pump run times, flow monitoring and other information such as temperature and weather conditions. In a lift station, this can be a helpful way to determine I&I during and following rain. Compare your daily numbers and become familiar with how they compare day-to-day throughout the year. If a pump runs considerably more, less, or not at all, investigate the cause, and note it in the log.

If you need any assistance with developing any plans, manuals, or logs, contact Montana Rural Water Systems and I will be glad to help! ■

Apprenticeship Program... Make Water A Career!

By Lynora Rogstad, Apprenticeship Program Coordinator

Hello Montana! My name is Lynora Rogstad, and I am thrilled to have been hired as the Apprenticeship Program Coordinator in January. I was born and raised in Montana, and my husband, Scott, and I have five grown, married children and have been blessed with eight grandchildren, with another debuting in April. We enjoy spending time with our family and friends in the mountains, on the lakes and exploring this amazing state we call home.

I retired from the city of Helena Water and Wastewater Treatment Facilities in 2018. During my years with the city, I was given the opportunity to train in both water and wastewater and still hold Class 1A, 1B, and 1C certifications. The on-the-job training and my experience as a Technical Assistance Provider (TAP) for Midwest Assistance Program created my interest in being the Apprenticeship Coordinator for Montana Rural Water. As a TAP, I traveled the state assisting rural water and wastewater systems and found that many struggled with attaining and retaining certified operators. I assisted operators in preparing for their certification exams and saw their challenges with obtaining relevant study guides and training courses.

That being said, I want to share with you that the Montana Department of Labor officially registered the **Apprenticeship Program for Water and Wastewater Systems Operation Specialists** on January 24, 2022. This is very exciting news for systems trying to recruit operators and individuals wanting a career in water and/or wastewater. We will bring together system sponsors and apprentices, providing a systematic program of related course instruction and on-the-job learning to become a well-qualified Operation Specialist. The systems will be able to have current operator(s) pass their knowledge directly to the apprentice, and concurrently, the apprentice will be provided classroom instruction to support certification requirements. Our goal is to produce well-trained Operation Specialists to meet the demand for certified operators. If you or someone you know is interested in participating, or for more information, please call or text me at 406-422-2640 or email me at lynora@mrws.org

I look forward to making this program a success, but to do that, I will need your help. As they say in a country song, "we are all on the same boat, fishing in the same hole," and we need to have skilled operators to continue to provide safe drinking water and protect our environment. Unfortunately, the shortage of operators in Montana is very real, and it's going to take cooperation and collaboration on all our parts to succeed. ■

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Proper Documentation is Important for Your System!

By Leo Malinak, Circuit Rider

What kind of system checks do operators do daily, weekly and monthly? How are they keeping track of the date, event, location and results? Water system documentation is a necessary part of an operator's routine. How can an operator prove it happened if a check or repair was not documented? This documentation material will provide official information or evidence that will serve as a record of your system operations. Completed forms can be filed and used for subsequent reports.

Documentation is essential to establish and keep a lasting record of what has gone on, including important operating procedures and functions. In addition, a service line inventory is expected to be required in the not-too-distant future, so any documentation of service line information will be crucial.

Systems are similar in many ways, but operators should develop editable Excel (or Google Sheets) forms unique to their systems. Making the documents editable allows the operator to easily modify what information is collected. Records can be for one-time events like distribution work, installation of meters or repairs. The form could also outline supplies used and costs incurred along with the date, time, address, description of work, main size, service line materials, findings and complications. All forms need to be signed or initialed by the person completing the form.

When I was an operator, I developed a series of forms for daily checks of pumps and wells, including the date, time, system PSI, well levels, on/off, meter reading, gallons pumped, operator's name/initials and pertinent notes. These forms were invaluable for tracking problems with the system, like water leaks and creating an ongoing system history.

A detailed history of the system's operation can be formulated from these forms. This will assist operators in knowing and understanding their system better. The documents can also help engineers and grant writers understand your system. When legal challenges occur, well-documented records help protect operators and systems. Records must be stored in such a way that they are both sufficiently accessible and safeguarded against damage. For example, an active contract may be stored on ordinary paper in a file cabinet. Many people advocate only recording information electronically. Electronic records must be backed up; a system failure can wipe out or damage files. You can print out weekly or monthly summaries; it will cut down on paper and give you more data security. Duplicates of some files, like those related to water rights, should be kept in more than one location.

Montana water rights have gotten harder to obtain. A system does not want to lose its water rights due to a lack of documentation of the water meter readings. Water supply monitoring is essential and depends on the community's resources, setting and water sources.

Documentation records will assist you during the Montana Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) onsite public water system inspections. There are eight essential elements of a sanitary survey: 1. sources, 2. treatment, 3. distribution system, 4. finished water storage, 5. pumps, pump facilities and controls, 6. monitoring, reporting and data verification, 7. system management and operation and 8. operator compliance with state requirements (Montana Department of Environmental Quality). This is an opportunity to clarify proper documentation of monitoring and sampling requirements or procedures and be informed of any upcoming changes. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need help with documentation procedures at 406-899-8228 or lmalinak@mrws.org. ■

Reference:

Montana Department of Environmental Quality. (n.d.). Sanitary survey fact sheet for public water...deq.mt.gov. Retrieved February 13, 2022, from https://deq.mt.gov/files/Water/PWSUB/Documents/docs/SanitarySurveyFactSheet.pdf

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Need Help with Water Treatment? Call Dennis!

By Dennis Eaton, Circuit Rider

Hello, one and all from the new guy! Since December, I have been out and about, stopping at the members closest to my home area. My visits have been met with smiles and handshakes. Everyone has been extremely friendly and positive! I have visited with old acquaintances and met a bunch of new friends.

Here is a little background on myself to better understand the knowledge I can bring to the table for you and your future needs.

My background is in mechanical filter-style treatment, mainly surface water, and problem water treatment. I have worked with many membrane plants, several problem water process, and conventional water treatment plants. I am very familiar with chemical dosing of the systems and pump controls of several models. I have worked with peristaltic, flow paced, PLC controlled and cap pumps. I have also worked with the specific need controllers for these pumps: NTU, user set parameter and more.

My typical deployment for a system is to learn the system and then help with any corrective actions needed. I stay with the system until corrective actions are completed, or the correct person is fully engaged with the system. I am a surface water guy with an extensive background in deep wells and their needs.

I am proud to say I was born and raised in Montana and blessed to live in our wonderous state. I have been married for over 30 years, and yes, to the same gal. But, if she ever finds out I have been living in her attic, it might be splits city, so please do not tell her. LOL. My wife's name is Emelie, and yes, she has a good sense of humor.

In the coming year, I look forward to stopping by as many systems across the state as I can get to so we can meet face-to-face. My door is open if you need any help. I will keep the light on for you.

During a few of the systems stops I have made, I have met several young operators getting ready to take the water operators test in the next few months, with a few of them having been put on hold with the COVID shutdown. I have stopped by recent trainings and have heard that the math questions seem to be the hot topic of concern. The numbers can get confusing and frustrating. I am offering help. Please let me know if you would like some one-on-one time to discuss your concerns about the operator test.

As stated, my door is open to you, and I look forward to getting to know you and serving your needs. My contact information is as follows: Deaton@MRWS.org, 406-812-0392 (cell), 406-454-1151 (office). ■

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Environmental Justice Starts with Equitable Water Access

With conversations about racial justice top-of-mind for many Americans, we should understand that systemic oppression extends to the water utilities the public is meant to trust.

By Chris Shaffner, Senior Vice President, CoBank

As calls for racial justice are amplified throughout the country, more people are starting to unravel the threads of inequity that are at the core of the many systems we depend on. From education and healthcare to housing and access to fresh water, rampant structural inequality within minority and low-income communities shows us that we'll only achieve racial justice once we see environmental justice.[1]

Environmental justice means fair treatment in the development of policies and regulations that protect the environment and the communities within them. However, countless communities have yet to see that: The same policies and practices that have hindered their economic development have also left too many people in those areas extremely vulnerable to health and environmental hazards.

Access to clean, fresh water has been one of the biggest disparities – but because conversations about environmental racism often focus on air pollution,[2] it's also one of the most understated. When the Flint, Michigan, water crisis came to light, for instance, concerned residents across the country were surprised that an entire community received its water from a contaminated source. Imagine what would happen if they knew that, at the same time, just shy of 2,900 census tracts and ZIP codes across the U.S. – many in the country's poorest cities – had lead poisoning rates at least double that of Flint's.[3]

Why We Should Pay Attention to Water Equity

Basic access to clean water is certainly a day-to-day struggle for millions of low-income people and people of color, and lead poisoning is just one example of that struggle. To add to it, around 2 million Americans in rural and low-income areas also lack indoor sanitation or plumbing.[4]

The situation hasn't improved much in Flint since the story broke, and it continues to worsen in the thousands of other communities that are poisoned by their water supplies. Lead pipes aren't always the cause, either: Low-income, minority and native communities fall victim too often to water sources polluted by nearby industrial facilities and infrastructure.

Earlier this year, *Time* reported that much of the Navajo Nation – which spans across Utah, New Mexico and Arizona – has been drinking and bathing in uranium-polluted water for decades.[5] Infants are showing traces of uranium in their blood, folks are getting infections from taking showers and people of all ages are dying from related chronic illnesses.

In other areas, poor water quality and lack of safe, basic plumbing have similar effects. Rates of illness and mortality are strikingly high, while poverty, poor health and low life expectancy are more prevalent.

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The coronavirus pandemic only made this gap more dangerous, as clean water is essential for individuals to heal and for communities to fight the virus's spread.[6]

3 Ways to Strive for Improved Water Access in Disadvantaged Communities

Even for the wealthiest country in the world, the U.S.'s failure to provide all of its communities with clean water seems insurmountable. However, there are changes we can make on the front line and in our interactions with communities that can help us start making a dent[7] in these problems:

1. Start gathering data during social services intake.

Social workers and other key players are used to bridging inequities between communities, and it's important to start extending that purpose and mission to fight for equitable water access. Integrating important information about adequate water access and quality as part of overall health assessments is critical, as a lack of it can be a risk factor for poor health outcomes.

For example, consider how the local government or other social programs in a community assess a family's risk or need for services. There are plenty of opportunities to ask about access to safe water and gather that data to identify larger issues related to water inequality. As we gauge whether someone can feed their family and keep a roof over their head, for instance, we can also determine if they have access to clean, running water.

2. Familiarize yourself with the local infrastructure.

Understanding the local water infrastructure in the communities people live in is also essential in determining whether water access is a problem.

Do zoning guidelines address industrial wastewater disposal, for example? Is the water system public or private? Is there a moratorium on water shutoffs during this pandemic to ensure people still have water if they can't pay their bills? With COVID-19 impacting minority communities at a disproportionate level,[8] this last question becomes even more critical in the fight for water equity.

3. Understand how the water issue breaks along urban and rural lines.

Lastly, rural communities will have different challenges than urban communities in this regard, meaning social workers should stay attuned to how these factors shift their water access.

In rural communities, for instance, extraction and use of natural resources[9] can make their mark on water and air quality in addition to contaminating land resources. Around 43 million Americans[10] also obtain the water they drink and use from private wells, which aren't protected under the government's Safe Water Drinking Act. They're also held responsible for the maintenance and testing of those wells, and the resources for doing so can be difficult to find.

Luckily, the EPA and USDA provide funding for several organizations that support small and rural water and wastewater systems. Some of these programs include the National Rural Water Association's Circuit Rider Program, Wastewater Program, and Safe Drinking Water Act Compliance Program, as well as the USDA Rural Development Loan and Grant Program. Having these resources to offer up to rural residents would be an important part of this intake process.

In 2019, the World Economic Forum named water crises among the top 10 global risks,[11] both in likelihood and impact. By raising awareness of inequities in water access in our own communities, we can do a lot more to address this crisis and improve the lives of millions of people who are negatively impacted by a service we often take for granted. ■

About the author: *Chris Shaffner is the senior vice president of the Water and Community Facilities division at CoBank, a national cooperative bank serving vital industries across rural America by providing loans, leases, export financing and other financial services in all 50 states. Chris oversees the strategic growth and management of CoBank's water infrastructure lending, rural healthcare investments and rural equity funds. Before joining CoBank, Chris held various leadership positions in both public and private organizations, including heading Manhattan borough operations for the New York City Housing Authority.*

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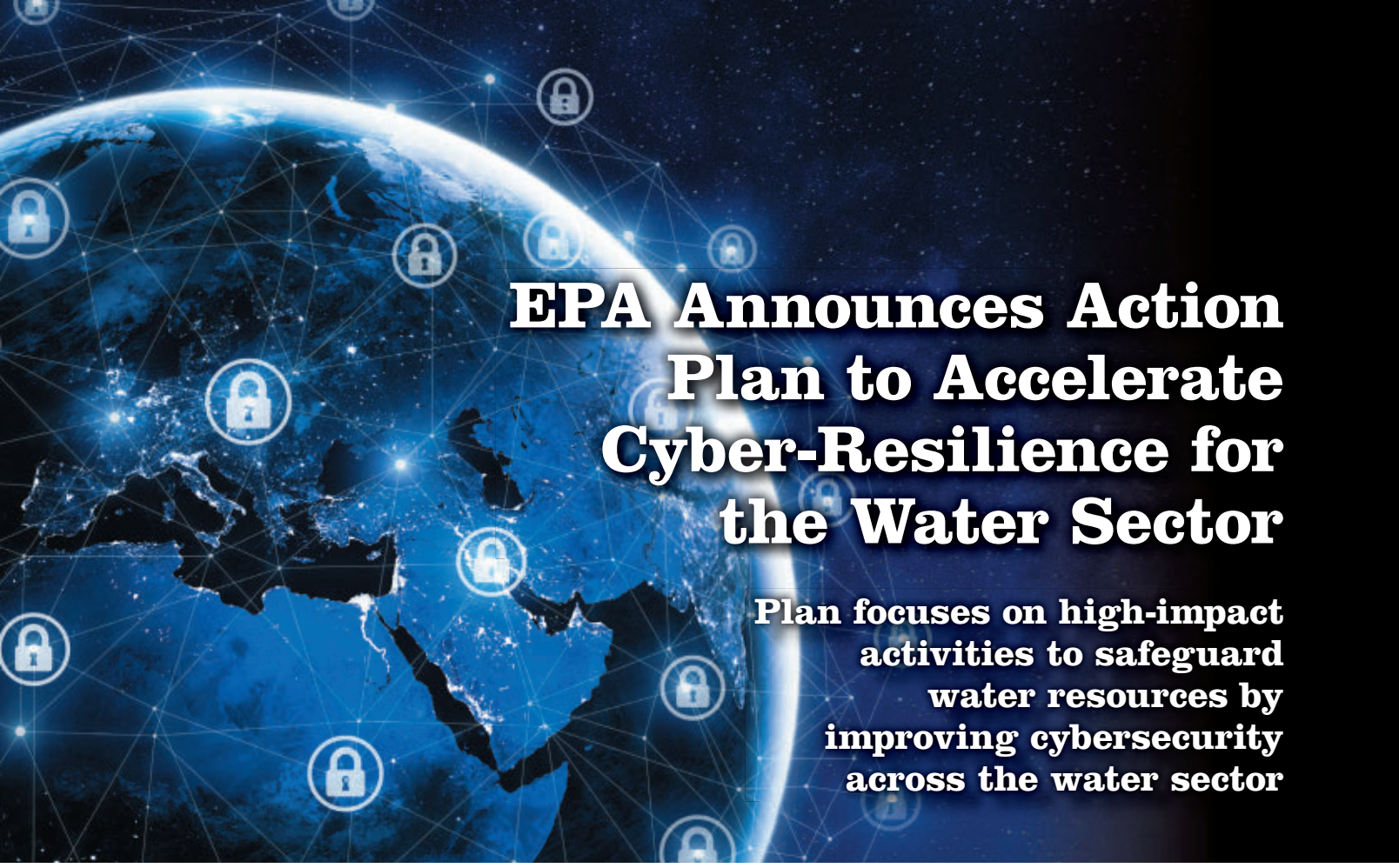

EPA Announces Action Plan to Accelerate Cyber-Resilience for the Water Sector

Plan focuses on high-impact activities to safeguard water resources by improving cybersecurity across the water sector

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and its federal partners recently announced the Industrial Control Systems Cybersecurity Initiative – Water and Wastewater Sector Action Plan to help protect water systems from cyberattacks. The Action Plan focuses on high-impact activities that can be surged within 100 days to safeguard water resources by improving cybersecurity across the water sector.

The Action Plan is part of President Biden's Industrial Control Systems (ICS) Initiative, which he established pursuant to National Security Memorandum 5, Improving Cybersecurity for Critical Infrastructure Control Systems. The ICS Initiative is a collaborative effort between the federal government and critical infrastructure community to facilitate the deployment of technologies that provide cyber-related threat visibility, indicators, detections and warnings.

"Cyberattacks represent an increasing threat to water systems and thereby the safety and security of our communities," said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. "As cyber-threats become more sophisticated, we need a more coordinated and modernized approach to protecting the water systems that support access to clean and safe water in America. EPA is committed to working with our federal partners and using our authorities to support the water sector in detecting, responding to, and recovering from cyber-incidents."

The Water and Wastewater Sector Action Plan focuses on promoting and supporting the water sector's adoption of strategies for the early detection of cyber-threats and allow for the rapid sharing of cyber-threat data across the government in order to expedite analysis and action. Actions include:

- Establishing a task force of water sector leaders.
- Implementing pilot projects to demonstrate and accelerate adoption of incident monitoring.
- Improving information sharing and data analysis.
- Providing technical support to water systems.

The Initiative's goals are outlined in the Action Plan, which was developed by the EPA, the National Security Council (NSC), the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), and the Water Sector Coordinating Council and Water Government Coordinating Council (WSCC/GCC).

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"Securing our nation's critical infrastructure is a top priority for President Biden and his Administration. In the past year, the Administration has worked closely across the U.S. government and critical infrastructure partners to ensure they have our full support in shoring up their cyber defenses," said Deputy National Security Advisor for Cyber and Emerging Technology Anne Neuberger. "The action plans for the electric grid and pipelines have already resulted in over 150 electricity utilities serving over 90 million residential customers and multiple critical natural gas pipelines deploying additional cybersecurity technologies. This plan will build on this work and is another example of our focus and determination to use every tool at our disposal to modernize the nation's cyber defenses, in partnership with private sector owners and operators of critical infrastructure."

"The expansion of the President's ICS Cybersecurity Initiative to the Water Sector is an important step forward in securing our nation's water utilities from malicious cyber activity. The water sector action plan will provide owners and operators of water utilities a roadmap for high-impact actions they can take to improve the cybersecurity of their operations," said National Cyber Director Chris Inglis. "I commend the Water Sector Coordinating Council and their federal partners for their continuing efforts to improve the present and future resilience of water utilities on which each American depends."

"The Water Sector Coordinating Council appreciates the partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Security Council to advance and mature cybersecurity across the Water and Wastewater Systems Sector. This plan represents a key step towards achieving that goal, and we look forward to continued engagement to support the sector vision of secure and resilient drinking water and wastewater infrastructure," said Nicholas Santillo Jr., Chair of the Water Sector Coordinating Council.

EPA and its federal partners intend to work with water sector stakeholders to encourage, incentivize and assist in the rapid deployment of ICS cybersecurity monitoring technologies. By implementing this Action Plan, partners across the government will lay the foundation for supporting enhanced ICS cybersecurity across water systems of all sizes – ensuring improved cyber-preparedness. ■

Be Proactive About Cybersecurity – You Will Sleep Better at Night

By Patti Kay Wisniewski, EPA Drinking Water Security, Preparedness and Resilience Coordinator

Many things will keep water suppliers up at night – supply chain issues, COVID illnesses of staff, family and friends, approaching severe weather and cybersecurity breaches. There are numerous resources to assist water suppliers with unraveling the complicated web of how someone can attack the IT of a water system. But the key is to begin to take steps now to protect our infrastructure and to continue to provide safe drinking water.

Why: Water systems have been attacked and this will very likely happen again. It is important to minimize impacts in the event of a successful attack. Impacts to a utility may include, but are not limited to: interruption of treatment, distribution or conveyance processes from opening and closing valves, overriding alarms or disabling pumps or other equipment; theft of customers' personal data such as credit card information or Social Security numbers stored in online billing systems; loss of use of industrial control systems (e.g., SCADA systems) for remote monitoring of automated treatment and distribution processes, encrypted data files and more. Any of these impacts can erode public confidence in water supply safety.

What: According to IBM, cybersecurity is the practice of protecting critical systems and sensitive information from digital attacks. Also known as information technology (IT) security, cybersecurity measures are designed to combat threats against networked systems and applications, whether those threats originate from inside or outside of an organization. In 2020, the average cost of a data breach was $3.86 million globally, and $8.64 million in the United States.

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Who: All water utilities need to understand the problem and be proactive in addressing it. State primacy agencies need to address the status of cybersecurity programs during site visits such as sanitary surveys and share resources for improvements with water suppliers. EPA will develop guidance and conduct training for sanitary survey inspectors and water suppliers. It is anticipated that the Department of Homeland Security DHS will issue cybersecurity performance goals for critical infrastructure control systems.

When: *NOW!* Don't be overwhelmed by the myriad of ways you could be attacked or the tremendous amount of resources that exist to assist you. "Just do it," as Nike says. Think of spring as the time to spring into action to protect your IT system.

If you have completed your risk and resilience assessment (RRA) and have updated your emergency response plan (ERP) as required under the America's Water Infrastructure Act, but failed to include addressing cybersecurity events, do this now. The RRA should cover electronic, computer or other automated systems and the security of such systems. An ERP should include strategies and resources to improve the resilience of the system, including physical security and cybersecurity of the water system. In addition, the ERP should include plans to address malevolent acts, which is what a cyber-attack is considered.

How: Here are some ideas to get you started but this is not an exhaustive list.

- Follow the recommendations in EPA's Cyber Incident Action Checklist to prepare, respond and recovery from an attack. (https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2017-11/documents/171013-incidentactionchecklist-cybersecurity_form_508c.pdf)
- Develop a cybersecurity culture by training staff and establishing and enforcing policies.
- Be suspicious of emails. Curb your curiosity to open all emails and click on links. Don't trust anyone unless you know them and be cautious and leery of anything that does not look or feel right.
- Require changing of passwords every 90 days and do not allow sharing of passwords.
- Use multi-factor authentication: what you have and what you know (similar to how most banks require you to log into your account by sending you a text with a code to your cell phone or email).
- Revoke/inactivate credentials of former employees.
- Keep software up-to-date and install patches when available.
- Limit remote access and allow only for those with a verified operational need.
- Practice shifting to manual operations to be more familiar if or when the need arises.
- Back up data and store offline, allowing for easier restoration if data is lost, stolen or encrypted.
- Keep servers in a secure room, lock the door and limit access.
- Keep billing IT separate from SCADA IT.
- Consider cybersecurity when undertaking other projects so it isn't an add-on or an after-thought.
- Sign up for a FREE, confidential, cybersecurity assessment and technical assistance offered by EPA's contractors at https://horsleywitten.com/cybersecurityutilities.

Where: Numerous resources exist and advisories are shared by CISA, EPA, AWWA, WaterISAC, to name a few. Many are free and without membership subscriptions. Sign up for these and stay on top of updating software.

- EPA: https://www.epa.gov/waterriskassessment/epa-cybersecurity-best-practices-water-sector
- CISA Advisories: https://www.cisa.gov/uscert/ncas/alerts; subscribe at the link at the bottom of their page
- WaterISAC: https://www.waterisac.org/fundamentals
- AWWA: https://www.awwa.org/Resources-Tools/Resource-Topics/Risk-Resilience/Cybersecurity-Guidance

Who (again): Consider reporting events to the WaterISAC, which compiles water sector incident information to share with the sector. This assists other water suppliers with knowing what events are occurring across the sector. Information shared is done anonymously. (https://www.waterisac.org/report-incident)

Capture response assistance contacts, such as the Critical Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) per the Cyber Incident Reporting: A Unified Message for Reporting to the Federal Government https://www.dhs.gov/publication/cyber-incident-reporting-unified-message-reporting-federal-government, which explains when, what and how to report a cyber incident to the federal government. Key contact information is:

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)

- To report incidents, phishing, malware, or vulnerabilities: https://www.cisa.gov
- Online forms: https://www.cisa.gov/uscert/report
- Email CISA Service Desk: cisaservicedesk@cisa.dhs.gov
- Phone: 888-282-0870

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

- https://www.fbi.gov

Finally, remember to capture your planned response and recovery actions in emergency response plans and Continuity of Operation Plans and exercise these plans at least annually. If an event has occurred, be sure to conduct an after-action review, capture ideas for improvements in your plans and provide additional staff training.

Taking steps now to further protect your water system will help you sleep at night. At least until the next storm is heading your way. ■

Polluters Pay Municipalities for the Cost of Cleanup from Toxic Manmade Chemicals

By Ashley Campbell, Attorney, SL Environmental Law Group

Toxic manmade chemicals, like per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and 1,2,3-Tricholoropropane (TCP), are showing up in water systems across the U.S. It's not new, but it has become more common, as municipalities are now increasing mandatory testing due to new state and federal regulations. These new regulations are also resulting in tighter maximum contaminant levels (MCL) in water systems as the health impacts of these toxic chemicals are dire.

Contaminant Detection

Detecting levels of these chemicals over the *response levels* generally causes water systems to take the contaminated water source out of use, and begin treating the water delivered, or providing public notification of the contaminants. *Notification levels*, on the other hand, are advisory in nature but do require suppliers either to take the contaminated source out of service or to notify the governing body of the municipality where the well supplies water of the presence of the contaminant. Although contaminant levels vary from state to state, the absence of an MCL does not prevent recovery.

Remediation Costs

For most systems, getting contaminated sources back into compliance will require costly treatment measures that can run as high as hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars to build and maintain. Potential costs include building new wells and treatment facilities, the extension of service to impacted private wells, replacing water from other sources, and in some cases property damage. For some cash-strapped municipalities, these unexpected costs could prove catastrophic unless outside funding is secured.

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Polluters are responsible

Over the last two decades or so, water systems have found success litigating against the manufacturers of products that contained TCP and, more recently, PFAS. Some of these lawsuits, particularly earlier litigation over PFAS, arose out of the dumping of these chemicals into surface water or landfills by the manufacturers of products that contained them. The majority of these lawsuits, however, have focused on environmental contamination that resulted from the use of such products in their intended manner, claiming that the products were defectively designed in a way that risked contamination, or that the manufacturers failed to warn of such risks.

Lawsuits against manufacturers for groundwater contamination caused by their products usually rely on a legal doctrine known as "products liability." Though the nuances can vary from state-to-state, this doctrine has been adopted by courts and legislatures across the country. Fundamentally, under the law of products liability, a manufacturer or seller is liable if a defect in the design of its product causes injury while the product is being used in a reasonably foreseeable way.

The legal precedence has been set that PFOA, PFOS and TCP are defective products under this liability doctrine.

Making a Successful Claim

Water providers interested in pursuing solutions to this toxic

legacy via the courts usually begin the process by entering into a legal services agreement with a qualified law firm that specializes in environmental law. A specialty firm has the experience to lessen the workload and time spent on discovery. In some cases, filing in the federal court versus state court can lead to a quicker resolution – a good law firm wants to make this a quick and painless process for the water utility so they can stay focused on providing a necessary and vital service.

Legal Costs

Some law firms will take on these cases on a contingency basis. That means that if the case is successful, the client reimburses the law firm's costs and pays it a percentage of the settlement. If the case is not successful, then there is no payment due. If they are willing to take your case, it is because your probability of success is very high. It is good news for cash-strapped municipalities and communities as they need not take on any financial risk while exploring and pursuing cost-recovery options.

Time is of the Essence to Make Your Claim

The length of the statute of limitations, the starting point for measuring it, and other factors that may affect its application vary considerably from state to state, so water systems who are considering bringing suit against manufacturers or others responsible for the contamination of their supplies should consult with legal counsel at the first opportunity. Being among the first to take action may result in more generous settlements and also ensures that your lawsuit is scheduled into busy court dockets as early as possible.

The law exists to protect us and ensure justice prevails. In the case of this handful of manufacturers, they not only knew their products were harmful to humans, but they also covered it up while making billions in profit from the sale of these products every year, until the government banned their use. The law has already determined these manufacturers are accountable for this toxic legacy, meaning municipalities are justified in seeking compensation for water remediation costs so that ratepayers are not left with the bill. ■

About the author: *Ashley Campbell, Attorney at SL Environmental Law Group, focuses her practice on environmental contamination litigation, representing clients before municipal boards, state committees and state courts. Ashley has drafted appeals to the New Hampshire Supreme Court, and briefs to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court.*

Don't Wait To Start Your Inventory

Why Creation & Validation Should Be Your Top Priority

By Kelly Smith, 120Water

Your lead service line inventory is foundational to Lead and Copper Rule compliance – and while it may be tempting to put off this project until further legislative steps are taken, systems should begin the process now to keep up with compliance deadlines.

Inventory Deadline: 2024

LCR will go into effect in 2024, and we believe it will only get more complex.

The Biden administration has placed a freeze on the legislation for review, however, the primary content of the revised rule is likely to remain largely the same, with any updates making it more strict than its current form. Legislation will go into effect in October 2024.

At that time, systems will need to submit the first draft of their inventories – inventories that not only show where lead can be found in your communities, but have been validated to confirm its presence. The validation process is essential to verify your current data set and fill in gaps. For tips on what validation techniques make sense for your system, check out our Inventory Validation Guide (120water.com/resources/the-ultimate-how-to-guide-creating-your-service-line-inventory).

Understanding the requirements of the revisions, progress toward compliance should begin now to allow ample time.

A Validated Inventory Leads to LCR Compliance

Knowing where the lead is – and having that location verified – will be the basis for the majority of the LCR compliance requirements. For a full list of requirements and due dates as they stand, view our LCR Pipeline (120water.com/resources/lcrr-compliance-pipeline). The revisions introduce numerous new mandates that will be based around this validated inventory – without it, your system could use up valuable resources trying to make up for lost time.

Your inventory will be the basis of the LSL replacement plan required by the revisions, providing the foundation for the next several years of work as lead pipes are removed. You'll also need to notify all customers served by LSLs or unknown materials in 2024, a significant communication challenge that won't happen without accurate inventory data.

The inventory will also dictate your tier site monitoring, where utilities will soon be required to provide first and fifth liter sampling at any home with a known LSL. Accurate tier lists can only come from an accurate inventory.

A Project of Unprecedented Scale

The scope of the LSL inventory project will require years of planning and collaboration.

Inventory is a massive project, and utilities need time to unravel all the moving pieces. In what is essentially a large-scale data puzzle, gathering and validating the numerous relevant parts will be a big undertaking. According to polls conducted during 120Water webinar sessions, 82.7% percent of utilities are missing complete data on private-side line materials. Tools such as 120Water's Inventory Management Solution can expedite this process, but performing an audit of the current data in your utility will help to build a realistic timeline.

In addition to data complications, you'll need to bring together multiple departments to collaborate on this project, including contractors and third-party services to empower

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your team. Building the inventory, validating materials and completing replacement efforts is potentially a decades-long process, and postponing the process is one more day your community has to live with the possibility of lead in their drinking water.

Take Advantage of Federal Funding

Make yourself eligible for funding opportunities with a "shovel-ready" inventory. Numerous funding sources have been made available to systems for infrastructure, including water quality and LSL-related projects. Utilities should focus efforts on LSL inventorying if they hope to capture a piece of this funding pie.

Many of the sources will prioritize "shovel-ready" projects, which implies at the very least an estimation of lines, and most likely a complete inventory. Replacing service lines will be a costly endeavor, and you'll likely need to utilize funding that's been made available – waiting to begin your inventory will not put your system in a position to capitalize on those opportunities.

Save Time and Money

The Lead and Copper Rule revisions are certainly the most important legislative changes in the world of drinking water in decades, however, regulations will continue to evolve as we learn more and as public pressure to remove all lead from the ground mounts. We recommend operating under a future-proof definition of what constitutes a lead service line, collecting public and private information on the following up front:

- Lead pipes
- Lead fittings
- Copper with lead solder
- Galvanized lines
- Unknown materials

This is a project large enough you don't want to have to do it twice. Approaching it with a broader mentality of what may constitute a replaceable service line will save your utility valuable time and money down the road as regulations evolve.

Where to Begin

Systems are juggling a lot of priorities right now, and it can be easy to assume that with no immediate deadlines, this project can wait until next year. We hope you'll consider the reasons it's important to start now so your system is set up for success in the future.

If you're wondering exactly how to get started, schedule a call with our team and we'll walk alongside you to assess the best next steps for your system. ■

NRWA Applauds EPA's Announcement of Intent to Remove Lead Service Lines Across the Country

By Cheyenne Jones, Public Relations and Communications Manager, NRWA

On behalf of all small and rural communities in the country, the National Rural Water Association (NRWA) is grateful for the President's prioritization of the complete removal of all lead pipes used to carry drinking water to American homes in the Build Back Better legislation (H.R. 5376).

The Administration's legislation includes $9 billion for historically successful drinking water infrastructure programs in addition to the recently enacted $15 billion in funding that was continued in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, signed into law by President Biden on November 15, 2021.

"This first-of-its-kind initiative will be remembered as one of the most significant public water and drinking water improvement initiatives in the country's history and especially in rural America," said Matt Holmes, NRWA CEO. "We are especially grateful that the funding is targeted to disadvantaged communities that often have the most difficult time affording safe, public drinking water and most disadvantaged communities will be in small-town and rural America."

The funding is coming at the same time as the Administration is finalizing its new lead in drinking water regulations (Lead and Copper Rule Revisions or LCRR), which will require all communities to map and inventory their lead water lines, develop plans in certain instances for the removal of the lead lines and their replacement with safe alternatives and expand the requirements for public involvement in the program. The additional funding is essential for the successful implementation of the new rule in more than 45,000 small and rural communities covered by the rule.

The great majority of communities regulated by the new LCRR will be small (under 10,000 in population) with limited technical and financial resources. We are appreciative and supportive of the Administration's approach of shared intergovernmental responsibility among local, state and federal government that is reflected by combining the new rule with the historical funding assistance. ■

Montana Lead in Schools Program

In January 2020, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) adopted amendments to the administrative rules regarding the matter of health in Montana schools. The amendments included requirements pertaining to reducing lead in schools' drinking water. It requires all schools accredited by the Montana Board of Public Education to sample for lead in schools' drinking water.

All drinking water fountains and kitchen fixtures used for drinking or food preparation must be sampled, as well as all other fixtures that have the potential of being used for food prep or drinking (classroom sinks, bathroom sinks, nurse's office, concession stands, etc.). Results are place into the bins or categories. Any fixture with results of 5.0 ug/L or greater must be addressed. If concentrations are greater than 15 ug/L, those fixtures have to be immediately removed from service until they can be addressed. Fixtures with concentrations between 5 and 15 ug/L, can remain in use as long as they are flushed every morning, until they are addressed.

Corrective actions that can be used:

- If **fixture** is likely source of lead
  - Replacing old fixture with new "lead free" fixture
  - Permanently removing fixture if not needed or used
  - Installing point-of-use filters
- If **plumbing** is likely source of lead
  - Auto-flushers
  - Partial plumbing replacement

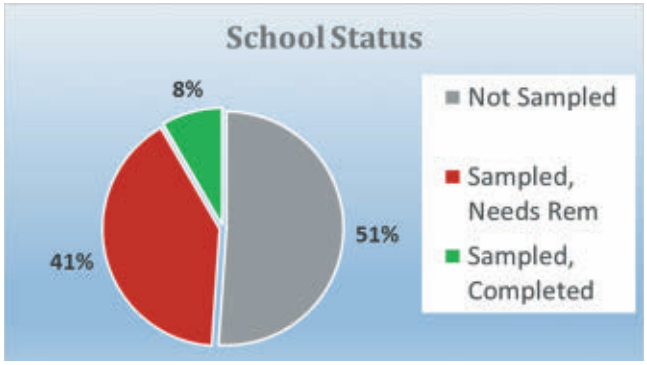

Figure 1: There are 560 schools in Montana

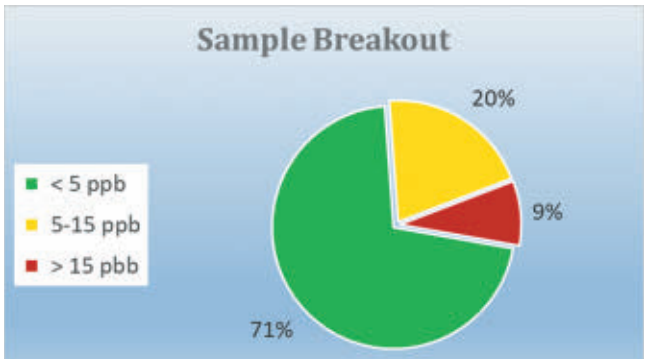

Figure 2: Over 8,600 samples have been collected so far

- Full plumbing replacement
- Whole school treatment (corrosion control)
- Lead service line replacement (if present)

Lead in Schools contact:

Lead Reduction in School Drinking Water Rule Manager
Greg Montgomery
406-444-5312
1520 E 6th Ave
Helena, MT 59601

Questions, comments and documentation can be emailed to: DEQleadinschools@mt.gov. ■

Montana WARN

Responsibly Helping Neighbors in Need

By Kirk Yoder, MTWARN/MTDEQ

The mission of Water/Wastewater Agency Response Networks (WARN) is to provide accelerated access to the specialized tools or equipment needed to respond to and recover from natural and human-caused incidents that disrupt drinking water and wastewater utilities.

By adopting the WARN approach to mutual aid and assistance, each state's drinking water and wastewater utilities can sign a single agreement covering issues such as indemnification, workers' compensation and reimbursement. The agreement also allows utilities to share equipment, personnel and other resources to respond effectively to any crisis. A WARN's success relies on a solid base of member utilities willing to help one another during emergencies. For this reason, no utility is too large or too small to benefit from WARN, and each additional member enhances the possibility of a successful response to an emergency.

Sometimes a handshake agreement to help a neighbor in need can be quick and painless, but what happens if an issue or dispute arises during that agreement? Different people or utilities may handle the matter in many different ways, so what does Montana WARN's agreement do? The agreement provides several carefully thought-out avenues of remedy for issues that could upset a response. Keep in mind that responses to requests for help are voluntary, so the whole idea of the agreement is to keep all risks to the responding and requesting utilities at a minimum, including all aspects, from potential disputes to reimbursement and even staff availability.

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However unlikely it is that a response ends up in a dispute, there are multiple potential benefits to signing onto the WARN agreement. For example, look at equipment and plumbing fittings for water and wastewater systems. If Montana WARN has a strong base of members statewide, it is much more likely you could find help, borrowing equipment or getting parts and recover quicker with your neighbor's help than having to spend time finding rental equipment or buying parts. Not to mention that if an issue occurs on a non-business day or holiday, your utility may be waiting three to four days while crippled to repair something. The basic idea is to provide a layer of resources where a requesting utility may have run out of their own and may otherwise be crippled for an unnecessary amount of time without outside help.

In 2020 the WARN Board agreed that it would be helpful to conduct training with the utility members. There are many ways to train with WARN. So far, there have been opportunities to review the operations plan and how WARN functions during an activation. There have been opportunities to discuss and review the requirements for a risk and resilience assessment and how to use that to create an emergency response plan. Montana WARN continually works with all members to obtain free training for the National Incident Management System and National Incident Command System training while providing continuing education credits through Montana Operator Certification Program. When possible, MT WARN will offer all members insight into other relevant, free (emergency response or cybersecurity training) that often has been granted continuing education credits.

MT WARN's goal is to provide training to practice multiple-member utilities Emergency Response Plans by conducting an exercise. For this, it would ideally be multiple utilities in a localized geographical area that could see how they would work together in an incident scenario using their emergency response plans and testing how their individual plans use or dovetail into the WARN Operational Plan.

Montana WARN is a way for Montana Water and Wastewater utilities to help their neighbors responsibly and avoid being stranded in disasters until limited state or federal help arrives.

Interested or looking for more information? Find the MTWARN link on the mrws.org website. ■

Operator Corner

Congratulations to all of our newly certified operators!!!

October 2021 – January 2022 In-Office

Joshua Huckeby 1C
Chelsea Dodd 2A
Richard Baker 4AB, 3C
Bradley Hicks 3C
Deborah Guenther 4AB
Keith Guenther 4AB
Craig Christensen 3B
Kyle Blake 1B
Taylor Hallman 1B
Charles Dilley 3B
Aaron Strausbaugh 1B
Thomas Burwell 3C
Wayne Evert 2A, 3B
Drue Ann Woods 4AB
Kerry LaDuke 4AB
Kyle Landru 3C
Donald Hokanson 3B
Britton Bell 4AB
Jessica Goosmann 4AB
Skylar Druffel 2B
Riley Augare 4AB
Kelly Hert 1A
John Casey 1B
Duncan Quigley 2E, 3C

Bozeman Fall Water School 2021

Pete Adams 1C
Anthony Hebert 3A
Terry Billings 4AB
Nathan Hawkins 4AB
Benjamin Eggers 3B
John Paddock 3C
Dale Plouffe 3C
David Olson 3A
Bradley Hicks 3A, 3B
Todd Eyman 1C
Eric Wegren 3A, 3B
Travis Wildman 3C
Paxton Maki 3A
Benjamin Parkinson 3B
Joshua Wolff 4AB
Jack Brawn 4AB
Terry Synan 2A
Rand Stearns 4AB
Mitchell Davidson 4AB
Nicholas Ellingson 1C
Ana Paula Maher 1C
Phillip Sutherland 4AB
Jack Murray 4AB
Jeremy Springer 4AB
Travis Johnson 3B
Curtis Smit 4AB
Darcy Hadley 4AB

A = Water Distribution
B = Water Treatment
C = Municipal Wastewater
D = Industrial Wastewater
E = Onsite Wastewater

April – June Training Schedule

Date	Training	Location	CEC's	Cost
4/5/2022	Lead & Copper, PFAS, CCR Rule Revision	Missoula	.6 Water	$40.00 Members $60.00 Non-Members
4/7/2022	Leak Detection/Water Loss	Columbia Falls	.6 Dual	$60.00 Members $90.00 Non-Members
4/12/2022	Valves, Hydrants & More	Big Timber	.4 Water .2 Dual	$60.00 Members $90.00 Non-Members
4/14/2022	Valves, Hydrants & More	Malta	.4 Water .2 Dual	$60.00 Members $90.00 Non-Members
4/19/2022	Sampling & Monitoring for Small Water & Wastewater Systems	Polson	.6 Dual	$60.00 Members $90.00 Non-Members
4/20/2022	Sampling & Monitoring for Small Water & Wastewater Systems	Thompson Falls	.6 Dual	$60.00 Members $90.00 Non-Members
4/26/2022	Water & Wastewater Operator Training	Chinook	.6 TBA	$60.00 Members $90.00 Non-Members
4/28/2022	Operator Certification Exam Review	Miles City	N/A	No Fee
5/3/2022	Sampling & Monitoring for Small Water & Wastewater Systems	Libby	.6 Dual	$60.00 Members $90.00 Non-Members

5/5/2022	Sampling & Monitoring for Small Water & Wastewater Systems	Shelby	.6 Dual	$60.00 Members $90.00 Non-Members
5/11/2022	Glacier Park & Small System Operator Training	West Glacier	.7 Water (Tentative)	$70.00 Members $105 Non-Members
5/24/2022	Water & Wastewater Operator Training	Fairmont	.6 TBA	$60.00 Members $90.00 Non-Members
5/26/2022	Water & Wastewater Operator Training	Superior	.6 TBA	$60.00 Members $90.00 Non-Members
5/31/2022	**Last Day of 2020-2022 CEC Biennium**			
6/2/2022	Water & Wastewater Operator Training	Townsend	.6 TBA	$60.00 Members $90.00 Non-Members
6/13-17/22	Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester's & Refresher Course	Kalispell	Up to 3.6 Dual	$875.00 Entire Course $400.00 2.5 Day refresher
6/21/2022	Water & Wastewater Operator Training	Virtual	.2 TBA	$20.00 Member $30.00 Non-Member
6/28/2022	Water & Wastewater Operator Training	Virtual	.2 TBA	$20.00 Member $30.00 Non-Member
7/12/2022	Rate Structure, Record Keeping and Emergency Response	Glasgow	.5 Dual	$50.00 Member $75.00 Non-Member
7/19/2022	Rate Structure, Record Keeping and Emergency Response	Deer Lodge	.5 Dual	$50.00 Member $75.00 Non-Member
8/23-25/22	Advanced Wastewater Training	Yellow Bay	2.0 WW	TBA

Backflow Assembly Testers Certified in Montana

As of March 1, 2022

By Barb Coffman, Resource Specialist

MRWS BEGAN OFFERING BACKFLOW prevention assembly tester certification courses in June 2021. MRWS picked up this program when the METC offices closed. Currently, there are 135 testers certified through the American Backflow Prevention Association (ABPA). They are listed below. If you would like contact information for testers in your area, please contact Barb Coffman at 406-781-2298 or by email at bcoffman@mrws.org.

Cody Ahlgren, Simplex Grinell, Grass Range, 2/12/2025

Daniel Alteneder, Saint Patrick Hospital, Missoula, 1/18/2025

TJ Andersen, Elite Fire Protection, Billings, 1/30/2024

Dale Anderson, Malmstrom AFB, Great Falls, 6/19/2024

Micheal Anderson, Western States Fire Protection, Missoula, 2/8/2023

Darren Arnold, D2 Fire Sprinkler Company, Bonner, 2/15/2022

Brad Batson, Xanterra Parks & Resorts, Yellowstone National Park, 11/16/2024

Anton Becker, Malmstrom AFB, Great Falls, 2/8/2023

Jacob Besel, Fire Suppression Systems, Belgrade, 10/9/2024

Patrick Bickford, Fire Suppression Systems, Bozeman, 10/25/2022

David Blanchard, Outdoor Solutions, Great Falls, 11/16/2024

Michael Boyer, St. Vincents Hospital, Billings, 10/25/2022

Ron Briggs, Big Sky Surgery Center, Lolo, 1/18/2025

Colten Brown, Bozeman Fire Protection, Belgrade, 12/18/2024

Marty Brown, Bozeman Fire Protection, Gallatin Gateway, 6/19/2024

Harland Brown, Xanterra Parks & Resorts, Yellowstone National Park, 11/16/2024

Dan Burgad, Dirtman Sprinklers, Missoula, 2/12/2025

Roy Burtell, Burtell Fire Protection, Billings, 10/9/2024

David Bye, Century Link, Billings, 10/25/2022

John Cahoon, Fire Suppression Systems, Billings, 10/25/2022

Brian Caskey, USAF, Malmstrom AFB, 2/12/2025

Connor Cavanaugh, City of Helena, Helena, 12/18/2024

Shane Cervantez, Burtell Fire Protection, Billings, 10/9/2024

David Chambers, City of Bozeman, Bozeman, 11/16/2024

Brady Chavez, Coppermine Fire Suppression Systems, Bozeman, 10/9/2024

Casey Clevenger, St. Patrick Hospital, Missoula, 1/18/2025

Calvin Clifford, Fire Supression Systems, Bozeman, 10/9/2024

Barb Coffman, MRWS, Dutton, 9/30/2024

Seth Cutright, Burtell Fire Protection, Billings, 10/9/2024

James Danko, City of Helena, Helena, 12/18/2024

Steve Davis, Shedhorn Plumbing, Helena, 1/24/2025

Andy Davis, Garden City Plumbing & Heating, Missoula, 1/12/2025

Bernie Dean, Garden City Plumbing, Missoula, 1/18/2025

Monty Dial, USAF, Malmstrom AFB, 2/12/2025

Michael Ditch, IT&M Division, Helena, 7/14/2023

Taylor Dunlap, Malmstrom AFB, Great Falls, 2/8/2023

Garrett Dutton, Temp Right Service, Lolo, 6/22/2022

Martin Estrada, City of Bozeman, Bozeman, 1/18/2023

Juan Fragoso, USAF, Malmstrom AFB, 2/12/2025

Blair Gast, NIH/ORF/Rocky Mountain Labs, Hamilton, 1/12/2025

Jessica Green, Malmstrom AFB, Great Falls, 2/8/2023

Matthew Haas, Manhattan Plumbing & Heating, Manhattan, 11/16/2024

Hunter Halsan, City of Helena, Helena, 12/18/2024

Robert Hartigan, City of Kalispell, Kalispell, 7/17/2024

Shayne Hatfield, H2 Inc., Columbia Falls, 6/19/2024

Shane Hedden, Johnson Controls, Helena, 8/18/2022

Ray Hedglin, Self, Bozeman, 6/19/2024

Craig Henson, Williams Plumbing & Heating, Bozeman, 6/16/2023

Jordan Hepworth, Malmstrom AFB, Great Falls, 2/8/2023

Curt Hester, Malstrom AFB, Great Falls, 3/20/2025

Lance Hogan, Plumb Tech Plumbing & Heating, Missoula, 6/22/2022

Shawn Holm, City of Great Falls, Great Falls, 3/13/2023

Chris Holmbosmith, Temp Right Service, Clinton, 6/22/2022

Carsen Hopfauf, Western States Fire Protection, Missoula, 2/8/2023

Bradley Hrubes, Church of Jesus Christ, Billings, 10/25/2022

Justin Huffines, Johnson Control, Columbus, 2/12/2025

George Jameson, Montana Plumbing Company, Missoula, 1/12/2025

Jeremy Jarvi, Rankin Landscape Maint. Inc., Missoula, 3/21/2023

Raymond Johnson, IT&M Division Inc., Choteau, 6/19/2024

Caden Johnson, AT Klemens, Inc., Great Falls, 12/18/2024

Manpreet Kaur, USAF, Malmstrom AFB, 2/12/2025

Justin Kelly, Temp Right Service, Clinton, 7/15/2022

Andrew Kent, Western Plumbing of Bozeman, Bozeman, 7/22/2022

John Kline, City of Great Falls, Great Falls, 5/31/2023

Michael Kline, self employed, Great Falls, 7/20/2022

Michael T. Kohler, Kohler Sprinklers, Milltown, 10/26/2024

Nate Kolata, Fire Suppression Systems, Belgrade, 11/16/2024

Nate Kolata, Fire Suppression Systems, Belgrade, 10/9/2024

Dave Kostecki, St. Patrick Hospital, Stevensville, 1/18/2025

Keith Kucera, Western States Fire Protection, Lewistown, 2/8/2022

Jake LaBelle, Plumb-Tech Plumbing & Heating, Missoula, 1/12/2025

Heath Lakko, Encode Corporation, Billings, 10/21/2022

Mark Lampman, City of Columbia Falls, Columbia Falls, 7/20/2022

Mark Lang, City of Kalispell, Kalispell, 2/16/2022

Pete Lathrop, City of Missoula, Missoula, 2/15/2025

Brice Ligget, Western Security Bank, Billings, 11/19/2024

Layton Lockwook, IT&M Division Inc, Great Falls, 11/16/2024

Jacob Martin, Plumb-Tech Plumbing & Heating, Missoula, 1/12/2025

Jacob Martin, Plumb-Tech Plumbing & Heating, Missoula, 10/9/2024

Adam McCarver, City of Bozeman, Belgrade, 11/16/2024

Mike McCurdy, Temp Right Service, Missoula, 6/22/2022

Erin Mills, City of Helena, Helena, 12/18/2024

Mike Milton, Fire Suppression Systems, Bozeman, 1/18/2023

Garth Moody, City of Havre WTP, Havre, 7/20/2022

Erin Mooer, Billings PWD, Billings, 10/9/2024

Noah Mozena, Williams Plumbing and Heating, Bozeman, 10/25/2022

Kieth Nelson, Veolia Water, Great Falls, 5/31/2023

Derek Nicholas, Fire Suppression Systems, Bozeman, 2/8/2023

Jeremy Norheim, Glacier Park Inc, Fairfield, 12/31/2020

Cody Osterday, Lakeside County Water & Sewer District, Lakeside, 11/19/2024

John Overcast, Glacier National Park, Kalispell, 4/30/2024

Scott Owen, Scott Owen Sprinklers Inc., Missoula, 2/10/2023

Vincent Palafox, Big Sky County Water & Sewer District, Big Sky, 1/8/2025

Margaret Pegues, Billings PWD, Billings, 10/9/2024

Enrique Ponton, USAF, Malmstrom AFB, 2/12/2025

Shad Powers, Smitty's Plumbing & Heating, Belgrade, 11/19/2024

Shawn Rash, Elite Fire Protection, Helena, 3/17/2022

Kenneth Rasmussen, Johnson Control, Helena, 1/18/2025

Tucker Rasmussen, Johnson Controls Fire Protection, Helena, 3/13/2023

Martin Rodriguez, IT&M Division, Helena, 2/8/2023

Matt Rushing, Xanterra Parks & Resorts, Yellowstone National Park, 11/16/2024

Damian Russel, Johnson Controls, Helena, 2/8/2023

Mike Sadowski, Western States Fire Protection, Missoula, 1/8/2023

Dave Sandberg, Johnson Control, Helena, 1/18/2025

Beau Schenk, IT&M Division, Helena, 6/19/2024

Trent Scheuer, City of Helena, Helena, 12/18/2024

Lorren Schlotfeldt, MSU-Northern, Havre, 6/19/2024

David Schmith, IT&M Division Inc, Helena, 11/16/2024

Peter Schmitz, Fire Suppression Systems, Bozeman, 2/8/2023

Justin Schriver, Garden City Plumbing & Heating, Missoula, 1/12/2025

Nicolas Sibson, Montana Plumbing Company, Missoula, 2/12/2025

Jeremy Simkins, Big Sky Build Inc., Belgrade, 10/25/2022

Matthew Simmons, Western States Fire Protection, Darby, 11/16/2024

Bronson Singh, NIH/ORF/Rocky Mountain Labs, Hamilton, 1/12/2025

Nicholas Smith, Western States Fire Protection, Missoula, 2/8/2023

Andrew Stacey, Xanterra Parks & Resorts, Yellowstone National Park, 11/16/2024

Eric Steiner, City of Bozeman, Bozeman, 1/18/2023

Bob Stoltz, Raptor Plumbing, Florence, 6/22/2022

Spencer Stone, Curb Box Specialist, Billings, 4/12/2023

Jason Swartz, Elite Fire Protection, Kalispell, 6/22/2024

Richard Sween, Temp Right Service, Alberton, 6/22/2022

Wayne Thompson, Bozeman Fire Protection, Gallatin Gateway, 1/18/2023

Mark Thorsteinson, City of Whitefish, Whitefish, 6/22/2022

Ryan Townsend, City of Livingston, Livingston, 1/18/2023

Ted Tschetter, Byrd Enterprises, Great Falls, 2/12/2025

Jared Turner, NMS Services, Kalispell, 10/26/2024

Tim Tusken, City of Bozeman Sewer & Water, Bozeman, 11/19/2024

Luke VanOtterloo, Bozeman Fire Protection, Three Forks, 1/18/2023

Alex Waddell, City of Helena Utility Maintenance, Helena, 1/18/2025

Christopher Walker, Glacier National Park, Browning, 4/30/2024

Ben Ward, Self, Bozeman, 12/31/2022

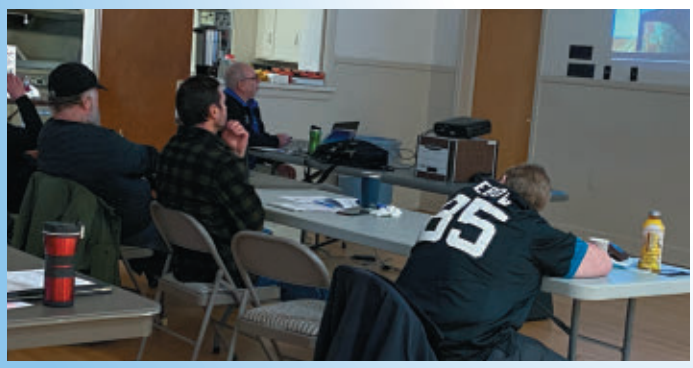
Shane Weber, Rocky Mountain Lab, Hamilton, 12/31/2024

Jon Wood, Malstrom AFB, Great Falls, 2/12/2025

Kevin Wood, City of Helena, Helena, 12/18/2024

Tecumseh Wooldridge, Rocky Mountain Operations, Helena, 2/12/2025

MRWS Training and Events



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