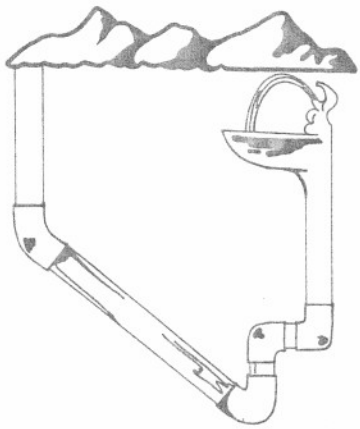
Water Lines



Water Lines is the resource newsletter and calendar of the Nevada Drinking Water and Wastewater Training Coalition.

Volume 9 Fall 2001 issue

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Special Insert

Sources of Infrastructure Financing and Assistance for Rural Nevada's Water and Wastewater Systems

Water Lines is funded by **Rural Community Assistance Corporation** through a contract with the Nevada State Health Division.

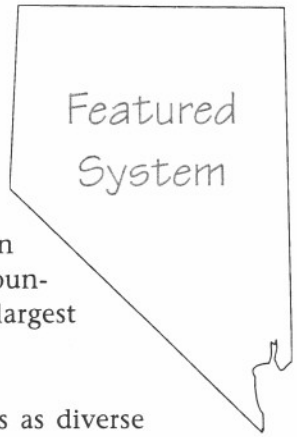
Abigail Johnson, RCAC Editor
Julia Helmreich, RCAC Production

Featured System: Hadley Subdivision

Rural system is well run and in very good shape

By John Dailey, Rural Community Assistance Corporation

The Hadley Subdivision is in the Big Smoky Valley of Nye County, Nevada. The community serves 480 connections (approximately 1,350 residents) with water and sewer service. Nye County was created out of the eastern portion of Esmeralda County in 1864 and is the largest county in Nevada.



The Big Smoky Valley is as diverse as it is beautiful. Land use includes farming, ranching, mining and retail operations. In the center of farm and ranch land sits the Hadley Subdivision of Round Mountain, which includes a fire station, residential area, air strip, community center, modern K-12 schools, library, gymnasium, public indoor swimming pool, gas station, grocery store and a golf course.

Round Mountain Gold Corporation built this in 1988. Actually, the "new" Hadley Subdivision is an extension of the older community of Round Mountain. As mining activities encroached on the original 1906 townsite of Round Mountain, the mining company developed the Hadley Subdivision to house its employees.

In January 1999, the town board took over all operations of the water and wastewater systems in Hadley. Town Manager Dan Sweeny oversees all public works operations. James Walker is the certified Water Distribution Grade I operator.

Rural Community Assistance Corporation conducted an evaluation of the system in December 2000 and found the system to be in very good shape. The system has two tanks with capacity for more than 1 million gallons. Water is provided to the community utilizing two ground water wells that produce 1,850 gpm and 1,550 gpm. The current rates for the system are $17.50 per month with 12,000 gallons included, and $1.25 per 1,000 gallons over 12,000 gallons.

If you go the Public Works office in Hadley, you will see two things — a very clean and well-kept operation and people who take pride in the community that they serve.

(Continued on page 4)

Video conferencing — accessible, convenient rural operator training

By Crystel Montecinos, UNR Cooperative Extension

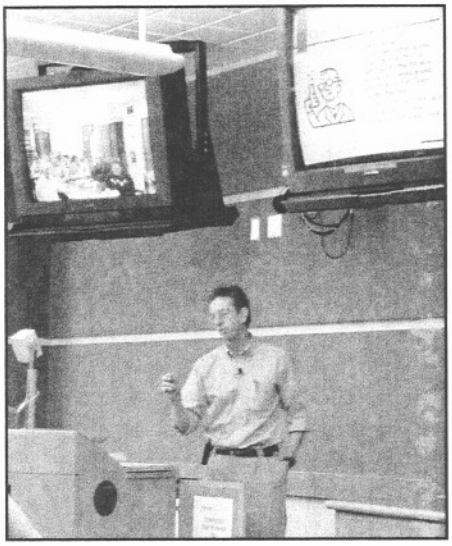
Video conferencing from the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) is meeting the challenges of Nevada's great expanses. Since 64 percent of Nevada's 270 public water systems (PWS) are small, finding the resources for continuing education in rural locations can be a costly and time-consuming effort. A new program developed by the University of Nevada and Cooperative Extension and funded by the Nevada State Bureau of Health Protection Services (BHPS) may be the answer to education and certification problems.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

How does video conferencing work?

Using compressed video technology, Water Operator Workshops are taught on the UNR campus and sent live via a telephone network system to remote sites. NevadaNet of the University and Community College System now has more than 85 sites. This network can bring education to within 75 miles of any PWS in



Video workshops are taught on the UNR campus and sent live via a telephone network system to operators at workshop sites in rural Nevada.

Nevada. Students at remote locations can ask questions at any time and see as well as hear other classrooms and classmates. Funding for this project is provided by BHPS through the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund.

Future Workshops

Past workshops have focused on operators of small to mid-sized PWSs. Future workshops will expand that audience by inviting PWS managers and board members to attend. An autumn workshop, Board Basics, developed and presented by Phil Walsack of Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC), will cover open meeting laws, utility management and setting water rates. Each class is video taped on VHS. These tapes, in addition to materials developed by the American Water Works Association, ACR Publications and other sources, will become part of the film library for Nevada water operators that UNR and RCAC are working to develop.

Success

Seven workshops have been held so far; 173 students have attended, and each earned three contact hours toward operator certification.

Feedback

At the end of each workshop, operators are asked to complete an evaluation of the class and to make comments and suggestions for new topics. Surprisingly, operators always request more math instruction. To meet those needs, each workshop incorporates a segment of math specific to the topic. For example, the addition of chemicals in coagulation and flocculation treatment requires knowledge of daily feed rates and dilution equations while CCR preparation requires unit conversions. In June, operators attended three hours of Water Operator Math, developed by the Drinking Water and Wastewater Training Coalition. Other common requests include exam preparation, sampling requirements and distribution topics, such as, water mains, pump basics and fire hydrant maintenance.

Comments

When asked what was most effective about the session, operators said, "Being able to talk to different towns and cities," and "I can't afford to spend very many hours away from my daily work."

The operators were asked if they would attend future videoconferencing in lieu of traveling. They said, "The video conference was a neat idea and worked well to convey the information that was presented," and "Thank you for the video classes. It's a long drive to Reno or Las Vegas."

Upcoming exam Sept. 21

Operators who want to take the Nevada Water Operator Certification Test, Sept. 20 is your day. UNR and our partners in Drinking Water

Participants listen intently at a workshop broadcast to remote sites in Nevada.

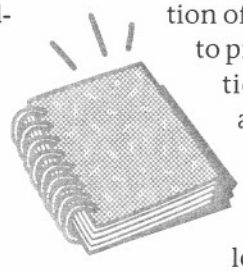
Assistance Programs have scheduled a 4-hour video conference class, which will consist of review, practice tests and question and answer sessions. Review will focus on Treatment and Distribution Operators Levels 1 and 2. The following day, proctors will be at the remote sites to administer the tests to those who have applied. Locations of the remote sites will be announced and will depend on the number of applications the BHPS receives. *BHPS must receive applications at least 30 days before the exam date.* Contact Steve Brockway at 775/687-6615 ext. 235 for an application.

Classes are free to all persons in the water supply and distribution industry. For a schedule of upcoming workshops, or to sign up at a specific site, contact Crystel Montecinos at 775/784-6853 or email chavis@unr.nevda.edu.

RCAC offers quarterly wastewater certification training

By John Dailey, Rural Community Assistance Corporation

Wastewater certification training is a hot topic among rural operators in Nevada. Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) and other technical assistance providers are often asked to provide training sessions and materials to help operators prepare for certification tests. Your voices have been heard, and help is on the way!



Beginning in September, RCAC will hold quarterly wastewater training sessions throughout rural Nevada. The intensive two-day training events will consist of one day of classroom training, followed by a half-day tour of a featured system. The locations will change throughout the year, so attendees will have the opportunity to tour other systems.

The classroom portion of the training will focus primarily on certification test preparation and is geared toward operators who intend to take grade I or II tests. However, all operators are welcome, and the training is free. The tour portion of the training is designed to provide a flow of information between operators and instructors in a field setting. Although each system is different, they may have similar problems. Chances are another operator has faced problems similar to yours.

The first classroom training will be held Sept. 27 in Carson City; check the training calendar on page 7 for times and location. The tour will be held the following day at the new Silver Springs wastewater plant in Lyon County. Space is limited to 25 participants; please sign up early. To sign up or for more information, contact John Dailey at RCAC, 775/882-8887 ext. 2#.

The Spigot Q & A

Q 1. What is a corrosion inhibitor?

A 1. Any substance that promotes film formation when added to water.

Q 2. At what time of year should a water storage facility be taken out of service for complete cleaning and inspection?

A 2. When water consumption is lowest.

Q 3. What problem may be created by excessive pressure in a distribution system?

A 3. It may damage customers' facilities and plumbing fixtures.

Q 4. Why should construction of dead-end mains be avoided?

A 4. To prevent development of taste and odor problems.

Q 5. How would you check a metal pipe for damage upon arrival at the job site and again before installing the pipe?

A 5. Gently tap each length of pipe with a hammer. If the pipe does not ring or hum clearly, the pipe has been damaged.

Source: "Water Distribution System Operations and Maintenance Manual, by Ken Kerri."

DWSRF welcomes new staff; continues TA help

By Cliff Lawson, Nevada State Health Division

During the last three years, the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), within the Bureau of Health Protection Services of the Nevada State Health Division, has been providing technical assistance through the skills of Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) and the Nevada Rural Water Association. Recently the DWSRF completed negotiations with RCAC to continue and expand the technical assistance program.

DWSRF has secured a contract with Arasmith Consulting Resources (ACR), Inc. to provide training to water operators over the next two years. Many of you have already seen ACR's work with training programs; we feel that their expertise will offer a valuable training opportunity to operators that choose to participate.

Finally, we would like to welcome two new faces to the DWSRF program, Adele Basham who replaced Galen Denio as the DWSRF supervisor, and Ethel Bennett, the program's new accountant, replacing Dan Hollingsworth. Adele and Ethel bring many years of experience to the DWSRF program, and we wish them the same success the program has seen since its inception.

Thank you, Galen and Dan. Without your assistance much of this technical assistance and funding would not have been possible.

Certification Connection ...will return in an upcoming issue of *Water Lines*.

Hadley Subdivision

(Continued from page 1)

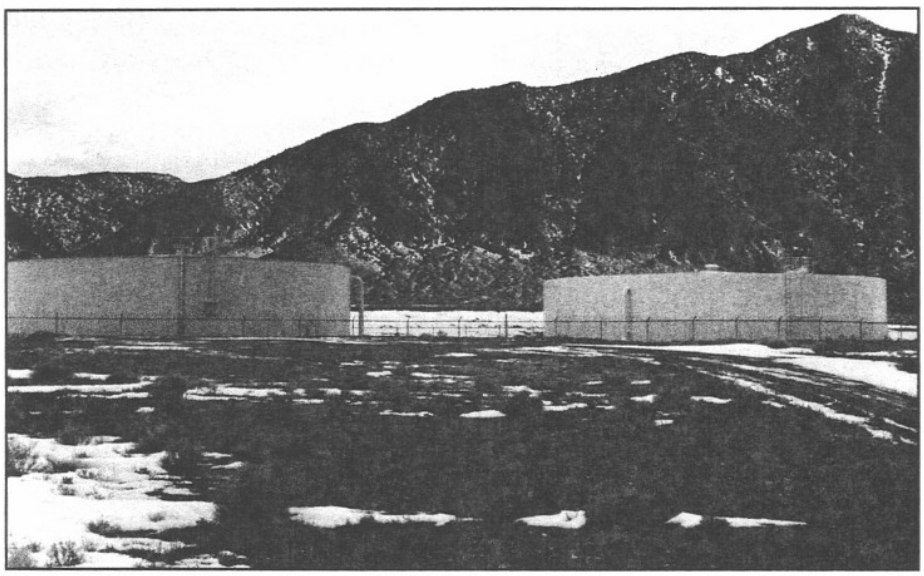
The system has updated its telemetry system on the drinking water wells with the help of Sierra Controls, installing new motherboards, surge protectors, lightning rods and earth grounds. This upgrade became a necessity after the well heads were hit by lightning .

On the wastewater side, a new Doppler flow system was installed to measure the flow through the lift station to the ponds. Six students from the Nevada Business Services Youth Employment Program helped with system improvements. Maintenance Supervisor Gary Rob and his maintenance department also assist Walker.

was looking for a career change. Walker had been reading meters with the previous Water Master, but he was not yet certified when he was asked to take over the system. Stan Howerton of Tonopah Public Utilities (TPU) was contracted to serve as the certified operator of the system until Walker was certified. Walker took the exam at the last Nevada Rural Water Conference, and he is now a Water Distribution, Grade I Operator.

Walker plans to take his wastewater certification this fall; TPU will help out with the wastewater system until Walker is certified to do the job.

"I really enjoy this job," Walker said. "Water is our life blood, and to me there is no more important job then delivering clean water to the customer's tap."

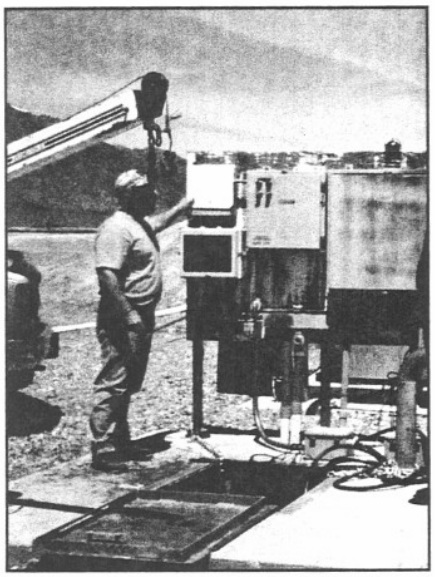


The Hadley Subdivision system has two tanks with capacity for more than 1 million gallons.

Operators make it work

Rural utilities have a hard time keeping certified operators, and replacing a Water Master can be costly and time consuming. In January 2000, Hadley's Water Master moved on to greener pastures and left the community searching for a replacement. Luckily, 52-year-old James Walker is quick to point out all the help he has had along the way.

"Our Maintenance Supervisor, Gary Rob and all his guys have helped me out quite a bit," Walker said. "They really deserve the credit for my success, along with Stan at TPU."



James Walker is Hadley Subdivision's Water Distribution Grade I Operator.

Operators bring clean water to our taps every day and ensure that our wastewater systems are running smoothly. Water and wastewater operators are caring and diligent individuals who truly have one of the most important jobs in the world. So to all the operators around the state, thanks for doing a great job and keep up the good work.

Well-plugging grants available for water systems

Public water systems and communities with wellhead protection plans are now eligible for grants to properly plug abandoned wells. Unplugged, abandoned wells can act as a conduit for surface contamination to reach ground water. Public water systems and communities with state-endorsed Wellhead Protection Plans are eligible for these grants. For more information, contact Nevan Kane, Bureau of Water Quality Planning, at 775/687-4670 ext. 3104.

The new EPA non-radon radionuclides drinking water final rule

By Micheline Fairbank, Rural Community Assistance Corporation

Last year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) adopted the final rule for the presence of non-radon radionuclides in drinking water under the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (40 CFR Parts 9, 141, and 142). The rule affects the combined radium-226/-228, (adjusted) gross alpha, beta particle and photon radioactivity, and uranium concentrations in community water systems (CWS).

The rule affects CWS with at least 15 service connections or 25 residents on a regular year round basis. They are required to meet the final maximum contaminant levels, monitoring and reporting requirements. The rule becomes effective December 8, 2003. New monitoring requirements will be phased in between December 8, 2003 and the beginning of the next Standardized Monitoring Framework period on December 31, 2007.

Final Rule requirements

This rule requires that all new monitoring be conducted at each entry point to the distribution system under a schedule consistent with the Standardized Monitoring Framework. Water systems will determine initial compliance under the new requirements using the average of four quarterly samples or, at state discretion, using appropriate "grandfathered" data. Compliance will be determined immediately based on the annual average of the quarterly samples for that fraction of systems required by the state to monitor in any given year or based on the results from the grandfathered data.

The 1976 rule required testing of a "representative point to the distribution system." The new rule is more consistent with the monitoring requirements for other comparable drinking water contaminants. The new rule also promulgates a separate monitoring requirement for radium-228 and a new standard for uranium in drinking water, resulting in reduced uranium exposures as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. These standards are intended to reduce cancer risk and protect drinking water customers from toxic levels of uranium that may adversely affect health.

Higher levels of radionuclides are more common in ground water sources than in surface water sources. Most water systems do not have detectable radionuclide activities; however, some areas of the country have levels significantly higher than the national averages.

Best available technologies

EPA has identified several best available technologies for remov-ing radionuclides from domestic water supplies. These technologies include ion exchange, lime softening, reverse osmosis and enhanced coagulation/filtration. Several guidelines are suggested for determining the most appropriate treatment system for a particular community.

Disposal of extracted uranium

Depending on the type of treatment technology chosen and the concentration of uranium in the solid waste, the solid waste may be considered a low-level radioactive waste. If the waste is classified as such, then it must be disposed of at an approved site.

Costs

Nearly all of the costs of the final rule are expected to come from mitigation and other compliance measures. Systems that must upgrade water treatment to comply with the new rule can expect the annual costs to range from $9,000 for the smallest community water systems to approximately $150,000 for mid-size systems, and $500,000 or more for larger systems. Households served by large water systems impacted by the new rule are expected to see a less than $30 per year increase in their bills and households served by small water systems, 10,000 persons or less, may experience an increase of $50 to $100 per year.

Sources of funding

The Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund has made more than $3.6 billion available nationwide for loans to help water systems improve infrastructure since 1996. EPA also provides funding to states that have primary enforcement responsibility for their drinking water programs through the Public Water Systems Supervision grants program. Other federal funds may be available through the Community Development Block Grant Program (administered by the Nevada Commission on Economic Development), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development.

For more information, call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800/426-4791, or visit *www.epa.gov/safewater* or *www.epa.gov/safewater/radionuc.html*.

Resource Round-up

New Websites

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in partnership with states, territories and tribes, is working to improve communication with the regulated community and the public about the quality of the Nation's surface waters through the use of new linked web sites.

The Water Quality Standards Database, *www.epa.gov/wqsdatabase,* allows users to view designated uses of water bodies in a structured way. Designated uses are one component of state and tribal water quality standards. This information is now available using EPA's Watershed Assessment, Tracking and Environmental Results (WATERS), described below.

EPA's WATERS information system is available for a limited number of states on EPA's website at *www.epa.gov/waters*. WATERS enables users to connect and display important water quality information on maps in their geographic context.

Case studies online

A variety of local government source water protection case studies are now available on the EPA web site. The case studies are comprehensive local approaches that can serve as models for other communities. Eleven case studies can be accessed now, and additional case studies will be added as they become available. To view them, go to *www.epa.gov/safewater/protect/casesty/casestudy.html.*

On-site info now in Spanish

A selection of low-cost educational products about on-site wastewater-related issues is now available in Spanish. Produced by the National Small Flows Clearinghouse, (NSFC) the products include a series of brochures on septic system management, fact sheets about on-site technologies, and a video on problems with shallow disposal systems. For product and ordering information, go to *www.lgean.org/html/whatsnew.cfm?id=182.*

AWWA releases new report

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) released a new report detailing infrastructure needs at 20 major utilities throughout the country. The AWWA project covers only drinking water.

The report, *Dawn of the Replacement Era: Reinvesting in Drinking Water Infrastructure,* extrapolates from the 20 system analysis to estimate a $250 billion need over the next 30 years for the replacement of worn-out drinking water pipes and associated structures such as valves and fittings. It is available on the WIN website at *www.win-water.org/.*

NSFC offers new CD-ROM

To allow greater access to its vast collection of materials, the NSFC is providing its most useful information on a CD-ROM titled *Wastewater Resources for Small Communities* (Item #WWCDGN162).

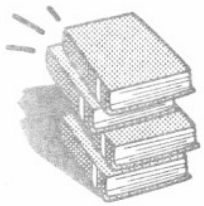
Professional engineers and operators, government agencies, local officials, researchers, and homeowners will find these resources useful. The CD puts a wealth of helpful information at the user's fingertips and is an excellent reference guide. Cost is $14.95 plus shipping. To order, call the NSFC at 800/624-8301 or 304/293-4191 or e-mail <nsfc_orders@mail.nesc.wvu.edu>and request Item #WWCDGN162.

AWWA books available at rural libraries

The Nevada Drinking Water and Wastewater Training Coalition received donated training materials from the American Water Works Association's California/Nevada Section (AWWA CA/NV) and Sun Valley General Improvement District (SVGID). The first set of operator training handbooks have been placed in several rural Nevada libraries.

The books are located in the Tonopah, Beatty, Goldfield, Silver Peak and Hawthorne libraries.

Head to these libraries, and check the books out. All three texts are excellent study guides for operators preparing to take their state examinations. The Coalition would especially like to thank Darcy Burke (AWWA CA/NV), Diana Langs (SVGID) and Darrin Price (SVGID) for supporting the Coalition's effort to make training materials more available to water treatment and distribution operators.



O&M wastewater video series for sale

A series of six videos was developed to compliment the *Operation and Maintenance of Wastewater Collection Systems (Volumes 1 & 2)* training handbooks. Each video runs between 30 and 45 minutes. The videos provide information about sewer maintenance techniques that your utility may not regularly practice.

To order the videos, call California State University, Sacramento at 916/278-6142. Cost is $100 for all six videos. Call the Coalition for a copy of the entire CSUS product list.

Training Calendar 2001-2002

September 5 — Laughlin — NvRWA fire hydrant repair (4 hrs). Information: 775/884-2055.

September 12 — Carson City — NvRWA CLA-Valves (5 hrs). Information: 775/884-2055.

September 18-19 — Reno — NTT, Inc. Centrifugal Pumps Seminar. Information: 800/922-2820.

September 24 — Carson City — Nevada Drinking Water and Wastewater Training Coalition meeting and election of new board of directors. Nominations and information: 775/687-6615 ext. 227.

September 24-25 — Las Vegas — Fundamentals of Cross-Connection Control and Backflow Prevention, "hands-on" training by NTT, Inc. Information: 800/922-2820.

September 27-28 — Carson City — *Day 1:* Wastewater Operator Certification Training (Grades I&II) Nevada Legislative Building, 401 South Carson St. Room 2155. *Day 2:* 9 a.m. to noon, Silver Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant tour. Limited to 25. Registration and information: John Dailey, 775/882-8887, ext. 2#.

September 27-29 — Laughlin — Tri-State Water and Wastewater Conference. Information: Annette Duarte, 520/740-6539; or *www.tristateseminar.com.*

September 28 — Reno/rural locations — UNR Coop Extension videoconference classes on water systems operation, maintenance and management. Information and topics: Crystel Montecinos 775/784-6853.

October 2 — Ely — NvRWA confined space (2hrs) first aid (2hrs) Hazmat training (2hrs). Information: 775/884-2055.

October 3 — Caliente — NvRWA Wellhead protection plans (3 hrs). Information: 775/884-2055.

October 9-12 — Palm Springs, CA — CA/NV Section AWWA Fall Conference. Information: 909/291-2101.

October 25 — Reno/rural locations — UNR Coop Extension video conference classes on utility management, water rates and board basics. Information: Crystel Montecinos, 775/784-6853.

November 6-7 — Rancho Cucamonga, CA — CA/NV Section AWWA Grade I & II Treatment Review. Information: 909/481-7200.

November 9 — Rancho Cucamonga, CA — CA/NV Section AWWA Grade I-III Water Math Review, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Information: 909/481-7200.

November 14-15 — Rancho Cucamonga, CA — CA/NV Section AWWA Grade 3 & 4 Treatment Review. Information: 909/481-7200.

November 15-16 — Las Vegas — NTT, Inc. Centrifugal Pumps Seminar. Information: 800/922-2820.

November 30 — Reno /rural locations — UNR Coop Extension video conference classes on water systems operation, maintenance and management. Information: Crystel Montecinos, 775/784-6853.

2002

January 9 — Yerington — NvRWA electrical troubleshooting (3 hrs). Information: 775/884-2055.

January 16 — Lovelock — NvRWA confined space (2 hrs), first aid (2 hrs), Hazmat training (2 hrs). Information: 775/884-2055.

January 27-30 — Las Vegas — AWWA/Water Environment Federation Water Reuse, Conservation and Resources Management Conference & Exhibition. Information: 303/347-6240.

March 20-22 — Reno — Nevada Water Environment Association Annual Meeting. Information: Eric Leveque, 702/792-3711.

Water operator certification exams

Water operator certification tests are scheduled for the weeks of Sept. 17 and Dec. 3, 2001. Information: John Hulett, 775/954-4625.

Wastewater certification exams

Wastewater certification exams will be given the second Thursday in October in Reno and Ely. Information: 702/433-1498.

Community College of Southern Nevada Wastewater and Water Technology Program

Information: LeAnna Risso, 702/434-6600 ext. 6418.

WWET training in Clark County

Information: Gladys Alford, 702/258-3834; see *www.wwet.org* for a current training calendar.

This symbol designates training pre-approved by the Nevada State Health Division for continuing education units (CEU) credit. Other training may be eligible for CEUs but is not yet pre-approved. Before attending any training, contact the Health Division at 775/687-6615 ext. 235 for approval. Ten hours of approved training equals 1 CEU. A different ratio applies for safety training. Contact Steve Brockway 775/687-6615 ext.235 for details.

Nevada Drinking Water and Wastewater Training Coalition

American Water Works Association
California/Nevada Section
www.ca-nv-awwa.org
Glenn Reynolds, Smaller Utilities Committee Chair, 510/790-1602
Nicole Schreuder, training, 909/291-2103

Indian Health Service
Dominic Wolf, 775/784-5327

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
www.state.nv.us/ndep/index.htm
Leo Drozdoff — Water Pollution Control
775/687-4670, ext. 3142
Nevan Kane — Wellhead Protection
775/687-4670, ext. 3104
Tom Whalen, — AB 198 Water Grant Program
775/687-4670, ext. 3111

Nevada Rural Water Association
www.nvrwa.org
Georgia Greenrod, 775/884-2055

Nevada State Health Division
www.state.nv.us/health/bhps
775/687-6615
Adele Basham, DWSRF, ext. 265
Steve Brockway (CEU approval), ext. 235
Cliff Lawson, ext. 227
Patty Lechler, ext. 238
Dana Pennington, ext. 237

Nevada Water Environment Association
www.wef.org
Bruce Johnson, 702/369-6175
Rick Warner, 775/954-4621
Starlin Jones, 775/861-4104

Public Utilities Commission of Nevada
www.state.nv.us/puc
Steve McGoff, Utility Engineer, 775/687-6040

Rural Community Assistance Corporation
www.rcac.org
Philip Walsack, 775/882-8887
John Dailey, 775/882-8887
Abby Johnson, 775/882-0296
Micheline Fairbank, 775/882-8887

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
www.epa.gov/region09
Marvin Young, 415/744-1847

USDA-Rural Development
www.usda.gov/rus/water/index.htm
Mike Holm, 775/887-1222
Kay Vernatter, 702/262-9047 ext. 113
University of Nevada, Reno
Dept. of Civil Engineering
Dean Adams, 775/784-1474
Environmental & Resource Sciences and Nevada Cooperative Extension
www.nce.unr.edu/swp
Mark Walker, 775/784-1938

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Nevada Drinking Water and Wastewater Training Coalition

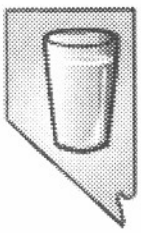
Water Lines

Fall 2001

This issue of *Water Lines* is printed on recycled and recyclable paper.

Water Lines Special Insert

Sources of Infrastructure Financing and Assistance for Rural Nevada's Water and Wastewater Systems



Community Development Block Grant Program

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program assists in the development of healthy and viable communities by improving both the living conditions and economic opportunities for individuals, primarily those that are low- and moderate-income. CDBG coordinates and collaborates with various government agencies and nonprofit groups to carry out locally based projects. Staff conducts regional workshops and conferences to assist individuals gain an understanding of CDBG guidelines and parameters. Grants are provided to rural communities (outside of Clark County, Reno and Sparks) for public facilities/ services, planning, economic development and housing.

Project selection is made through a nine member advisory committee, representative of the 27 eligible counties and incorporated cities. The advisory committee meets twice a year to review applications and make funding recommendations.

Historically, CDBG has funded the following types of projects: water and sewer systems; preliminary engineering reports; senior citizens centers; community centers; emergency vehicles and stations; short and long range plans; rehabilitation of owner-occupied single family homes; infrastructure improvements to industrial parks; and business loans to for-profit businesses.

Contact:
Michael Tanchek at 775/687-1812
E-mail:
cdbg2@bizopp.state.nv.us

Indian Health Service

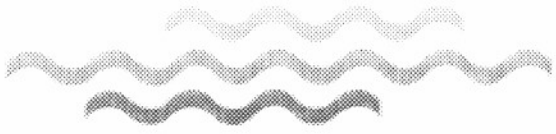
This agency offers technical and financial assistance for tribes seeking to address health and safety needs related to water, wastewater and solid waste. Community-wide and individual assistance is available.

Contact:
George Pringle at 775/784-5327
E-mail:
george.pringle@mail.ihs.gov

Nevada Department of Business and Industry

The director of the Nevada Department of Business and Industry may finance the cost of a water project approved by the Board for Financing Water Projects through the issuance of general obligation bonds or revenue bonds. A qualified project would be one that provides for the management, control, delivery, use or distribution of water.

Contact:
Doug Walther at 775/687-4250
E-mail:
dwalther@dbi.state.nv.us



Nevada Division of Environmental Protection

AB 198 Water Grant Program

In 1991, the Nevada State Legislature created a program that provides grants to water purveyors for costs of capital improvements to publicly-owned community water systems in order to meet the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Eligible projects include water treatment facilities, replacement of leaky distribution and transmission lines, elimination of dead end distribution lines, spring rehabilitation, new well pump installation as needed to replace poor quality water sources, provision of backup water supply and storage tank rehabilitation.

The Board to Finance Water Projects makes AB 198 funding decisions. Grant awards are no less than 25 percent and no more than 85 percent of project cost. Grant funds are to be used to assist the most needy communities, allowing these systems to maintain user costs at a reasonable level.

Contact:
Tom Whalen at 775/687-4670 ext. 3111
Website:
www.state.nv.us/cnr/ndep/home.htm
E-mail:
twhalen@govmail.state.nv.us

Wastewater Revolving Loan Fund

The revolving loan program provides loans at or below market rate and other forms of financial assistance (not grants) to municipalities to assist them in financing the construction of wastewater treatment works and projects to control sources of water pollution. Eligible projects include sewage treatment plants, collection systems, interceptors, erosion control and other point and non-point source control projects.

Contact:
Morris Kanowitz at 775/687-4670 ext. 3144
Website: *www.state.nv.us/ndep/index.htm*
(click on water pollution control)
E-mail:
mkanowit@govmail.state.nv.us

Nevada Rural Water Association

The Nevada Rural Water Association (NvRWA) provides water and wastewater programs statewide including the Ground Water Protection Program, the Circuit Rider Technical Assistance Program and the Rural Water Training and On-Site Assistance Program, and solid waste management.

The Ground Water Protection Program helps small water systems and rural communities to design and implement individual ground water (wellhead) protection plans locally. This program is designed to initiate preventive measures at the local level to prevent contamination, prevent noncompliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), lessen the financial burden on consumers and prevent degradation of drinking water for future generations. This assistance is delivered through NvRWA with input from water system personnel and state regulatory agencies.

The Circuit Rider Technical Assistance Program is managed and operated by NvRWA. The program provides on-site assistance to Rural Utilities Service (RUS) water and wastewater system borrowers and/or potential borrowers. Circuit Riders provide assistance and training to systems in all areas of management, operation and maintenance to ensure financial viability for repayment of RUS loans.

The Rural Water Training and On-Site Assistance Program is a national grassroots effort to assist systems in solving compliance problems. It is operated by state rural water associations and provides training and on-site assistance to both member and nonmember systems operators in formal classroom sessions with follow up, onsite assistance in SDWA compliance, public health protection relating to drinking water, and managerial, financial and operational issues.

Contact:
Georgia Greenrod at 775/884-2055
Website:
www.nvrwa.org
E-mail:
nvrwa@pyramid.net

Nevada State Health Division
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

The U.S. Congress authorized the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) in the 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and in 1997, the Nevada Legislature authorized the State Health Division to administer the DWSRF program. This program is funded through grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to the State Health Division. These grants require a 20 percent state match, which is obtained from the sale of state bonds.

The primary purpose of the DWSRF program is to provide loans to public water systems at or below market rates. All community water systems, whether publicly or privately owned, and nonprofit, non-community water systems are potentially eligible to receive DWSRF loans. Projects considered for loans are ranked on a priority list to address acute and chronic health risks and replace or rehabilitate deteriorating water system infrastructure. Existing debt (for publicly owned systems) is also eligible for refinancing under certain conditions. The SDWA requires that at least 15 percent of the loan fund be used to provide loan assistance to small systems that serve fewer than 10,000 persons, if there are enough eligible projects for systems meeting that criteria.

The principal repayments on loans go back into the loan fund for use on financing future projects. Interest repayments are used to retire state bonds issued for the 20 percent match requirement for the EPA grant.

The DWSRF provides technical assistance to public water systems to address a variety of public health, technical, managerial and financial concerns. This assistance is free to public water systems and is available through third party providers who contract with the State Health Division to provide specific services.

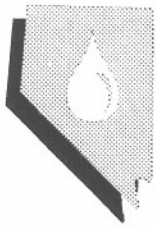
Contact:
Adele Basham at 775/687-4750 ext. 265
E-mail:
abasham@bhps.state.nv.us

Rural Community Assistance Corporation

Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) provides staff and resources to help rural communities identify and evaluate solutions to water and waste disposal problems, assists in preparation of applications for infrastructure loans and grants, and provides assistance in the operation and maintenance of existing systems.

RCAC also operates a $54 million revolving loan fund lending to other nonprofits as well as public agencies for projects whose beneficiaries are 51 percent rural, low income, tribal, agricultural workers or other disadvantaged persons. Primarily, RCAC is a gap lender making non-bankable loans and developing innovative lending programs and products to help serve the financial needs of rural communities and disadvantaged populations. Lending programs include short-term loans for affordable housing and environmental infrastructure as well as short- and long-term loans for community facilities (health care, domestic violence shelters, adult day health care, child care, social service providers) serving rural, low income areas.

Contact:
Philip Walsack at 775/882-8887
Website:
www.rcac.org
E-mail:
pwalsack@rcac.org

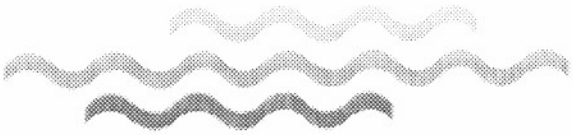


U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development

This federal agency assists communities with water, wastewater (sewer) and solid waste management needs and provides loans and grant funding to public entities such as municipalities, counties, special purpose districts, Indian tribes and non-profit corporations. Entities must be unable to obtain credit elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms and be able to pledge security for the loans. Loans and grants may be used for the construction of infrastructure improvements, acquisition of water supply or water rights, purchase of utility systems and payment of necessary fees associated with facility improvements.

USDA-Rural Development also offers technical assistance with assembling information for preliminary engineering reports, feasibility reports, cost estimates, and financing and management matters in connection with proposed improvements and provides training and assistance through other programs as well.

Contact:
Mike Holm at 775/887-1222, ext. 26
Website:
www.rurdev.usda.gov/nv/
E-mail:
mike.holm@nv.usda.gov



U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration

This program provides grant funding for development, expansion or improvements which are needed to enable economic development. The funding is tied to, and based upon, the creation of new or saved jobs for the community, and requires a comprehensive economic development strategy.

All projects requesting EDA funding in the 7-county WNDD region are prioritized, processed and submitted by and through the WNDD Board of Directors. *(See WNDD below.)*

For projects outside of the WNDD area, call EDA representative Al Ames at 888/693-1370 *(toll free)* or 208/334-1521.
E-mail:
ameseda@aol.com

Western Nevada Development District (WNDD)

For projects in Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Lyon, Mineral, Pershing or Storey Counties and area tribal governments, WNDD is a voluntary association of local governments which, through intergovernmental cooperation, addresses community and economic development issues and opportunities. WNDD serves its membership as a regional resource center, a State Data Center affiliate and provides shared professional staff to provide planning, implementation and technical assistance including grant writing and grant administration.

WNDD operates its own "mini-grant" Membership Assistance Program (MAP) for member local governments and non-profit organizations within the 7-county region. Funding is limited: MAP funds can represent no more than 50 percent of total project costs. WNDD also administers affordable housing funds for the county region.

Contact:
Mary Lou Bentley at 775/883-7333
E-mail:
wndd@aol.com