

THE MAIN EVENT

DECEMBER 2006

A Newsletter for Oklahoma Water and Wastewater Operators

VOLUME 7 Issue 3

ENVIRONMENTAL NONCOMPLIANCE LEADS TO HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE

Groundwater contamination is a concern for homeowners in metropolitan areas as well as those living in rural areas. There are homeowners living in urban areas that still depend on water wells for drinking water and irrigation.

In Oklahoma City, there is a tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE) groundwater plume extending over nearly 80 acres (over a half mile). The plume is located between Northwest 23rd Street and Northwest 19th Street, and North Meridian Avenue and Ann Arbor Avenue (an area identified as the "Minnie Lane Area").

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) identified the plume in January 2002

after receiving a referral from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC). The OCC had discovered the solvents in various domestic supply wells while working a petroleum hydrocarbon release at a former FINA facility.

The DEQ sampled private water wells due to the possible human health threat associated with PCE and TCE. To date, seven monitoring wells

contamination was located, but the horizontal extent was not determined. Potential contamination in the deeper aquifers has not been eliminated. It was determined to be in the best interest of the residents of at least twenty-one homes in the Minnie Lane Area to connect to a public water supply (PWS).

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



have been drilled in the area of the groundwater plume. The full extent of the plume is still not known.

(EPA) performed two Emergency Response and Removal Actions (ERRA), one after initial sampling in

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BIOMONITORING:

WHAT IS IT AND WHY DO WE HAVE TO PAY FOR IT?

Watch for a longer article coming in the next issue.

If you are categorized as a major municipal or industrial wastewater discharger, you have to perform biomonitoring tests on your effluent. A biomonitoring test is also called a Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) test. The two names are synonymous, biomonitoring = WET.

The objective is to run a test on the whole effluent, not just its separate contaminants which are listed as parameters in part 1 of your OPDES permits. The whole effluent may be synergistically more toxic than any of its individual constituents and WET test can reveal that.

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INTERACTIVE TV RENEWAL CLASSES

ATTENTION: Pre-Registration is Required! You must contact the receiving facility distance learning coordinator at the facility you plan to attend, and make a reservation by close of business on Tuesday before the Friday training. If you forget to pre-register, renewal training may not be available to you.

Water or Wastewater Operators may attend either a Water or a Wastewater four (4) hour renewal class for certification renewal. If an operator has a license in water and wastewater, one four hour class is all that is necessary. ALL CLASSES ARE HELD ON FRIDAYS FROM 12:00 PM TO 4:00 PM. The training at the Midwest City location is held in the LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER, RM 129 at Rose State College. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Kurklin at (405) 702-8148.

CLASSES WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 1 AND 8; JANUARY 5 AND 12; FEBRUARY 2 AND 9; AND MARCH 2 AND 9.

ONENET LOCATIONS AND COORDINATORS

FACILITY	LOCATION	CONTACT	PHONE NUMBER
Autry Technology Center	ENID	Kay Snow	(580) 242-2750 Ext. 126
Cameron University-Lawton	LAWTON	Bill Schemonia	(580) 581-2419 or -5551
East Central University	ADA (\$25 fee)*	Stanley Nnochirionye	(580) 310-5625
Eastern OK State College	WILBURTON	Keith Lewis	(918) 465-1782
High Plains Tech Center	WOODWARD	Vonda Phillips	(580) 571-6185
Cameron University-Duncan	DUNCAN	Cindy Meadows	(580) 255-7566
Kiamichi Technology Center	POTEAU	Kathy Davidson	(888) 567-6632 or 647-4525
SOSU McCurtain Co. Campus	IDABEL	Barbara Echols Burton	(888) 286-9431 Ext.202
Murray State College	TISHOMINGO	Priscilla Washington	(580) 371-2371 Ext. 123
Northeastern OK A&M	MIAMI	Cindy Bigsby	(918) 540-6253
Oklahoma State University	TULSA	Larry Cochran	(918) 594-8424
Panhandle State University	GOODWELL	Sheldon Cayton	(580)349-1386
Rose State College	MIDWEST CITY	Mark Kurklin	(405) 702-8148
Seminole Junior College	SEMINOLE**	Mark Kurklin	(405) 702-8148
S. E. OK State Univ.	DURANT	Clinton Freeman	(580) 745-2114
Stuart High School	STUART	Terry Beck (During school)	(918) 546-2474 Ext. 101
S. W. OK State Univ.	WEATHERFORD	Lessley Price	(580) 774-3149
S. W. OK State Univ.	SAYRE	Lessley Price	(580) 774-3149
Tricounty Tech Center	BARTLESVILLE	Veda Sisney	(918) 331-3331
University of Oklahoma	NORMAN	Mark Mitchell (Apr-Jun)	(405) 325-3069
University of Science & Arts	CHICKASHA	Alan Todd	(405) 574-1277
University Center at Ponca City	PONCA CITY	Brenda Stacy	(580) 762-2856

* The fee for Ada should be paid at the receiving site. **Pre-register with Mark Kurklin instead of Seminole Jr. College.

**IF TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES ARE EXPERIENCED DURING THE RENEWAL TRAINING,
PLEASE CALL (405) 736-0327 or (405) 370-6424.**

WRITTEN EXAM SESSIONS

Written Exam sessions begin at 8:30 a.m. Exam applications can be printed from the DEQ website, www.deq.state.ok.us. They are also available from the Operator Certification Section at (405) 702-8100. Please be sure to use the current exam application (rev 7-2005). **PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY.** Any combination of two D and/or C exams may be taken at the same exam session. All exam applications must be postmarked three weeks before the exam session. The nonrefundable and nontransferable application fee (\$40 per exam) must be mailed with your application. Exams can be rescheduled within 120 days; however, all fees are forfeited if an exam is not taken within 120 days. If you have questions, please call Angie Ratcliff at (405) 702-8150.

WITHIN THREE WEEKS OF EXAM COMPLETION, A REPORT OF YOUR EXAM RESULTS WILL BE MAILED TO YOUR HOME. IN ORDER TO PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY, **RESULTS CANNOT BE GIVEN OVER THE PHONE.**

EXAM LOCATION	DATE	DEADLINE
Midwest City , Rose State College, Tom Steed Bldg., Hudiburg Drive	January 5	December 15
Lawton , Great Plains AVTS, 4500 W. Lee Blvd, Bldg 600, Rm 656	January 12	December 22
Midwest City , Rose State College, Tom Steed Bldg., Hudiburg Drive	February 2	January 12
Tulsa , Technology Center, 3850 North Peoria, Council Oak Rm	February 9	January 19
Midwest City , Rose State College, Tom Steed Bldg., Hudiburg Drive	March 2	February 9
Ponca City , Pioneer Technology Center, 2101 Ash, Rm B 120	March 9	February 16
Midwest City , Rose State College, Tom Steed Bldg., Hudiburg Drive	April 6	March 16
Tulsa , Technology Center, 3850 North Peoria, Council Oak Rm	April 13	March 23

ONLINE EXAM SESSIONS

The online exams are scheduled to take place directly after most regularly scheduled training classes. In order to take an online exam the student must complete the entire training class that is associated with that exam. As soon as each individual completes the exam, they will be able to view and print their results. All students should contact the training facility/sponsor to confirm that an online exam will take place after the class. The requirements necessary to be approved for the online exam are the same as for the written exams: an exam application must be completed and mailed with the application fee (\$40 per exam) to the DEQ three weeks prior to the exam date.

Order Form for Operator Certification Study Guides

Name _____
 Mailing Address _____
 City _____ State _____
 Zip Code _____
 Telephone # _____

Number of Study Guides:

Water ____ x \$4.00 each = \$ ____
 Wastewater ____ x \$4.00 each = \$ ____
 Distribution/Collection ____ x \$4.00 each = \$ ____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ ____

After completing this form, please clip out and return it with a check, money order, or purchase order made payable to the Operator Certification Section.

Please mail to:
 Dept. of Environmental Quality
 Financial & Human Resources
 PO Box 2036
 OKC, OK 73101-2036

Please allow up to 3 weeks for delivery.





CLASS SC

For all Standard Classes, you must register with the sponsor for the course you want to attend to the DEQ and it must be postmarked no later than three (3) weeks before the exam date.

BEGINNING D LEVEL

LOCATION	SUBJECT	DATES	CREDIT	SPONSOR	PHONE
Burns Flat	Water	Dec 4-5	16 hrs	ORWA	800-375-6792
Guthrie	Water	Dec 4-5	16 hrs	ORWA	800-375-6792
Midwest City	Water	Dec 5-6	16 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7488
Stillwater	Water	Dec 5-7	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Stillwater	Water & Wastewater	Dec 5-7	24 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Tulsa	Water	Dec 5-7	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Tulsa	Water & Wastewater	Dec 5-7	24 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Guthrie	Wastewater	Dec 6-7	16 hrs	ORWA	800-375-6792
Stillwater	Wastewater	Dec 6-7	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Tulsa	Wastewater	Dec 6-7	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Midwest City	Wastewater	Dec 7-8	16 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7488
Choctaw	Water	Jan 2-3	16 hrs	ORWA	800-375-6792
Stillwater	Water	Jan 9-11	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Stillwater	Water & Wastewater	Jan 9-11	24 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Stillwater	Wastewater	Jan 10-11	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Duncan	Water	Jan 16-17	16 hrs	ORWA	800-375-6792
Midwest City	Water	Jan 18-19	16 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7488
Tulsa	Water	Jan 23-25	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Tulsa	Water & Wastewater	Jan 23-25	24 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Midwest City	Wastewater	Jan 24-25	16 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7488
Tulsa	Wastewater	Jan 24-25	24 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Enid	Water	Jan 30-31	16 hrs	ORWA	800-375-6792
Stillwater	Water	Feb 6-8	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Stillwater	Water & Wastewater	Feb 6-8	24 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Elk City	Water & Wastewater	Feb 7-9	24 hrs	OMUP	580-225-4995
Stillwater	Wastewater	Feb 7-8	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Midwest City	Wastewater	Feb 8-9	16 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7488
Broken Bow	Water	Feb 13-14	16 hrs	ORWA	800-375-6792
Midwest City	Water	Feb 15-16	16 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7488
Tulsa	Water	Feb 20-22	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Tulsa	Water & Wastewater	Feb 20-22	24 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Tulsa	Wastewater	Feb 21-22	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Bartlesville	Water	Feb 27-28	16 hrs	ORWA	800-375-6792
Stillwater	Water	Mar 6-8	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Stillwater	Water & Wastewater	Mar 6-8	24 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Stillwater	Wastewater	Mar 7-8	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Midwest City	Water	Mar 13-14	16 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7488
Wayne	Water	Mar 13-14	16 hrs	ORWA	800-375-6792
Midwest City	Wastewater	Mar 15-16	16 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7488
Sallisaw	Water	Mar 27-28	16 hrs	ORWA	800-375-6792

SCHEDULES

Send at least two (2) weeks in advance. To take the exam, you must send your application date. Please remember to check with the sponsor to be sure that classes will take place.



INTERMEDIATE C LEVEL

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>CREDIT</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
Guthrie	Water	Dec 4-5	16 hrs	ORWA	800-375-6792
Guthrie	Wastewater	Dec 6-7	16 hrs	ORWA	800-375-6792
Midwest City	Water	Jan 9-10	16 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7488
Tulsa	Wastewater	Jan 9-11	24 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Midwest City	Wastewater	Jan 11-12	16 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7488
Stillwater	Water	Jan 16-18	24 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Tulsa	Water	Feb 6-8	24 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Stillwater	Wastewater	Feb 20-22	24 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Midwest City	Wastewater	Feb 22-23	16 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7488
Midwest City	Water	Mar 1-2	16 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7488
Tulsa	Wastewater	Mar 6-8	24 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Stillwater	Water	Mar 20-22	24 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Tulsa	Distribution & Collection	Mar 20-22	24 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227

ADVANCED A & B LEVEL

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>CREDIT</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
Midwest City	A/B Water	Jan 23-26	32 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7488
Stillwater	B Wastewater	Feb 26-1	30 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Stillwater	A Wastewater	Feb 26-2	38 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Midwest City	A/B Wastewater	Mar 6-9	32 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7488
Midwest City	A/B Water	Mar 13-16	32 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7488
Stillwater	B Water	Mar 26-29	30 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Stillwater	A Water	Mar 26-30	38 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227

LABORATORY

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>CREDIT</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
Tishomingo	C Wastewater	Dec 4-7	32 hrs	ORWA	800-375-6792
Stillwater	C Water Laboratory	Dec 11-14	32 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Midwest City	C Wastewater	Dec 12-15	32 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7488
Midwest City	A/B Water	Jan 16-19	32 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7488
Stillwater	C Water	Jan 22-25	32 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Midwest City	A/B Wastewater	Jan 30-2	32 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7488
Stillwater C	Wastewater	Feb 12-15	32 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Midwest City	C Wastewater	Feb 13-16	32 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7488
Stillwater	C Water	Mar 12-15	32 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Midwest City	B Wastewater	Mar 27-30	32 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7488

CLASS SCHEDULES, CONTINUED

RENEWAL

LOCATION	SUBJECT	DATES	CREDIT	SPONSOR	PHONE
Stillwater	Sampling Class	Nov 17-17	8 hrs	Accurate	405-372-5300
Durant	Emergency Response	Dec 7-7	4 hrs	ORWA	800-375-6792
Enid	Boardman Training	Dec 11-12	6 hrs	ORWA	800-375-6792
Enid	Emergency Response	Dec 14-14	4 hrs	ORWA	800-375-6792
Roff Renewal	Safety/Math	Dec 14-14	4 hrs	ORWA	800-375-6792
Kaw City	Safety/Math	Dec 19-19	4 hrs	ORWA	800-375-6792
Oklahoma City	CPR	Dec 19-19	8 hrs	Oklahoma City	405-297-2609
Carter	Emergency Response	Dec 21-21	4 hrs	ORWA	800-375-6792

Home Study Correspondence Courses

California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) offers correspondence courses for operators. These training programs were prepared for the U.S. EPA by persons working in the field to help others develop the knowledge and skills necessary to do their jobs and to pass certification exams. California manuals are used as reference for Oklahoma operator certification exams. Nine (9) continuing education units (CEUs) are earned from CSUS upon successful completion of most courses. In Oklahoma, one (1) approved CEU is equal to ten (10) approved training hours. The manuals may also be purchased without enrolling in a correspondence course. For ordering information, please call CSUS at (916) 278-6142.

MSU Management Courses

Michigan State University (MSU) offers two management courses: Supervisory Management in the Water/Wastewater Field and Maintenance Management in the Water/Wastewater Field. A certificate from MSU for six (6) CEUs is awarded upon completion of each course. One (1) approved CEU is equal to ten (10) approved training hours. For enrollment information, call MSU at (800) 356-5705.

WATERWORKS AND WASTEWATER WORKS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Waterworks and Wastewater Works Advisory Council (Council) meetings begin at 10 a.m. at the Department of Environmental Quality located at 707 N. Robinson in Oklahoma City, OK. These meetings are open to the public and are held in the multipurpose room on the first floor. The 2007 meetings will be held on January 19, May 4, July 20, and October 12.

ENVIRONMENTAL NONCOMPLIANCE LEADS TO HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE, CONTINUED



February 2002 and another one after additional sampling in August 2002. In February 2002, EPA offered bottled water to seven homes in which DEQ's sampling data showed high levels of TCE. In August 2002, three other residences were offered bottled water from EPA after the plume was discovered by DEQ to be further west. This discovery was initiated by a citizen request, who had been out of town during the first round of sampling. Bottled water was provided only for a limited time (30 to 90 days) after each ERRA.

The highest level of contamination found was PCE at twelve hundred (1200) parts per billion (ppb) and TCE at thirty-five (35) ppb. (The Maximum

Contaminant Levels set by EPA are 5 ppb). A monitoring well at 30 feet deep found PCE at 390 ppb and TCE at 11 ppb. There are also eighteen (18) wellhead protection areas in the vicinity of the site. Plume source, extent, and behavior are not known.

Tetrachloroethylene (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PCE) are chemicals widely used for dry cleaning and for metal-degreasing operations. The source that contributed to the contamination in the groundwater was never determined, nor was a responsible party ever identified. Therefore, the DEQ and City of Oklahoma City looked at

various ways to get people connected to the City PWS and potentially stop using water from wells in the area of the groundwater plume.

The DEQ, along with the City of Oklahoma City, worked together to educate homeowners of the possible risks of using contaminated private water wells. "Whether the well is known to be contaminated, or has the potential, it can be a risk to homeowners using the water," said Kelly Dixon, Program Manger of the Land Protection Division of the DEQ.

Dixon went on to say, "In terms of a risk to their health it was in

the best interests of these homeowners, to connect to the City's PWS. All but fourteen houses were able to get connected to the City's PWS through their own financial means. The remaining fourteen homeowners chose not to connect for various reasons. The DEQ worked with OKC to have the program funded."

Several companies within the State were willing to have administrative penalty money, for issues unrelated to the groundwater contamination, go towards funding this project. Through the assistance of these companies the project was fully funded.



Crews work hard to sample the private water wells.

As of September 19, 2006, a final inspection of the remaining water connections evidenced that all of the houses identified in the Minnie Lane Area had been connected to the City's PWS.



Bulk Rate
U. S. Postage PAID
Oklahoma City, OK
Permit No. 1324

707 N. Robinson
Oklahoma City, OK 73101

DECEMBER 2006

Biomonitoring, Continued

The biomonitoring tests involve tiny animals which are indigenous to this area. Fathead minnows and water fleas are the critters subjected to the effluent. The tests are labor intensive and complicated which makes them expensive.

When you are doing your budgets and this item comes up, there is no way around it. If you are curious about what you are paying for, read the next issue of this publication. In the meantime, while I'm writing the article, questions and concerns are welcome. This is a very confusing subject so any suggestions, comments, etc. that will help me make it clearer would be appreciated. You can e-mail me at Nancy.Cain@deq.state.ok.us or call me at 405-702-8190.

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NTNC Classes

Nontransient Non-Community (NTNC) public water systems serving 3,300 persons or fewer are now required to have a certified operator. There is free training available for any NTNC system that does not have a certified operator. Call Kristi Sanger at (405) 702-8144 for further information.



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