



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Water Supply News

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DNR Staff Updates

Two DNR staff persons have announced their intentions to retire at the end of the year: Charlotte Henderson, senior environmental specialist in the water use program in Des Moines, and Sharon Tahtinen, the DNR's Policy and Business Assistance Liaison in Des Moines. Charlotte has worked for the State of Iowa for over 38 years, the past 29 years of which have been with the Iowa DNR Water Supply Program primarily in the areas of laboratory certification and, most recently, water use. Sharon has worked for more than 33 years at DNR in a variety of capacities.

Jeff Schwierjohann has just joined Field Office 1 in Manchester as an environmental specialist, where working in the water supply program will be a part of his duties.

Consumer Notice Certification Reminder for all systems that sampled Lead & Copper this summer

The Lead and Copper Rule has a requirement to notify the people at the sites where the lead samples are collected of the results for their site. The notice is called the "Consumer Notice." The people must be notified within 30 days of when the system receives the laboratory report. For any lead result over the 0.015 mg/L lead action level, we request that the system provide that notice to that site within 48 hours of receiving the lab report.

The consumer notice is required for all lead results, and may also be used for copper. The templates with the mandatory language, instructions, and certification page, are available on the [Forms website](#) (last section). Note that there are four forms, depending upon system type and also whether lead data or lead and copper data will be provided. The system must also send the completed certification form to DNR as proof that the consumer notice was conducted, along with one copy of the actual notice.

This is a reminder for all community and non-transient non-community systems that sampled for lead and copper between June 1 and September 30, 2018, to submit the certification form that the consumer notices were distributed. The certification and one copy of the consumer notice are due to DNR by December 30, 2018. So far, we've received about half of the certifications due from this summer's sampling efforts. If you aren't sure about the requirements, or have other questions, please call or email your contacts in Water Supply Operations. Their name and phone number are listed on the cover page of your current operation permit.

Three Items for the December 18th EPC Meeting

The following three items related to areas covered by the water supply program are on the agenda of the Environmental Protection Commission's meeting on December 18. Information about the meeting as well as the agenda is available on the [Environmental Protection Commission webpage](#).

2018 Groundwater Status Report Available

The 2018 Groundwater Status Report will be presented to the Environmental Protection Commission at its December 18th meeting in Des Moines. The report is available as Item 5 (page 10 of 91 in the .pdf) on the "EPC Packet and Agenda" (middle of the EPC webpage, under the Upcoming meeting).

IUP Third Quarter Updates

Commission approval will be requested for the third quarter updates to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Intended Use Plans (IUPs) for FY 2019 (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019). The agenda brief is available as Item 6 (page 16 of 91 in the .pdf).

Notice of Intended Action for rulemaking related to amending Iowa Geological Survey references

Item 8 (page 62 of 91 in the .pdf) is a Notice of Intended Action for the revision of the rules in three water use chapters and the well water contractor certification chapter. From the agenda brief: "The purpose of the proposed rule amendments is to implement three recent legislative changes... House File 2303: Transfer of State Geologist and Iowa Geological Survey to the University of Iowa: The proposed rule amendments are being made in order to conform Chapters 50, 51, 53, 72, and 82 with 2018 Iowa Acts, House File 2303, signed by Governor Reynolds on March 21, 2018. House File 2303 transferred the State Geologist and the Iowa Geological Survey to the University of Iowa. Prior to the enactment of this legislation, the State Geologist was employed by – and the Iowa Geological Survey was contained within – the Department of Natural Resources (Department). There are multiple references to the Iowa Geological Survey that need to be updated to clarify that the Iowa Geological Survey is no longer part of the Department. As such, the proposed rule amends Chapters 50, 51, 53, 72, and 82. ..."

What's Happening with Operator Salaries: AWWA Releases Results from 2018 Water and Wastewater Compensation Survey

From WaterOperator.org, Newsletter #226 for November 6, 2018

“The American Water Works Association [released](#) its annual water industry compensation [survey](#) results this past month, showing salary increases of between 1.7% (for small utilities) to 5.1% (for large utilities), for an average of a 2.9% increase, compared to 3% for all industries in the past year.

The survey results are based on input from 708 organizations representing more than 25,600 employees.

In addition,

- Larger utilities paid 17% on average more for salaries across all job categories than medium/small utilities.
- Of the 513 organizations responding, 49.7% increased staffing levels, and less than 10% reduced their workforce.
- 5% of survey participants plan to implement similar merit pay increases as last year, 12.4% plan higher merit increases, 2.8% plan lower merit increases, 9.9% do not anticipate merit increases, and 1.8% plan to postpone merit increases.”