OKLAHOMA Environmental Quality

Water, Water Everywhere

DEQ PWS WQD Quarterly Newsletter JULY 2024

Welcome to the quarterly newsletter for the Public Water Supply (PWS) Water Quality Division (WQD). This newsletter will keep you up to date on the latest in the world of water and will also help you ensure your systems are running smoothly by providing information and links to upcoming trainings, events, and funding opportunities. So dive in! The water's fine.

ENFORCEMENT ALERT: Cybersecurity

EPA is increasing enforcement activities related to drinking water system cybersecurity to reduce vulnerabilities. Read more and find actions systems should take now at [Drinking Water Systems Address Cybersecurity Vulnerabilities.]

PFAS is Forever

This past April, EPA released their final rule regarding PFAS in drinking water. But what does that mean for water systems?

1. Within 3 years:must conduct initial monitoring or receive approval to use previous data
2. Starting 2027: must conduct ongoing compliance monitoring, include results in Consumer Confidence Report (CCRs), and start issuing public notification for monitoring and testing violations,
3. Starting 2029: must comply with PFAS Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) and provide public notification for violation of PFAS MCLs.

Beat the Heat

Get ready for summer weather with these steps and more here:

- **Plan: Create and practice an Emergency Response**
- **Coordinate: Join SoonerWARN**
- **Communicate: Provide information to the public**
- **Prepare: Conduct facility maintenance and upkeep**
- **Backup: Obtain or have access to a generator or alternate power**

More resources below:

[PFAS Strategic Roadmap: EPA's Commitments to Action 2021-2024]

[PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation]

[Monitoring & Reporting]

[Fact Sheet for Small and Rural Water Systems]

[Understanding [the] Hazard Index Maximum Contaminant Level]

[Treatment Options for Removing PFAS from Drinking Water]

Keep Your Assets Around Longer

Water systems large and small require multiple complex assets to provide safe, clean, and appealing drinking water to the public. The proper management of those assets can be a daunting task, but a good plan can help you get the most value and life-span from each of your assets. A good plan can also help you prioritize projects based on your most critical assets, while tracking the maintenance and operation of every asset your system relies on. Use the resources below to learn more, and work with a DEQ Specialist to complete an Asset Management Plan by requesting technical assistance here.

[Asset Management: A Handbook for Small Water Systems]

[AWWA: Using Asset Management to Plan for Rehabilitation, Renewal & Replacement]

[AWWA Asset Management Definitions Guidebook]

[EPA: Reference Guide for Asset Management Tools]

[State Asset Management Initiatives]

Reach Out to Oklahoma DEQ

There are many reasons to contact Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Water Quality Division (WQD) immediately. The following are several examples of when you should be reaching out to the DEQ for guidance. This is not a complete list.

Upcoming Training & Events

OKLAHOMA Environmental Quality

Operator Renewal Training

Find training opportunities and information here.

ORWA

Operator & Board Member Training

Register for trainings such as Water Operator Certification and Board Member Training, discover more here.

OKLAHOMA Water Resources Board

News & Events

A primary source for news and upcoming events. Click here.

Contact:
DEQ Public Water Supply
405-702-8100
Website

- Any low or no water pressure events
- Turbidity is over the maximum limits
- Chlorine residuals are below minimum limits
- Failure of multiple barriers to contamination (filtration, disinfection, pressure, etc.)
- E. Coli positive sample results that WQD has not yet called you about
- Waterborne disease outbreak that is not part of your routine monitoring
- Other biological contamination (e.g. red worm)
- Introduction of any foreign chemicals through spills or cross-contamination to your system or the area around your source

When reaching out, call your local ECLS representative and email WQD at PWS_Alert@deq.ok.gov with a detailed description of your issue.

SYSTEM SPOTLIGHT

Spotlighting systems and individuals that have shown excellence in meeting the needs of Oklahoma communities by keeping water systems healthy.

Logan Co RWD #1 has been chosen for their work ethic and zero violations in the last 10 years! We interviewed Buddy Thompson who works as a manager for Logan County RWD #1 and has 35 years of experience in the water industry, to learn about their system and how they have continued to provide quality water.

Describe your water system:

Logan County RWD #1 began service in 1974. We started with about 300 customers. Today we are around 4,500 customers. Our growth is a result of us being just north of Edmond and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. People are drawn here because they want country living but city services, that they cannot receive in more rural areas. We currently have 9 wells, 5 standpipes and 2 water towers. We purchase some water from Guthrie, Ok., and will be purchasing some from Edmond. Ok. The district started by renting a small building in Guthrie city limits. In 1991 they built a 1800 sq. ft, office and in 2022 we built a 4800 sq. ft. building with a 8000 sq. ft. shop.

left to right: Buddy Thompson, Logan RWD#1 manager for 31 years; Marilyn Barton current President and board member for 32 years; Steve Paris retired board Vice-President in front of completed pump station

Assistance Corner

There are a number of funding resources available. Follow these links for more information and reach out to us with any questions

Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB)

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)

Rural Infrastructure Grant (RIG)

Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program

ORWA Technical Assistance

Oklahoma DEQ Technical Assistance

Funding and Technical Resources for LSLR in Small and Disadvantaged Communities (EPA)

Pump station construction in progress

What has contributed to the current success at your water system?

We currently have 6 water and wastewater specialists, with over 140 years of experience. We have 1 office manager and 2 bookkeepers. We have a 7-member board with the president having been a board member for 33 plus years.

What challenges has your water system faced and how did you overcome them?

In the past we had some customers complain about low water pressure, although it was never below 25 psi. This complaint was during peak usage when customers were watering their lawns. We built 2 water tows to alleviate this issue. We have drilled about 10 test wells to see if the water meets EPA and Oklahoma DEQ standards. We have not had much

What advice do you have for other similar systems?

Rural water systems that utilize well water should do test holes to make sure no contaminates are present above the EPA and Oklahoma DEQ requirements. The contaminate levels are making it harder to find good potable water. Systems should also ensure their water rates at a cost to customers so that the system can sustain the rising cost of parts and equipment along with keeping good water and/or wastewater specialists.

What are you looking forward to in the future for your system?

We expect to double our customer base in the next 10 to 15 years. We will need to look at different water resources in order to be able to serve all these new customers and to teach them water conservation, if they will listen and implement our recommended best practices.

What is your favorite aspect about working in water?

I personally Buddy Thompson, have enjoyed working in the water and wastewater field for over 35 years. I like the challenge of keeping up with the repairs in a timely matter and making sure our water is safe for everyone. I probably have not drank more than 10 pre-bottled waters in my life time of 74 years, because I feel that tap water is safer because of the testing that has to be done frequently to make sure it is safe.water conservation, if they will listen and implement our recommendedbest practices.

Standpipe in Logan RWD #1

Anything else you would like to add?

We have not had a violation in over 10 years. We don'thave to chlorinate well water but we do anyways as a precautionary measure. We have good water specialists that take pride in what they do and do it correctly. As mentioned earlier, we regularly conduct test hole procedures to make sure the water meets the required standards frequently to make sure it is safe.water conservation, if they will listen and implement our recommendedbest practices.