



DATE: October 21, 2011

TO: *Minnesota 4th Grade Science Teachers*

FROM: Robyn Hoerr, Groundwater Specialist, MN Rural Water Association

RE: Groundwater & Drinking Water Educational Materials and 2012 Water Week Poster Contest Entry Information

Minnesota Rural Water Association (MRWA) has long recognized the importance of educating youth about the value of our ground water and drinking water resources. In fact, we at MRWA feel so strongly about youth water education that that we have compiled four science lessons specially tailored for 4th grade students. These lessons were evaluated in 2008 for their conformity with State of Minnesota and National 4th grade science curriculum standards in place at that time (*see included fact sheet for details*). The four lessons each contain interactive activities for the students and web links to assist teachers' presentations and follow-up discussions. We would like to invite you to make use of these lesson plans to help satisfy State of Minnesota 4th grade science curriculum requirements.

Topics covered in the water education lessons include:

1. The Water Cycle and Ground Water Basics
2. Groundwater Movement and Soils
3. Aquifer and Groundwater Pollution
4. Our Water Resources and Conservation

Another exciting event that your 4th grade students can participate in to increase local participation and awareness of drinking water issues is the ***MRWA Water Week Poster Contest***. Your students' entries for this contest should be submitted to your public water supply contact in your city or for your public water supply system. A winner will be chosen, and the deadline for entry in the statewide MRWA Water Week Poster Contest are due to the MRWA office by February 1, 2012. The top three submitted posters will be displayed at the MRWA Technical Conference in St. Cloud from March 6 – 8, 2012. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to vote for this year's top award! For further details about contest rules and entry instructions please see the attached flyer.

We hope that you and your students choose to take advantage of the material that has been developed and participate in the Water Week Poster Contest! If you have questions about either of these opportunities, please contact MRWA at (800) 367-6792.