

Small Systems Bulletin

Minnesota Rural Water Association



April 2023 | Spring News

Technical Assistance

We also wanted to let you know that if you have any questions about training or are in need of onsite technical assistance, please feel free to contact us to set up an appointment.

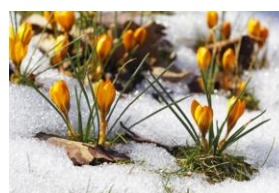
Thank you so much for all that you do in providing safe drinking water to your consumers!

MRWA Corporate Partners



About Us

Visit Our Website



Dear Nicole,

Welcome to this edition of the Small Systems Bulletin. The purpose of this bulletin is to keep you informed on issues concerning your water system. We issue this bulletin quarterly. Topics covered in the bulletin include: operation and maintenance, treatment, backflow/cross-connections, regulations, operator training, management, and many others. Dates and locations of future workshops are included.

If you have suggestions about topics that you would find helpful give us a call at 800-367-6792 or send us an e-mail at kyle.kedrowski@mrwa.com or jennifer.koenig@mrwa.com.

Watch for this quarterly newsletter and we'll see you at a future small system training workshop!

Feature Article: PFAS - What Should You Know NOW?

Lori Blair, MRWA Executive Director

According to Minnesota's PFAS Blueprint (www.pca.state.mn.us/air-water-land-climate/minnesotas-pfas-blueprint) Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS, are a family of nearly 5,000 chemicals now pervasive in the environment. Called "forever chemicals," they do not break down and can bioaccumulate in both humans and other living organisms. Some PFAs are toxic.

Minnesota's state agencies have developed multiple efforts to address PFAS concerns in Minnesota. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has developed an excellent website to help educate and inform regarding PFAS at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air-water-land-climate/minnesotas-pfas-blueprintstate.mn.us> called Minnesota Blueprint PFAS. I highly encourage you to check that site out.

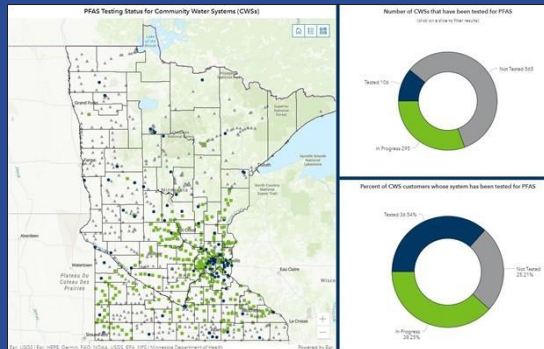
Additionally, below is a recent article reprinted with permission from Minnesota Department of Health's Waterline, Fall 2022 issue available at: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/waterline/fall2022.html> which highlights important testing for PFAS that is occurring.

MDH Testing for PFAS: Interactive Dashboard Tracks Status and Results:

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is testing for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in community water systems (CWSs) across the state to evaluate whether Minnesotans are exposed to PFAS at levels above MDH health-based guidance values in drinking water. The agency has developed an interactive dashboard (shown below) to track the status and results of the testing in coordination with public water systems. In addition, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is planning to release two interim health advisory levels for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) in drinking water, as well as final advisories for perfluorobutane sulfonate (PFBS) and hexafluoropropylene oxide (HFPO or GenX). The EPA values are lower than Minnesota's current health-based values for those chemicals, although MDH will continue using its current health-based guidance values for PFAS to assess health risk.

Health advisories for contaminants in drinking water are based on non-cancer health effects for different lengths of exposure (one day, ten days, or lifetime). Health advisories are not regulatory values and currently not enforceable. However, the EPA is developing maximum contaminant level goals for PFOA and PFOS and will release proposed maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) in the fall of 2022 and final MCLs in fall 2023. These will be enforceable.

MDH will continue to keep systems updated as new information is available. MDH has been a leader in PFAS science and will be examining the scientific research coming from EPA. Knowing that these are draft values that will change in the future, MDH is focusing on the science—evaluating the values and determining what is right for Minnesota communities.



Training & Technical Assistance Update:

The dates and locations for our upcoming in-person training sessions are listed below. We also have these dates posted on our *Training Calendar* page www.mrwa.com/training/trainingcalendar/.

At the top of that page, please click on the box “Go To Small Systems Training” for our Class E & D training dates and locations. For our in-person training sessions, we will mail notices to operations specialists in those areas approximately one month prior to the class.

In-Person Training:

Class E Training Workshops (8am – Noon)

April 4, 2023

Redwood Falls Community Center
901 Cook Street
Redwood Falls, MN

May 23, 2023

Hastings City Hall
101 Fourth Street East
Hastings, MN

May 31, 2023

Cologne Community Center
1211 Village Parkway
Cologne, MN

Class D Training Workshop (8am – 5 pm)

April 25, 2023

S.J. Electro Systems, Inc.
22650 County Highway 6
Detroit Lakes, MN

May 9, 2023

AmericInn by Wyndham North Branch
38675 14th Avenue
North Branch, MN

[Click Here to Register!](#)

Online Training:

We will continue to offer online remote training sessions using Zoom. If you have not received these email invites for the Zoom online training sessions, please email mrwa@mrwa.com and provide your name, public water system name, and preferred email address to us so that we can add you to our email list. If you have received emails from us in the past but not these Zoom notices, please check your Junk/Spam folder. If you use a Gmail account, you may need to check the "Promotions" folder for the email invites.

Once the online training sessions are scheduled we will post these online training session links on our website www.mrwa.com on our [Training Calendar](#) page. At the top of that page, please click on the box "Go To Small Systems Training" for our online training links. You will be notified via email of the date and time of each online remote training session. An email address will be needed to register for these online remote training sessions.



Each operations specialist must register and sign-in separately on their own device to receive credit for attending the online remote training session.

Online Training Starts at 10am
April 19, 2023 – “Water Sampling Methods & Tools”
REGISTER HERE

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