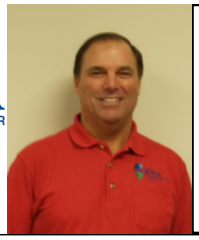
Technical Assistance Bulletin



COVID-19 and Reduced System Business Customer Use

Published by IDPH and Provided By: Don Craig, Deputy Director, IRWA

June 2020 Newsletter

The IDPH Plumbing and Water Quality Program has issued a memorandum (May 13, 2020) to building owners and operators, and public water supply operators to provide guidance for maintaining water quality and safety in building water systems and in potable water distribution systems during periods of reduced use and considerations for returning building water systems to regular use.

"The Program recognizes that many buildings throughout the State of Illinois have experienced extended periods of reduced use due to measures implemented to help slow the spread of COVID-19. This lack of use will increase water age and stagnation in water distribution systems and other building water systems. Increased water age degrades water quality by corroding pipes and plumbing materials, accumulating sediment in water systems, and reducing disinfectant levels. This contributes to the growth and spread of opportunistic waterborne pathogens (e.g. Legionella, Pseudomonas, Acinetobacter, nontuberculous mycobacteria, fungi, etc.), increases concentrations of metals such as iron, lead, and copper, and can create unpleasant tastes, colors, and odors."

I have extracted another portion (below) of the entire release, as pertaining to public water supply operators, and how it relates to their utility's specific water distribution system.

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Public Water Supply Operators:

With many buildings unoccupied or operating with reduced use, public water supplies may experience issues maintaining disinfectant levels throughout their distribution system. A few examples of areas where water demand may be significantly reduced include distribution zones primarily serving school campuses, commercial, retail, bar/restaurant districts, and certain industrial areas. Through this time of reduced demand, water suppliers should monitor water use and water quality on their distribution system to focus flushing efforts (install auto-flushers or increase frequency of hydrant flushing) on distribution zones impacted by reduced use and maintain disinfectant residuals. Special attention should be given to impacted distribution areas supplying at-risk populations and buildings served by dead end water mains.

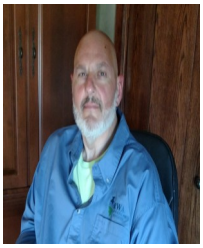
Many preventative and responsive measures for building water quality rely on incoming water having appropriate levels of residual disinfectant and corrosion control. As buildings and businesses take steps to reopen, IDPH's Plumbing Water Quality Program is recommending they consider the effects of prolonged stagnation on their building water systems and take appropriate actions. These recommendations include communicating with water suppliers about topics like anticipated changes in water demand, water distribution system flushing, backflow prevention at service lines to buildings, proposed disinfection of building water systems, and general questions about water quality in their area. Water suppliers are a critical participant in recommissioning building water systems safely. Where feasible, the Program encourages water suppliers to support their users by:

- Communicating: Inform users of the type of disinfectant used, inform users of the residual disinfectant levels, and note any recent disruptions or proposed changes in the water treatment and supply;
- Assisting: Work with building owners and operators to ensure standard checkpoints near the building or at the meter to the building have recently been checked; and disinfectant residuals entering buildings meet expected standards.
- Flushing: Install auto-flushing devices or increase hydrant flushing in areas experiencing reduced use.

****For a link to access a copy of the complete memorandum and recommendations/checklists, go the Illinois Rural Water Association's website homepage at: www.ilrwa.org***

IRWA'S MISSION STATEMENT

"Protecting and preserving the water and wastewater resources of Rural Illinois through education, representation and on-site technical assistance"



Special Report: AWIA Risk and Resilience Assessment Checklist

Written By: Kalli Forshee, National Rural Water Association

Provided by: Mark Mitchell, USDA Source Water Specialist

The National Rural Water Association is pleased to announce that the partnership between the Environmental Protection Agency and NRWA has produced a simplified checklist for small systems to utilize for remaining compliant with the risk and resilience assessments under America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (AWIA).

This guidance is intended for small community water systems (CWS's) serving greater than 3,300 but less than 50,000 people. Community water systems serving less than 3,300 people are not required to conduct risk and resilience assessments under AWIA, however, it is recommended that these systems use this, or other guidance, to learn how to conduct risk and resilience assessments and address threats from malevolent acts and natural hazards that threaten safe drinking water.

What are the Risk and Resilience Assessments Requirements in AWIA?

AWIA requires community water systems serving more than 3,300 people to assess the risks to and resilience of the system to malevolent acts and natural hazards. The law specifies water system assets that the assessment must address. These assets are listed in Tables 1a through 10b in the *Risk and Resilience Assessment*.

Community public drinking water systems must certify to EPA that the system conducted the assessment not later than the following dates:

- March 31, 2020 for systems serving 100,000 or more
- December 31, 2020 for systems serving 50,000 or more but less than 100,000,
- June 30, 2021 for system serving more than 3,300 but less than 50,000.

National Rural Water Association (NRWA) is the leading technical assistance provider for public drinking water and for providing immediate on-site emergency response in the United States. NRWA is proud to have provided the input and assistance through partnership with EPA to develop the small system checklist for risk and resilience requirements to keep our nation's public drinking water safe and ready to respond.

For further assistance, contact your State Rural Water Association to provide the on-site assistance needed to understand, perform, and comply with these risk and resilience requirements and to provide on-site recommendations to keep your water system compliant and operating smoothly. As the nation's only genuine Circuit Riders, your State Rural Water Association is prepared to assist you in any way and at any time.

https://nrwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Guidance-for-Small-Community-Water-Systems-on-Risk-and-Resilience-Assessments-under-AWIA-Final.pdf

Above is the link to download the Guidance document to generate your Risk and Resilience Assessments Requirements in AWIA which will give a very easy to use, fillable form in Adobe.pdf format titled Guidance-for-Small-Community-Water-Systems-on-Risk-and-Resilience-Assessments-under-AWIA-Final

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:
THE 17TH ANNUAL IRWA GOLF OUTING WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2020 AT PIPER GLEN GOLF COURSE IN SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS. PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILBOX IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ON OUR WEBSITE AT: WWW.ILRWA.ORG

What are you looking for?

The ABC's of ilrwa.org

Advertising in Water Ways information (Ad agreement and links) - Publications/Advertising Information

Becoming a Certified Water or Wastewater Operator—Training/Sidebar links

Boil Order Notice—Resources/Downloads

Certification Overview from IRWA—Training/Sidebar link

Certified Water Operator Contract—Resources/Downloads

CEU Forms from past conferences—Resources

CEU's from CD training—Training/Sidebar link

Cross Connection (manual, survey & ordinance) - Resources

Current hot topics and upcoming events - Home

E-CCR—Services

Energy Efficiency Assessment—Services

For Sale/Wanted—Resources/Sidebar link

Forming a new water district—Resources/Downloads

GPS/GIS—Services

Industry Organizations—Resources

Lead Testing—Downloads/Sidebar

Leak checklist and how much am I losing flyers—Resources/Downloads

Legislative Information – Who is my rep?, House and Senate bills that IRWA is following —Resources

Mutual Aid—Resources/Downloads

NFP Tax Forms — Resources/Downloads

NRWA Fleet - Membership (click on the NRWA logo);

Operator Groups—Resources

PFAS—Home

Rate Study— Services

Red Flag Act—Resources/Downloads

Revolving Loan Fund—Services

Smoke Testing forms—Resources/Downloads

Speaker Request Form for Conference —Training/Conferences

Tracer Wire Specs—Resources/Downloads

VA/ERP/Contingency Plans—Resources/Sidebar link

Video Inspection Services—Services

Wastewater CEU information—Home

Water Loss Handouts—Resources/Downloads

Water University—Training/Sidebar link

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Our Commitment Our Profession

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GPS/GIS MAPPING SERVICES

Through the implementation of GPS & GIS technology, IRWA can effectively produce hard copy and digital maps. With this service available from IRWA, utilities can attain new and accurate maps to better manage their water, wastewater, and storm sewer assets.

The printed maps can be large-scale wall maps up to 36"x48" showing utility features with the desired layers (aerial photos, streets, topography, etc.).

The digital map files on a CD, can be viewed and printed with free software that IRWA will provide and install on a utility computer. The software allows you to view and click on a system feature (such as a valve, hydrant, meter pit, curb stop, manhole, lift station, treatment facility, etc.), and pull up attribute data about each…as well as several other capabilities such as printing, zooming, etc.

Also, IRWA has a working relationship, with DiamondMaps.com, to put your IRWA project maps, on their server, for mobile viewing with a smartphone or cellular capable tablet….including editing capability. This is at no extra charge to the system for the first year's subscription. Continuance of the Diamond Maps service after the first year, is at the utility's discretion.

Payment for GIS services, is a set charge per feature, with IRWA members receiving an automatic 30% discount, and even more of a reduction with bigger projects. More information is also posted on our website at: www.ilrwa.org, or you may call our office at 217-287-2115.