

by Frank Dunmire, IRWA Executive Director

I don't know about you, but whenever I receive one of those white envelopes that has an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency as the return address, I begin praying that it is just a friendly reminder that some sample is due soon. On a rare occasion it proves not to be such a friendly reminder – but, instead, it is a noncompliance or violation notice. After the nausea subsides, you first ask yourself – how can this be? – before moving on to the next question. The second question is what do I need to do next. Well, that is a very good question that really has no simple answer any longer. Some require public notices while others do not. Some will require self-assessments, public education, additional studies, additional sampling, and the list goes on and on. Just out of curiosity I went on the internet to the IEPA website and clicked my way to the "Drinking Water Compliance and Enforcement Forms" page and below is just a sampling of what I found:

- o Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Certification Form
- Chlorine Dioxide Distribution Monitoring Report Form
 (Daily)
- o Chlorite Distribution Monitoring Report Form (Daily)
- o DBP's Site Plan and Information Sheet
- o Operator Training Submission Form
- o Public Notice Certification Form
- Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3 Public Notice Violation Templates
 & Instructions
- o Consumer Notice of Lead Tap Water Results
- o Lead Consumer Informational Notice Certification Form
- o Lead and Copper Sampling Information
- o Lead and Copper Monitoring Site Plan Change Request
- o Lead and Copper Samples Sites Data Input Form
- o Lead and Copper Sampling Site Summary

The forms listed above are just the tip of the iceberg and Water Operations Specialists are expected to know which form(s) to use and when to use them. Thirty or forty years ago that might have been the case, but as rules and regulations have evolved over time, it has become increasingly harder for the Operations
Specialist to keep on



top of the many changes. As the vast majority of those reading this article are painfully aware, Water Operations Specialists, particularly those in smaller systems, "wear many hats" and may also be responsible for treating wastewater, maintaining streets, providing animal control services, mowing and anything else that Village Boards can dream up. I know of a few cases where the Water Operations Specialist is also the local law enforcement. In the end, Operations Specialists' plates are beginning to overflow, and they do not have enough time to devote to keeping abreast of all the new or changing rules and regulations. So, what do we do?

The Board of Directors for the Illinois Rural Water Association has authorized the creation of a new service that the Association will be offering to its members. The new service will be called "Compliance Assistance" and will provide assistance to members who might have received one of those gut-wrenching notices from the IEPA. IRWA is anticipating this new service to be up and running on October 1, 2022 and will be free of charge. Let's hope that you never need to call for assistance!

We will keep you posted with additional information as we continue working on getting this service ready to launch.

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"Protecting and preserving the water and wastewater resources				

On the Cover:

of Rural Illinois through education, representation and

on-site technical assistance".

Crystal Carpani, a resident of Hillsboro, Illinois took this picture of the Hillsboro water tower.

Water Ways is the official publication of the Illinois Rural Water Association, P.O. Box 49, Taylorville, Illinois 62568, and is published quarterly for distribution to members as well as other industry associations and friends. Our website is www.ilrwa.org. Articles and photographs are encouraged. Advertising and submissions should be mailed to the above address or e-mail us at ilrwa.org.





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Will there be no end to the madness?

by Chuck Woodworth, IRWA Circuit Rider

Leak, that is a four-letter word. Nobody likes to have leaks and finding them sometimes brings on more four-letter words. Some come to the surface, and some do not. The ones that do not come to the surface, of course, are harder to find. If you have the right equipment, like we do at IRWA, they become easier to find. Do not get me wrong there has been a few leaks that I have not been able to find. I would say that most of leaks that I have been called on, I have been able to find them. The few that I have not been able

to find bothers me. I feel that I should be able to find any leak. After giving up on the search, I continue to think about it and where it could be. After thinking about it for a day or two, I have gone back to try again, sometimes with good results, sometimes not. What I consider an easy leak is one that I can find in an hour or so. Those are far and few between. I always ask for pictures when the leak is dug up so here are a few of pictures that have been sent to me.









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I saw it first!

People love to be the first one to know something. I'm sure a lot of you can relate. How many times have you pulled up to a reported leak and have to hear the story about how the guy found it and how he called it in? It's kind of like when the news reporter interviews a witness. "Well, I was just taking the dog for a walk when I noticed ALL this water running down the street!" Then if you're lucky, you will get to hear the same story repeated as the neighbors come along to inspect the big job. Sometimes the caller, or another good citizen will be waiting at the site to show you where the leak is, as if the thousands of gallons of escaping water isn't any indication. Many times these leak reporters can even offer a possible cause of the leak which can be pretty far-fetched, and believe me, I've heard some doozies. Of course public perception is always a concern so you thank the self-ordained water leak expert and carry on with your work.

People also want to be the courier of such late breaking news as a water leak, estimated time of restoration, or notice of boil order. Just because someone doesn't exactly have all the relevant information, doesn't mean they won't go ahead and broadcast what they do have. My dad has a saying "Never let facts get in the way of a good story". It is pretty common for someone to slow down and stick their head out of their car window and get the details of what's happening. While you have given them the best assessment of the situation, that status is obviously subject to change. Either way you can almost bet that their version of the news is going to hit the airways (social media).

Any effort that can be made to properly inform the public will be time well spent. Posting physical signs can work for boil orders, but if you put out one, you may as well put out 100. People from all over the water system will be calling in to see if it affects them. I've had calls about boil orders when the next town over has a sign out. There are other ways to get the word out but social media has a way of reaching all corners of the earth and in record time. It's so effective that on our Village page, we had 12,000 people cast

their votes for which animal should be the pet mayor in town, and we only have a population of 2,000!

It is best for the message to come from an official account as opposed to an individual. For example if only the city clerk,



manager, or mayor have access to the City's account, have it planned out so you can simply text the details of the current situation to them and they can post it on the city page. This will save you from a thousand questions being fired back at your account not to mention you have bigger issues in front of you than crafting the perfectly worded public service announcement.

Make your message as specific as you want, more details will help alleviate calls and questions. This could be information regarding estimated time of restoration, boil order area, and when it is expected to be lifted.

There are also notification systems that can be utilized. With permission, customers can be put on a rapid notification system that works via text message, email, or automated call. Whenever the System has an important message, anyone who has signed up for this service will receive a text message or phone call with the appropriate information. This service can be offered to customers and is a nice option for those who are not on social media.

While it may seem like we are a select few that know our systems, the public knows just enough to be dangerous. Any chance of educating them and taking the guess work out might help them be at ease and feel assured that help is on the way, no need to panic. While going the extra mile isn't always necessary it is often worth the effort.

2022 NRWA In Service

Well, it was that time of year again for all of us federally funded rural water employees to go to the annual In-Service training in order to meet the contract demands from USDA Rural Development and USEPA contracts. This year, we made our way to sunny southern California to the 'wonderful world' of Anaheim. Which also hints that the 'wonderful world' part of this is that it is the home of the one, the only, original Disneyland!!! I know, I know who cares about Disneyland, right? Well, I did as myself and my wife went out to Anaheim a day early without any kids I may add, to see the sights and get a peek at the great mouse himself. It was a wonderful time in the happiest place on Earth. Who would have ever thought that we would be wearing jackets till noon in southern California, but the temperatures were very nice and there was a breeze and the nights were very cool.

While wandering throughout the park and looking for the mouse or any given number of other characters and just trying not to get ran over by the vast number of people that were doing the same as myself, I started to think about how it all works from the water perspective of Disneyland. The amounts of water used in the fountains, restaurants, quick service food places and just the great number of restrooms in this relatively small plot of land is staggering and makes one ask questions and look for some answers. So here are some of the questions that I had and just had to look up and share about the wonderful world of Disneyland!

Did you know that most of the water at Disneyland is recycled?

Conserving water is one of the key environmental goals at Walt Disney Parks and Resorts. Water has always

played an important role in creating a magical environment in our parks and resorts. But did you know that nearly all the water used at the Disneyland Resort is recycled?

Walt Disney
World uses reclaimed
water for 30%
of their overall
needs, and 80% of



irrigation needs. Because of their efforts, Disney's water level has been consistent for at least the last 20 years. According to the research that I have done, Disneyland has about 63 public, now that's public bathrooms, within the 47 square miles that consists of 2 parks, downtown Disney shopping district and the 3 resorts. This doesn't include resort or cast members (as they call their employees) restrooms. There are just too many drinking fountains and water bottle fill stations to count.

Officially on the Disneyland website, they show 6 pools but within the name of each pool, there are multiple pools and jacuzzis in these locations.

Although I couldn't find an official number of gallons used at Disneyland in a day, I can make a pretty good estimate of it by the number of estimated visitors in a day. The average estimated attendance for Disneyland that I could find are about 57,000 people a DAY!!! I know most of you don't even pump or produce that many gallons let alone

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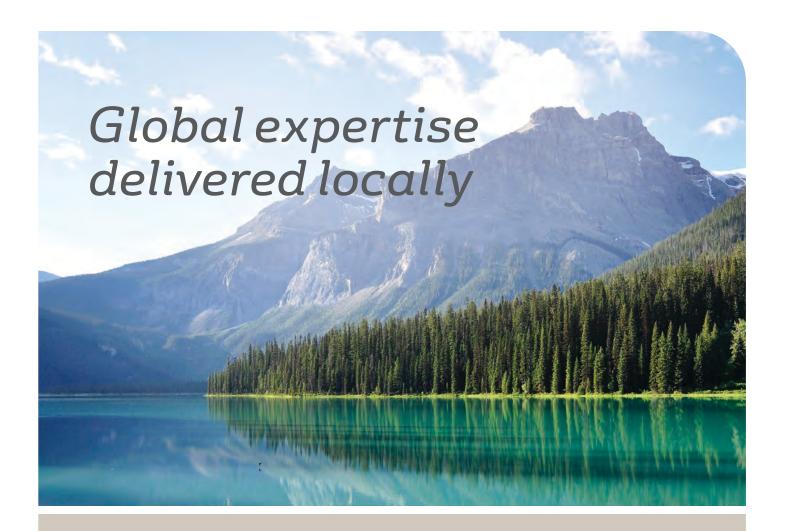
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by David Speagle, Energy Efficiency Circuit Rider

When Ameren imposed a "supply" rate increase June 1, they stated that the average household consumer will see about a \$50 monthly increase in the cost of electricity. Imagine the increased expense your larger motors on pumps and blowers are going to generate, which makes potential savings even more important. In addition, Ameren is seeking a rate increase of their own, a \$83 million "delivery" rate increase that could take effect on January 1, 2023. State regulators will rule on that in December. If a ruling is in Ameren's favor, rates will increase even more! The Energy Efficiency program goal is to work with you to find an energy solution that elevates efficiency and saves the utility expense. Operational concerns are always first and foremost; however, any savings we can discover, especially if it enhances operations, is a benefit.

To access a FREE Energy Efficiency Assessment, just do the following.

Contact us so that we can schedule your FREE assessment of your utilities. This can be your wastewater and/or water treatment facilities, and any of the pertinent infrastructure pumping, etc., associated with those. We will do a walkthrough of your facilities; and gain information about your operation seeking your input and concerns. The

running hours, peak times, demand, and equipment information etc. will be gathered. This process usually only takes an hour or two, depending on the size of facility and the number of locations to visit. We can then evaluate what needs

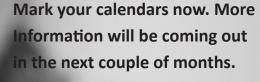


to be addressed, and determine what the cost and paybacks are projected from that assessment through suggestions showing the calculations. You are not required to comply with our findings, they are just recommendations. Also, if needed, funding and rebate sources will be provided.

At the end, we will provide you with a copy(s) of the assessment that lists the proposed recommendations we feel would benefit your facility. If we can provide you with this service, just contact Energy Efficiency Technician, David Speagle at 217-820-1560 or the IRWA office at 217-287-2115.



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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—Resources > Becoming a Certified Operator in Illinois

Boil Order Notice—Resources > Downloads

Certification Overview from IRWA—Training > Certification

Certified Water Operator Contract—Resources > Downloads

CEU Forms from past conferences—Training > CEU Archives

CEU's from CD training—Training > CD's

Cross Connection (manual, survey & ordinance) - Resources > Cross Connection

Current hot topics and upcoming events - Home

E-CCR—Services > e-CCR Hosting

Energy Efficiency Assessment—Services > Energy Efficiency

For Sale/Wanted—Services > For Sale/Wanted

Forming a new water district—Resources > Downloads

GPS/GIS—Services > GPS/GIS Mapping

Industry Organizations—Resources > Links

Lead Information — Resources > Lead Information

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

Legislative Information - (Who is my rep?, Bills that IRWA is following)—Resources > Legislative

Mutual Aid—Resources > Downloads

NFP Tax Forms — Resources > Downloads

NRWA Fleet - Membership > Benefits—click on the NRWA logo

Operator Groups—Resources > Links

PFAS—Home

Rate Study— Services > Rate Study

Red Flag Act—Resources > Downloads

Speaker Request Form for Conference — Training > Conferences

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ERP/Contingency Plans—Resources > Emergency Preparedness Planning

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What Information Will I Need to Supply For a Rate Study?

- ⇒ Financial statements for the most current fiscal year (audit report preferred)
- ⇒ Amount of water produced and/or purchased during the most current fiscal year
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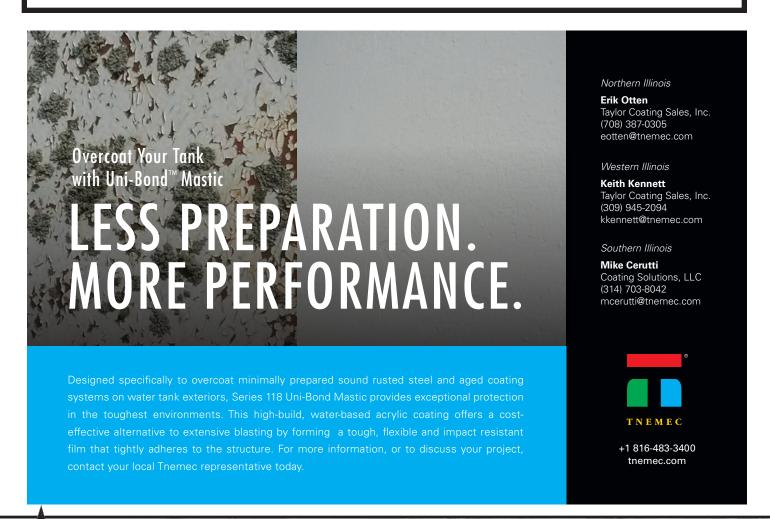


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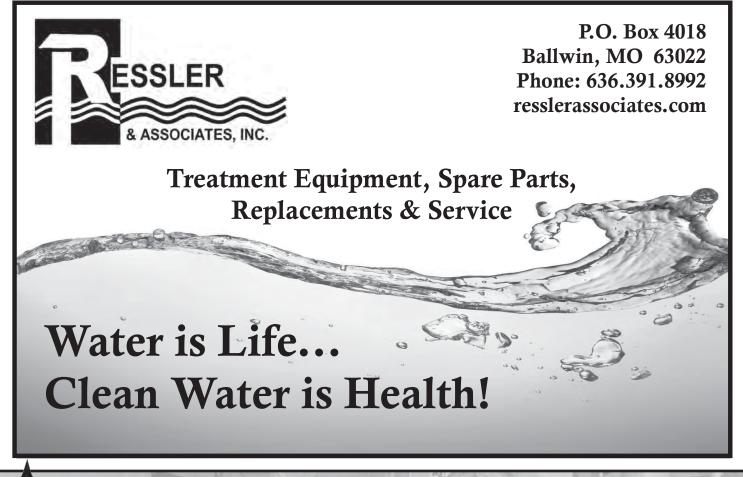
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know what a population of that number would feel like. So just as a guess and an estimate depending on temperature, age of guests, length of the visit for the people, and the average per person water usage being 100 gallons a day take that divided by 24 hours in a day that will give you 4.167 gallons an hour. So, take that by say 9 hours average in the park a day that comes out to 2,137,671 gallons a day. Now again, this doesn't figure in the usage of cast members at all or even the amounts of water that are used in the pools or what they hold. That is a crazy big number compared to what those of us in rural water are used to working with.

Now, not that really has anything to do with what I and the rest of the staff was sent to California to do. I thought it was all very interesting and wanted to pass it on. Now, down to the nuts and bolts of our trip to California. Over two and a half days, circuit riders from all across America including Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico assembled to be trained on new and innovative ways of how to assist our members through actual hands-on training in the parking lot of the hotel to the classroom with experts in the fields of asset management, downhole flex pipe and many other diverse sessions.

Even after I have been attending these trainings for so many years, it always seems to amaze me that there are so many people involved in rural water and of the knowledge that these individuals in the field have. I like to think that every year that I have gone to either In-Service training in the summer or the NRWA Water Pro conference in the fall that I am able to at least pick up something very small to bring back and help at least one member of Illinois Rural Water and that my being there was worthwhile.

That is something else I want to touch on - with these National Trainings that we go to, it's not just the staff at Illinois that our members can ask questions to, we have the capabilities of drawing information and knowledge from all the other rural water associations and their members. So, when you find yourself asking a question to a staff member from Illinois Rural Water Association, you can rest assured that we have the knowledge and know whether it be internally or from across Rural America, we can find the answers. So, if you have any questions that you think we can help with, just give one of our staff a call!



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by Roger Noe, IRWA Circuit Rider

Communication with Customers

Communication with Customers Communicating with customers is area that is becoming more important and necessary for water systems to perform. The public trusts that safe drinking water will come out of their taps every day. However, many do not understand what it takes to supply safe drinking water to their communities. The past communication to customers most likely consisted of things like rate increases, past dues, shutoffs, boil orders, violations, or cross connection surveys. Now we have the new lead and copper rule where the water system will rely on the customers to give valuable information about their service line. The rule of thumb has always been that the least information is best to the customer, but with social media, customers can find out anything and spread false information very quickly. The water system or operator is then playing defense instead of offense with suppling the correct information to the public. I have seen how communication needs to be passed to customers as an operator and now as a village board trustee. I have seen several good ideas from water systems within my travels with Illinois Rural Water.

Rates:

Who wants to talk about raising rates; that will get the customers excited and upset. The realty is most water rates are still too cheap; meanwhile, treatment cost and distribution cost are increasing substantially. Since I have been on

the village board, we have had two rate increases for radio read meters and a new treatment plant. Luckily, we received very few complaints from the customers. They knew why and what was being done to improve the water system. We will soon most likely increase again for water tower improvements. The comment I hear throughout the industry is "we can't raise rates it might upset the customers." This is where the communication is so important to the customers. We need to explain to the customers why the increase is needed and what is being repaired, replaced, or installed.

Communication Methods:

Technology has made it easier than ever before to communicate with customers. A website can hold valuable customer information as well as providing the user with instant alerts to boil orders or main breaks. However, websites are only good if they are kept current. Someone has to be in charge of making sure the website is updated. Social media is an obvious choice, but you must have a plan on how and who will answer comments on posts. Some places use newsletters, either sent electronically or postal mail. The drawback here is there could be changes or update before it reaches the customer.

Lead and Copper Rule:

With the onset of the new lead and copper rule, municipalities have a few options for reaching customers.



The way that will depend on customer involvement is a survey. This would entail asking the customer to complete a survey with data. A successful survey relies on customer feedback. Another option a door-to-door poll, which will require time and manpower. Finally, if no other method is feasible, the water system will compile the data in a method that is to the best of their ability.

Now is the time for water systems to evaluate their communication plans with customers and strategize. Are you doing enough to disseminate information to your customers? Is there a readily available path for customers to make inquiries? Chances are, your systems could implement some of the aforementioned methods above to create a working partnership, which benefits the system and the customers.



19th Annual Golf C

The Illinois Rural Water Association (IRWA) is hosting its 19th Annual Golf Outing. This event is sponsored as a way to have a fun IRWA member activity.

The location for this event is **Piper Glen Golf Course in Springfield, Illinois**. The date for this four person scramble is Friday, August 26, 2022. The fee is \$65.00 which includes lunch, a gift bag, green fees and golf cart. Various prizes will be given away as well. As always, IRWA is trying to make this a fun-filled and affordable golf scramble. Your participation will ensure that this year's event will be every bit as successful as past outings. This event gives the IRWA members an opportunity to have fun and enjoy a day of golf with fellow industry professionals.

You are encouraged to submit your registration forms prior to the **Friday, August 12, 2022** deadline. Please make checks are payable to Illinois Rural Water Association. You can also go online and sign up and pay by credit card at www.ilrwa.org.

This will be a four-person scramble with a **10:00 a.m. shotgun start.** Participants are encouraged to be at Piper Glen Golf Course and check in at the registration table no later than WHAT: 19th Annual 9:45 a.m. Lunch will be served as you make your way by the club house while

playing golf.

It is IRWA's hope that you will be able to attend this event. Please feel free to contact **Denise Burke** at 1-217-287-2115 with any questions you may have. We look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,



Board of Directors & Staff

IRWA Golf Outing

WHO: Water & Wastewater Operators, **Board Members**, Mayors, Vendors, Others

> WHEN: Friday, August 26, 2022

WHERE: Piper Glen Golf Course— Springfield, IL

FEE: \$65.00 for operators (includes lunch, gift bag, green fees & golf cart)

ILLINOIS RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

19TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

The 18th Annual Illinois Rural Water Association Golf Outing will be held on Friday, August 26, 2022 at Piper Glen Golf Course located in Springfield, Illinois. Directions to the course are located on the last page. The golf format will be a shotgun start at 10:00 a.m. Please check in at the registration table no later than 9:45 a.m. Please fill out the registration form below and send it along with your check to the address listed below. You may also pay by credit card online at www.ilrwa.org. Registration must be received and paid by Friday, August 12, 2022 in order to reserve your spot. We are limited to 144 golfers for this event.

Course Rules:

- Dress must be in good taste keeping with golf tradition.
- Only non metal spikes are allowed.



PIPER GLEN GOLF COURSE- 7112 PIPER GLEN DRIVE— SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

217-483-6537

www.piperglen.com

Registration Form

Friday, August 26, 2022—10:00 a.m. (Shotgun start—4 person scramble)

	Single Golfers will be teamed with a foursome.			
NAME(S):				
SYSTEM NAME:				
ADDRESS:				
PHONE:				
# OF GOLFERS Operators / City Officials /	Guests	@ \$65.00	=	
Associate Members / Vene (If Associate members are participate will be \$65.00).	e sponsoring the g			ge), then the fee to
Total (includes lunch, gift bag, g	green fees & golf c	= art)		

Please make all checks payable to Illinois Rural Water Association. Return your completed registration and payment to: Illinois Rural Water Association—P.O. Box 49—Taylorville, Illinois 62568

You may also pay by credit card online at www.ilrwa.org.

Sponsorship Form Lunch Sponsorship (limited to 3 sponsors) \$500.00 **Beverage Cart Sponsorship** \$500.00 (limited to 2 sponsors) Hole Sponsorship \$150.00 (limited to 18 sponsors) Hole in One Sponsorship (\$5,000 cash) (2 Airplane Tickets- any destination in \$300.00 \$275.00 continental United States) \$250.00 (Golf Clubs) (\$500.00 golf shop credit) \$250.00 Gift Bag & Prize Sponsorship -**SEE BELOW**

<u>LUNCH SPONSORSHIP:</u> Lunch sponsors will have their sponsorship sign posted where lunch will be served reaching all of the golfers and two free registrations to participate in the golf outing.

BEVERAGE CART SPONSORSHIP: Beverage cart sponsors will have their sponsorship sign on the courtesy carts that will be on the golf course driving around with bottled water, beer and soda compliments of your company. They will also receive two free registrations to participate in the golf outing.

<u>HOLE SPONSORSHIP:</u> Hole sponsors will have their sponsorship sign **off the tee**. This is a great opportunity for visibility.

<u>HOLE IN ONE SPONSORSHIP:</u> Hole in one sponsors will have their sponsorship sign displayed off the tee and will be recognized prior to the shotgun start of the outing.

GIFT BAG SPONSORSHIP: If your company wishes to provide an item for each gift bag (approximately 144), please contact Denise to discuss.

PRIZE SPONSORSHIP: If your company wishes to bring a door prize the day of the golf outing or send it in prior to outing, please contact Denise to let her know.

Sponsorship Registration Form				
Company Name:				
Contact Name:				
Address:				
City:		State	Zip Code	
Sponsorship Level:		Amount Encl	osed:	

Please complete and return the Sponsorship registration form and payment to:

Illinois Rural Water Association—P.O. Box 49—Taylorville, IL 62568

If you plan on participating in the golf outing, please fill out the registration form on the previous page and return with this form with your payment. If you plan to attend but not golf in the outing, please let us know on this form.

Energy Efficiency Assessment Program

Will evaluate your energy needs, consumption and costs. It will also recommend measures to reduce energy consumption and identify sources of funding for improvements.

STATISTICS SHOW:

Cost of energy is expected to increase 20% in the next 15 years.

Energy use is the largest controllable cost of providing water and wastewater service to the public.



Rising energy costs represent a major challenge for water and wastewater facilities also facing challenges of:

- Aging Infrastructure which needs replaced
- 2)More stringent regulations
- 3)Population growth
- 4) Higher operational costs and budget restrictions

Consider ...

The high cost of operating utilities has gotten to the point it has become to where the utility has to look at all options available. Keeping the operational costs to a minimum ensures that your rates are the lowest possible and still ensure safe drinking water and wastewater utilities.

What do we assess?

The Energy Conservation Circuit Rider will assess your electric bills, system assets and operational procedures. They will break it down into a usable format with options to explore which will lower costs and a projection of the time to payback.

Why ...

Most Operators spend their time in operational issues to ensure safe drinking water and maintaining compliance. They often do not have the time to dedicate to energy savings or expertise in doing assessments. We can take the time and figure it out for you.

Key Offerings

Find where your system can save money on energy. Not only can your system be more efficient, it can outline which changes can generate repayment the quickest.

What is requested of the system?

- Provide Tour of Facilities for Circuit Rider
- Copies of Energy Bills for at least one year
- Review and Share Energy Assessment with Operators
 - Review Financing Alternatives if Feasible
 - Implement an Energy Efficiency Plan

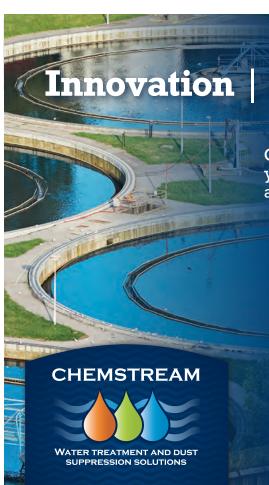


A Few Findings of Assessments

- System-Hot Water Heater- 80 Gallon Electric Heater-24/7 in a Filter Room only for Eye Wash Station-Approximately \$2,200/Yr Savings
- System-Water Loss 75%, System Improvements Save \$3,300/year in Electrical For Wells
- System-Aeration running 24/7-\$11,300 potential savings. Improvement Recommendations-\$34,250. Payback 3 years

How Do I Get A Free Energy Assessment?

Contact Dave Speagle 217-820-1560 – cell phone 217-287-2115 – IRWA office speagle@ilrwa.org

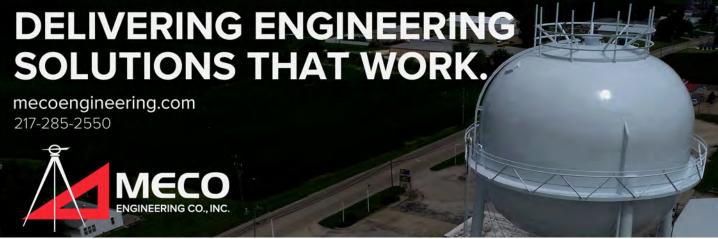


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