OTCO Annual Wastewater Workshop

April 2, 2024

Andrew Barienbrock

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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Carrie Winger	Environmental Specialist 3	Developing Inspector Training, District Oversight, Reclassifications, Technical Assistance, Emergency Response and Sanitary Survey Auditing
Rebecca Ilic	Environmental Specialist 2	Operator of Record notifications, Technical Assistance, Sanitary Survey Auditing
Jessica Frey	Environmental Specialist 2	Security, Contingency Planning, Emergency Response Planning, Operator Notifications and Enforcement
Kevin Swiadek	***Environmental Supervisor***	***Operator Certification***
Susan Riggins	Environmental Specialist 2	Contact Hours, Advisory Council, eBusiness and application processing
Colt Bush	Environmental Specialist 2	Contact Hours, eBusiness, ACHTP Program, and application processing

Operations, Resiliency, and Certification Section

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Security

- Heightened awareness of water and wastewater plant security
- Increased attacks on America's infrastructure
  - U.S. EPA and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) are warning of high risk due to Russian tensions
- Resources:
  - Implementing a cybersecurity program
  - Updates on vulnerabilities and reporting attacks - CISA
  - What to do if you are attacked – Department of Justice

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Free Cybersecurity Assessment and Technical Assistance

Cybersecurity is a broad term that refers to the security of computer network infrastructure and data. A cyber attack is an attempt to undermine or compromise the function of a computer network or system, or an attempt to track the online movements of individuals without their permission.

What is the assessment and technical assistance?

With the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Horsley Witten Group (HWG) is offering free, confidential, cybersecurity assessments and technical assistance to interested water and wastewater utilities. The assessment consists of a questionnaire completed with HWG staff, and the technical assistance consists of developing a cyber action plan based on the results of your utility's assessment focused on best practices to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a cyber incident. Adoption of these practices can reduce the likelihood that a cyber attack will be successful and allow the utility to recover from any cyber attacks faster and at a lower cost. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, HWG is offering this assessment and technical assistance virtually.

What are the expected outcomes?

All individual utility information gathered during the assessment will be protected and remain confidential. Trends in the anonymized, aggregated data will be shared with other utilities and agencies so that lessons learned from the assessments may benefit all.

Participating utilities can expect to receive a straightforward overview of their vulnerabilities and suggested best practices to reduce risks to their business enterprise, SCADA, and communications systems. Additionally, the utility will develop their cyber action plan with HWG and work to implement any recommended best practices.

What does the utility need to prepare before the assessment and technical assistance?

The assessment will require input from management, IT, operations/control staff and engineers as appropriate. The utility will also need to compile and provide any existing system documentation/diagrams, policies, and procedures.

Is there any follow-up?

Yes, HWG will contact the utility on two separate occasions after the development of the cyber action plan to gauge progress and see if additional assistance is required.

How does my utility participate?

To date, we have worked with over 100 utilities across the United States providing free cybersecurity technical assistance. EPA plans to expand the program as resources allow. We are continuing to register interested utilities at the link below. If you would like more information about the program, contact Gemma Kite at *gkite@horsleywitten.com*, or (508) 833-6600.

To register your utility, please visit:
www.horsleywitten.com/cybersecurityutilities

Horsley Witten Group
Sustainable Environmental Solutions
horsleywitten.com

EPA

U.S. EPA offers free, confidential, Cybersecurity Assessments and Technical Assistance for interested Water and Wastewater Utilities

To register your utility, please visit:
EPA's Water Sector Cybersecurity Evaluation Program | U.S. EPA

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Cybersecurity

Unitronics PLCs Hack –

- Iranian actors targeting components made in Israel
- Make sure to change default passwords
- Change default communications port

This photo provided by the Municipal Water Authority of Aliquippa shows the screen of a Unitronics device that was hacked in Aliquippa, Pa., on Nov. 25.

Municipal Water Authority of Aliquippa via AP

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Cyber Security Resources

- Resources
  - Ohio EPA Emergency and Security Preparedness
  - U.S. EPA Cybersecurity Best Practices for the Water Sector
  - Response partnerships
    - CISA Shields Up | CISA
    - Free cyber scanning https://www.cisa.gov/cyber-hygiene-services
    - Water ISAC (water Infrastructure security network)
      - WaterISAC
  - Dragos – Free Community Defense Program Registration

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Cyber Security Take Aways

- Change default passwords
- Segment networks
- Update software with patches

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Supply Chain Issues

- U.S. EPA website on Supply Chain Resilience - Water and Wastewater Sector Supply Chain Resilience | U.S. EPA

  – Identify alternate suppliers
  – Stay up-to-date on current and potential issues
  – Notify U.S. EPA

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Contingency Plan Rules

- Changes were effective April 15, 2022
- Minor clarification language (i.e., hard copy vs. electronic copy)
- Added a few required circumstances to address
  - Contamination of treated water
  - Malevolent acts (cyber, vandalism, etc.)

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Paper and Pencil Exams

Last paper and pencil examination was held on May 3, 2023

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Future Exams

- Exams are still being given by our third-party exam provider Water Professionals International (WPI)(formerly ABC)
- Preparation is the same - use the Need-to-Know Criteria and References Materials
- Ohio EPA developing course on exam preparation

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Preparing for Exams

- How to prepare
  - Need to know criteria
  - References

- What not to do
  - Do not use question sets as your only study method

WPI/ABC Need To Know Criteria

Please note that the title on WPI's Need to Know Criteria may be a different exam level than the Ohio EPA certification you are seeking. When you are applying through WPI's provider, once you select Ohio EPA certification, you will select the Ohio EPA certificate level you are seeking and the appropriate WPI test is selected.

- Class 1 Water Distribution
- Class 2 Water Distribution
- Class A Water Supply (see Drinking Water Class A)
- Class 1 Water Supply
- Class 2 Water Supply
- Class 3 Water Supply
- Class 1 Wastewater Collection
- Class 2 Wastewater Collection
- Class A Wastewater Treatment
- Class 1 Wastewater Treatment
- Class 2 Wastewater Treatment
- Class 3 Wastewater Treatment

WPI/ABC Reference Material

- Water Supply
- Water Distribution
- Wastewater Treatment
- Wastewater Collection

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WPI Exams

- WPI is in the process of updating the exams:
  - Water and wastewater surveys were sent
- Developing job analyses
- Developing questions
- Building exam data banks

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2023 Renewals

- Renewals were due November 30, 2023
- Certificates expired on December 31, 2023
- Anyone with an expired certificate has until June 30, 2024 to renew prior to being required to retest.

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Minimum Staffing Reporting

- Use the reporting app
- You were required to start using the tool for the July 2021 minimum staffing report
- DDAGW is sending NOVs to operators of record who do not submit

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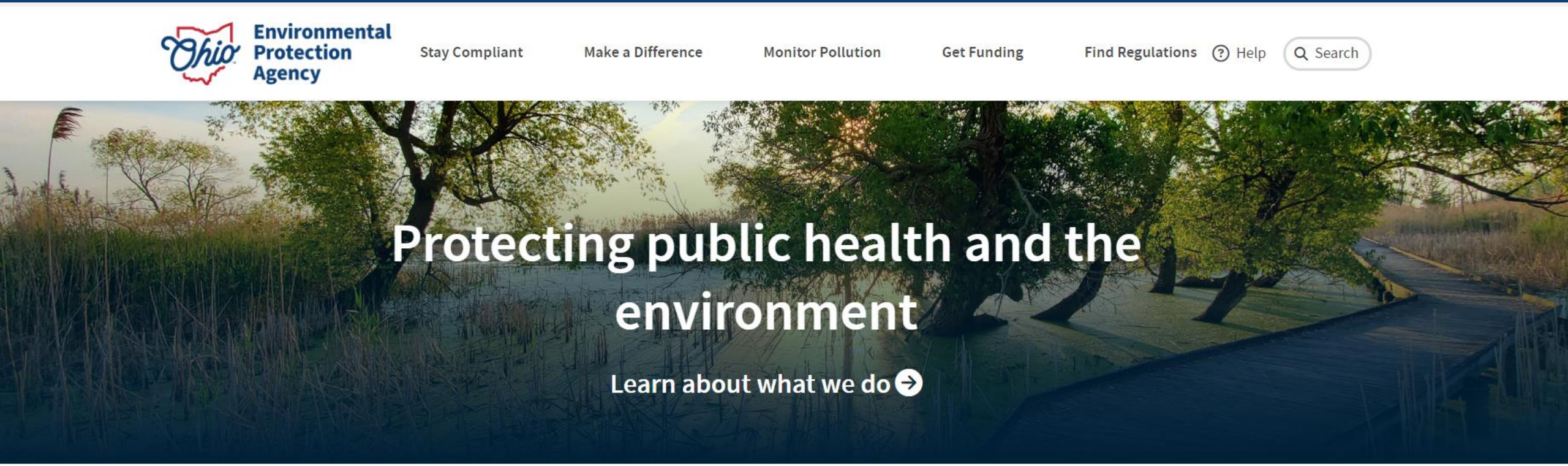
Website Update



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Website Update

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Ohio EPA / Divisions & Offices / Drinking & Ground Waters / Certified Operators

Drinking & Ground Waters

- Welcome
- Announcements
- About DDAGW
- Programs
- **Certified Operators**
- Guides & Manuals
- Engineering and Plan Approval
- Public Water Systems

Certified Operators

Certified water and wastewater operators are essential for the protection of public health and the environment. Ohio EPA's Operator Certification program has certified more than 12,000 operators, ensuring public water and wastewater systems are operated by properly trained and qualified individuals.
Learn how to become a certified water or wastewater operator.

To submit an Ohio EPA Paper and Pencil exam, renewal, third party certification or reciprocity application(s) please visit the Ohio EPA eBusiness Center webpage. For instructions to utilize the eBusiness Center please view the instructions below under the Operator tab.

REQUIRED TRAINING: Starting Aug. 15, 2018, all applicants will need to review the training document below prior to submitting the Ohio EPA exam, third-party exam certification, reciprocity and renewal applications and Operator-in-Training forms. This document will be updated periodically to reflect the current rules, regulations and policies.

RENEWAL GRACE PERIOD: The operator renewal application grace period has been reduced to 6 months. A complete renewal application must be received by June 30 of the year following your expiration date. If a complete renewal application is not received by June 30 of the year following you expiration date, you must re-take the examination to be certified.

Ohio EPA Professional Operator Certification Training - Updated Jan. 5, 2022

OP CERT HOTLINE

866-411-6728

opcert@epa.ohio.gov

Advisory Council
Provides guidance and input to Ohio's water and wastewater operator certification program.

Announcements

Career Information

Contract Operators
Lists or forms you may need as a contract operator, an owner of a contract operating company or a system in need of an operator.

Exam information
Third Party Exam scheduling, reference material and Need-to-Know criteria, Class IV information, and Class A

Forms and Resources

Operator Certification Enforcement Actions
Enforcement actions have been taken as a result of violations of the operator certification rules.

Operator
Services, lists, or forms you may need as an operator, or to become an operator.

Website Update

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Announcements Page

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Ohio EPA / Divisions & Offices / Drinking & Ground Waters / Announcements

Announcements

Drinking & Ground Waters

- Welcome
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- About DDAGW
- Programs
- Certified Operators
- Guides & Manuals
- Engineering and Plan Approval
- Public Water Systems
- Source Water Protection and Underground Injection Control (UIC)

Expand All Sections

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February 21, 2024: Adoption of Amended Rule Language - (OAC) Chapter 3745-81

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, The Division of Drinking and Ground Waters (DDAGW) has adopted the amended rules in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) chapter 3745-81.

The amended rule will be effective as of Saturday, March 2, 2024. (See the Public Notice of Adoption). The rules are being adopted after a draft comment period ending on May 13th, 2022, a proposal comment period ending on November 30th, 2023, and a public hearing held on January 8th, 2024 virtually in Columbus, Ohio.

Now Available! Lead Service Inventory and Replacement Planning Request for Proposal Advertisement

Drinking Water Grant Opportunities

Rule Announcements

Required Operator Training

Drinking & Ground Waters

- Welcome
- Announcements
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- Programs
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Required Operator Training

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Operator Rules & Requirements

Required Training

This training is required prior to signing any operator certification application.

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Items of Note in the Required Training

- Reporting minimum staffing times
- Logbook information
- Must still meet minimum staffing time in weeks with holidays
- Contract operator rule
- As rules change within the program, highlights will be added

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Website Information

Career Information tab

- Updated job boards
- Improved veteran information and outreach
- Provide links to apprenticeship, associate degrees, and certificate programs

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Operator Certification Rules Review

- Interested party review ended on April 1
- Clarifications
- Removal of old language
- Allowances for holidays
- Allowances for off-site meetings
- Allowing OIT for Class III
- Proposing facility-specific certification – Class III and IV facilities
- Reducing the operating experience requirement for Class II, III and IV certificates
- Reciprocity

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Questions, Comments, or Concerns?

Thank You

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Ground Waters

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http://epa.ohio.gov/ddagw

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