

Training Sponsor: Kentucky Rural Water Association
Session Title: Continuing Education for Operators - Ashland
Date: March 6-7, 2024
Location: City Bus Depot, Ashland, Kentucky

Learning Objectives:

The objective of this session is to provide useful information to attendees to help them better perform their roles as drinking water and wastewater operators and enhance the operations at their facilities.

Criteria for Training Credits:

Water and Wastewater Operators will be granted credit for actual time attending the sessions. The maximum number of training credit hours for this two-day course will be twelve hours (6 hours each day)

TRAINING SUMMARY/TIMED AGENDA

DAY ONE – Wednesday, March 6, 2024

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Session 1: Source Water Protection in Kentucky
Presenter: Chloe Brantley, Kentucky Rural Water Association

Core Content: H25 - Surface Water/Ground Water/Watershed Protection

The Groundwater Protection Plan Regulation, 401 KAR 5:037, requires anyone who conducts an activity having the potential to pollute groundwater to develop a Groundwater Protection Plan (GPP), which identifies the activities being conducted at a site that may have the potential to pollute groundwater. The plan states the practices that will be used to prevent groundwater pollution. Section 2 of the regulation identifies the activities that require a GPP. Source Water protection plans, with regards to potential pollutants that water treatment facilities might face, will also be covered.

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Session 2: Call Before You Dig: Kentucky 811
Presenter: Jamie Gaddis, Kentucky 811

Core Content: B7 – Excavations/Excavation Equipment, Trenching/Shoring/Competent Person)

“Call Before You Dig” was created to provide a nationwide, easily accessible resource when you are digging. This session will cover Kentucky’s 811 law and how it impacts operators.

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Session 3: Disaster Response for Utilities in Kentucky
Presenter: Randall Kelley, Kentucky Rural Water Association

Core Content: H5 - Emergency Response Planning

Natural and man-made hazards can happen that effect utilities. This presentation will review the emergency response that was enacted when the massive tornado outbreak struck Kentucky in December, 2021, and will explore the lessons learned from this experience. Presenter will describe how KYWarn, KRWA and other organizations provided assistance to impacted utilities. Discussion will include preparing for, responding to, and recovering from incidents.

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunch On Your Own

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Session 4: Nutrient Reduction Strategies
Presenter: Paulette Akers, Kentucky Division of Water

Core Content: H18 – Regs (CWA/SDWA, State & Local such as Operator Certification Requirements), NPDES Permit Requirements, Compliance

This session will provide information on upcoming KPDES permit changes. Both drinking water treatment facilities and wastewater facilities can have KPDES permits. As such, they must comply with increasingly strict nutrient standards. This is a program designed to bring treatment facilities which are fighting KPDES compliance issues up to par with their permits. In addition, presenter will cover nutrient reduction strategies that wastewater treatment facilities can employ.

1:30 p.m.– 3:30 p.m.

Session 5: Operator Roles and Responsibilities

Presenter: Randall Kelley, Kentucky Rural Water Association

Core Content: H24 - Supervision and Personnel Management

Utility operators often work alone or without direct supervision. The utility industry, while regulated, very much relies on trust in the people who manage and operate the individual systems. Although the roles and responsibilities of operators and what is required of them in their daily work is addressed in the Kentucky Administrative Regulations (KAR), workplace ethics and professionalism also play an important role. This session will discuss the day-to-day roles and responsibilities of utility operators.

DAY TWO – Thursday, March 7, 2024

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Session 6: Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act

Presenter: Randall Kelley, Kentucky Rural Water Association

Core Content: H18 – Regs (CWA/SDWA, State & Local such as Operator Certification Requirements), NPDES Permit Requirements, Compliance

The Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act are the regulatory foundation of the water and wastewater industry. This session provides an overview of the two acts, their histories, what the acts cover, and how the two acts interact with each other. Also covered will be how the two Acts directly affect the day-to-day jobs of water and wastewater operators.

9:30 a.m.– 11:30 a.m.

Session 7 Regulatory Update for Water and Sewer

Presenter: Arianna Lageman, Kentucky Rural Water Association

Core Content: H18 – Regs (CWA/SDWA, State & Local such as Operator Certification Requirements), NPDES Permit Requirements, Compliance

This session will cover a number of regulatory updates for both water and sewer utilities. Topics will include PFAS issues for drinking water and wastewater, upcoming limits, and technologies for removal. Also included will be lead and copper rule changes for drinking water and nutrient limits and other emerging contaminants for KPDES permitted utilities.

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunch On Your Own

12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Session 8: Basic Sampling Procedures

Presenter: Johnny Osborne, Pace Analytical Services

**Core Content: F35 - Sampling and Lab Analysis
D1 - Sampling/Analysis**

It is not unusual for water and wastewater utilities to receive violations that can be traced to bad sampling practices. This session will cover standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the collection and handling of several types of common samples collected by utility personnel. The SOPs for the collection, handling, storage, types of bottles, and why certain bottles are used, and hold times for a number of required analyses will be discussed. Also addressed will be the most common mistakes utilities make in the sampling process which can lead to inaccurate information and/or violations.

SPEAKER BIOS

Chloe Brantley joined Kentucky Rural Water Association as the Source Water Specialist in January, 2023. Before joining KRWA Chloe worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) specialist in support of their projects and missions in the Ohio River basin. Previously her work experience included working as a supervisor of the Water Supply Section at the Kentucky Division of Water for 6 years which included the source water and wellhead protection and planning, source water protection assistance, water supply planning, water withdrawal permitting, and drought monitoring programs. Chloe holds a Master of Science degree in Ecology and Climate Change from Utah State University and a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and Natural Resources and Sustainability and Environmental Studies from Berea College.

Jamie Gaddls is currently the Public Awareness and Damage Prevention Manager for Kentucky 811. She has experience working at Eastern Kentucky University as the Aviation Manager, as an Event Manager at Kentucky Horse Park, as well as the Director of Community and Economic Development for Jackson Energy Cooperative. She has a B.A. in Public Relations from Eastern Kentucky University.

Randall Kelley, Education Director, has been with Kentucky Rural Water Association (KRWA) since January, 2006. Since joining KRWA, Randall has held the positions of Wastewater Circuit Rider, ARRA Circuit Rider and Training Specialist. Prior to joining KRWA, Randall worked for the University of Louisville at the Center for Watershed Research as a Research Biologist where he participated in numerous projects on small headwater streams, stream restorations, and Tri-halomethane formation in natural waters. Randall's experience also includes working for a contractor to the USEPA in Cincinnati, Ohio as an aquatic macroinvertebrate taxonomist. Randall received a B.S. in both Biology and Environmental Science from Western Kentucky University and an M.S. in Biology from the University of Louisville. Before entering college, Randall served in the United States Air Force (Security Police) from April 1988 to April 1994.

Paulette Akers, serves as an Environmental Scientist with the Kentucky Division of Water. Paulette is an Eastern Kentucky alumna, where she earned a B.S. in Biology, and an M.S. in Applied Ecology. She began her career with the DEP in the Division of Water, working in the Water Quality and Watershed Management Branches before moving to Compliance Assistance where she served as the Director of the Division of Compliance Assistance. Paulette is a native of Woodford County, where she lives with her husband and two sons.

Arianna Lageman joined the Kentucky Rural Water Association (KRWA) staff as a Compliance Specialist in July, 2016. Prior to working for KRWA, Arianna worked most recently as the Lexington Laboratory Manager for McCoy & McCoy Laboratories, Inc. She has also worked for the Kentucky Division of Water as an auditor in the Laboratory Certification program and as a Compliance Manager for the Drinking Water Compliance and Technical Assistance Branch. Arianna earned a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish Language and Literature from Hanover College as well as a Bachelor of Science in Geology from Northern Kentucky University. She concentrated on hydrogeology and coastal processes while working on a Master of Science in Geology at East Carolina University. As a Compliance Specialist, Arianna focuses on providing KRWA members assistance through the Compliance Check Program and through various training opportunities.

Johnny Osborne is the Technical Account Executive for Pace Analytical Services. In March 2002, he joined McCoy and McCoy Laboratories. In October, 2019, McCoy & McCoy Laboratories became part of the Pace Analytical family. Mr. Osborne has numerous years of experience in scheduling and reporting of water, wastewater, and soil samples for analysis. He is responsible for marketing and maintaining client relations. As a certified wastewater operator, he understands the responsibility involved with proper sampling procedures. Previous laboratory experience also includes working for Appalachian States Analytical.