

# ATTAC NEWS

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Alaska Training/Technical Assistance Center

Issue 14, April, 2005

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## Fall Courses for Operators

The University of Alaska SE (UAS) Sitka Campus will be offering six classes this fall. Three classes will be delivered on the Internet, two will be by audio conference and one is for students that have met certain ENVT program prerequisites.

UAS Online is the course management system for UAS Internet classes. The system is used to post documents, provide links, conduct discussion, give online quizzes and keep an online grade book. The Discussion Board allows on-going online discussion of topics, known as Forums, which are created by your course instructor. Forums may be questions the instructor wants to have students comment on, or posting of materials for others to review and/or add comments to. There is a separate Discussion Board for each class. Although the three classes will be online, instructors are available for help by telephone or e-mail. The following courses will be on UAS Online:

**ENVT S110 - Drinking Water Systems.** This course covers water topics critical to the operation and maintenance of drinking water systems. Covers surface and ground water sources, raw water storage, pretreatment, coagulation, flocculation and sedimentation. Also, filtration, disinfection, fluoridation, corrosion control, distribution, regulations and monitoring, and field observations and data gathering are performed in functioning facilities and compliments the class material.

A great  
way to earn  
CEUs!

**ENVT S210 - Water Treatment.** The course covers the operational process of water treatment plants in detail and operational safety and equipment maintenance. Processes include pretreatment, chemical coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation and rapid sand filtration, slow sand and pressure filtration, alternative disinfection methods, corrosion control and taste and odor control. **Prerequisites apply to this class.**

**ENVT S230 - Intermediate Sanitary Chemistry/Microbiology.** This course continues the study of chemistry and microbiology with special attention to water and wastewater applications. Chemistry topics include oxidation/reduction reactions, water softening, chemical corrosion, chlorine chemistry, organic chemistry, biochemistry and nuclear chemistry. Microbiology topics include microbial population dynamics, public health, the microbiology of activated sludge, fixed film processes, anaerobic processes, sanitary surveys and bioassays. **Prerequisites apply to this class.**

The following courses will be offered by audio conference:

**ENVT S101 - Introduction to Environmental Technology.** An introduction to the fields of environmental science and technology. Covers the basics of ecology, nutrient and energy cycles, hydrology, water quality, water pollution, drinking water purification, water distribution, sanitary sewer systems, storm water control, wastewater treatment and disposal, solid and hazardous waste, and air and noise pollution. Develops basic vocabulary and shows interrelationships among the various topics.



A T T A C

*Serving small public water  
systems in Alaska*

*Continued on page 3*

## Upcoming Events

Intro to Small Water Systems OIT/1  
Sitka, April 4-8



2-Day Sanitary Survey Refresher Course  
Anchorage, April 19-20



Annual AWWMA Statewide Conference  
Juneau, April 26-28



4-Day Sanitary Survey Training  
Anchorage, May 9-12



Intro to Small Water Systems OIT/1  
Fairbanks, May 16-20  
(with TCC)

## EPA Funding Opportunities

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is now accepting proposals for projects to be funded by the Water Quality Cooperative Agreement Allocation. This funding opportunity solicits proposals from eligible applicants which are for unique and innovative projects that address:

- water and wastewater infrastructure financing innovations, training, and environmental results;
- water and wastewater infrastructure treatment, practices, efficiencies, and training;
- emerging pollutants of concern;
- watershed permitting and trading;
- storm water programs;
- municipal wet weather programs;
- concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO);
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program permitting for environmental results;
- cooling water intake structures;
- youth and the environment;
- decentralized wastewater treatment systems (septics); and
- monitoring and assessment for environmental results.

The award amounts will range from \$10,000 to \$500,000 except for Youth and the Environment grants which will have a minimum award amount of \$2000. Eligible applicants are State governments; Indian Tribes; Interstate agencies; public organizations; and non-profit organizations. This program does not require cost sharing or matching as an eligibility criteria.

**Proposals are due April 22, 2005** and it is preferred that they be electronically submitted using <http://www.grants.gov>. For more information visit: [http://www.epa.gov/owm/wqca/2005\\_final.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/owm/wqca/2005_final.pdf).

## New FREE Resources from EPA

EPA has developed a simple preventive maintenance tool for small ground water systems. The "Preventive Maintenance Card File for Small Public Water Systems Using Ground Water," provides a schedule of routine operation and maintenance tasks for small drinking water systems that use a ground water supply. The cards and booklet will help you develop a preventive maintenance program for your system. The cards also provide some security measures water systems need to do to help prevent loss of service through terrorist acts, vandalism, or mischief. To download the log cards and guide booklet visit: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/smallsys/ssinfo.htm>.

EPA's Office of Water, Security Division, is offering a new online training course, "Using Contaminant Information in Evaluating Water Contamination Threats and Incidents." The training is designed for Water Utility Personnel, EPA On Scene Coordinators and Regional emergency responders, EPA Drinking Water Program Staff, EPA Criminal Investigation Division agents, and State Primacy Drinking Water Agencies. The course provides information on the types of contaminants that may be used to intentionally contaminate water, and simplifies the application of the threat management process in EPA's Response Protocol Toolbox: Planning for and Responding To Drinking Water Contamination Threats and Incidents. To access the training visit: [http://www.trainex.org/web\\_courses/water\\_security/](http://www.trainex.org/web_courses/water_security/).



### Dates may change!

If you have questions about any of the above classes or would like to register, please contact ATTAC. Classes may be canceled or rescheduled at the discretion of the instructor or if minimum registrations are not met.

Toll free: (888) 750-3823

E-mail: [attac@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:attac@uas.alaska.edu)

**ENVT S102 - Applied Math for Water/Wastewater Operations.** The course as a whole is an introduction to technical formulas used in the water/wastewater field. This course introduces calculators, decimals, scientific notation, percentages, exponents and geometry formulas for areas and volumes, ratios, proportions and units of measurements (English and metric). The course will emphasize formulas and units used in water/wastewater (flow rates, detention times, pressure, efficiency, etc.).

**ENVT S240 - Practicum.** This course is for students who are ready to complete the ENVT AAS Degree. It is designed to expose students to actual water and/or wastewater operations. Students with assistance from the supervising instructor and work site supervisor will develop individualized objectives to be met by working as an entry level operator for 80 hours. **Prerequisites apply to this class.**

ENVT 110, 210, 230, 101 and 102 are 3 credits which is equal to 4.5 CEUs. ENVT 240 is equivalent to operations experience toward certification.

For more information or to register contact the UAS Sitka Campus at (800) 478-6653.

## Drinking Water Week

The importance of water is too often overlooked. Drinking Water Week is a unique opportunity for both water professionals and the consumers they serve to join together to recognize the vital role water plays in our daily lives. During the first week in May, utilities, their communities and other groups across the country celebrate our most precious natural resource with fairs, programs, contests and other exciting events.

Drinking Water Week is a wonderful time to teach kids about the wonder of water. These pages are filled with everything from coloring pages to classroom activities to science experiments. For water utilities it is an easy way for utilities to educate the public, connect with the community, and promote employee moral.

Utilities aren't the only ones who can celebrate Drinking Water Week. Celebrating The Wonder of Water can be great way to bring your community together.

For celebration ideas, materials, promotional opportunities and other tools to help spread the word about The Wonder of Water visit the American Water Works Association's (AWWA) web site at: <http://awwa.org/advocacy/dww/>.

*Source - AWWA web site*

## ATTAC Services

- Educational materials for high school classrooms
- Lending library (books and videos)
- Operator-in-Training workshops
- Public education presenters/materials
- Sanitary survey training
- Small water system training
- Water/wastewater math reviews
- Web page with operator activities
- Workshops and preparation for OIT exams

Please contact us to discuss your training needs.

## Free Resources

- Getting Sick Stinks (sanitation placard about honeybuckets, hauling water and hand washing)
- Instructional Activities for Community Sanitation (teacher's resource guide)
- It Happened One Summer (video)
- Resource Guide to Financial and Technical Assistance for Water and Wastewater Projects - **UPDATED**
- Self Evaluation Toolkit for Drinking Water Systems
- Small Water System Training CD-ROM
- Statewide Training Calendar
- Taking Charge... Sanitation Strategies for Rural Communities

Check out our web page for publications and other documents you can download!

## New Operator Exam Format

The Alaska Operator Certification Program will administer certification exams prepared by the Association of Boards of Certification (ABC) beginning in April of 2005. ABC exams will be administered for Water Treatment and Water Distribution 1, 2, 3, 4 and Wastewater Collection and Wastewater Treatment 1, 2, 3, 4.

The look and feel of ABC exams is similar to that of current Alaskan exams. Each exam consists of 100 multiple-choice questions. However, operators should expect the following changes beginning in April of 2005: the content of the exams will be different; operators will have three hours to complete exams, as opposed to four; the answer sheet used to take exams will be significantly different; the conversion factors/equations sheet format will be different; and ABC will score all level 1 through 4 exams.

To review the ABC need-to-know criterion or the exam references and study material for a specific exam, visit the ABC web site at: <http://www.abccert.org/needtoknow.html> or ADEC's web site: <http://www.state.ak.us/dec/water/opcert/examformat.htm>.

## ATTAC News

ATTAC News is published quarterly by the Alaska Training/Technical Assistance Center (ATTAC). ATTAC does not necessarily endorse, approve or recommend names, products or other services mentioned.

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*Clean, safe water for Alaska*

## 45<sup>th</sup> Annual AWWMA Statewide Conference

The 45<sup>th</sup> Annual AWWMA Statewide Conference will be held in Juneau, April 26-28 at the Centennial Hall Convention Center. Don't miss this opportunity to meet public health officials, engineers, consultants, government regulators, water/wastewater system managers and operators, utility managers, councilmen, chiefs, and tribal administrators! Numerous vendors and suppliers will also be on hand demonstrating their newest and best goods and services.

Attendees will have the opportunity to network with people from all facets of the utilities business in a learning environment and receive continuing education units by attending a wide variety of presentations. Other exciting events are the Top Ops Competition, a Water for People Beer Tasting & Mini-Golf Tournament Fund-Raising event, Young Professional Reception, and the Award Banquet. For more information or to register call (907) 561-9777 or visit: <http://www.awwma.org>. The conference agenda is posted on the AWWMA web site.

*Plan ahead and don't forget the SE Region Conference! This year the conference will be back in Sunny Sitka by the Sea, September 21-23.*

*Make your hotel reservations now!*

*Contact Nicole for more information (907) 747-7756.*

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