



Only in Illinois
By: Frank Dunmire, Executive Director

Water Matters

Many of you readers will recognize the subtle play on words in the title to this month's article. Larry the Cable Guy (he's a comedian – for those of you that might not know) has a program called "Only in America" on the History Channel where he travels the country in search of unique traditions and history. When a worthy candidate is located he then does what can be considered as a tongue-in-cheek episode on that particular subject. As a resident of Illinois many of you know that you don't really have to look much farther than Springfield to find things that you can only shake your head and hope that it happens – Only in Illinois.

A few years back IRWA partnered with many not-for-profit (NFP) water co-ops, companies, etc. in getting legislation passed during the 95th General Assembly that would afford them a sales tax exemption on certain purchases. This legislation, Senate Bill 1360, was signed into law by the then Governor Blagojevich (that's another whole episode of its own) on August 28, 2007 and became Public Act 95-0538. In essence, this allowed NFPs an exemption from taxation under the Acts for tangible personal property used in the construction or maintenance of a public water supply that is operated by a not-for-profit entity. The legislation went on to read "Beginning January 1, 2008, tangible personal property used in the construction or maintenance of a community water supply, as defined under Section 3.145 of the Environmental Protection Act, that is operated by a not-for-profit corporation that holds a valid water supply permit issued under Title IV of the Environmental Protection Act. This paragraph is exempt from the provisions of Section 3-75." In other words exempt from sales tax.

After an initial "learning curve" and a couple of meetings with the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) a five page guidance document was released by the IDOR that was intended to clear up any remaining confusion. This document was released in June of 2010 and served well – up until now. It seems that with the passage of time, history becomes somewhat obscured and clouded.

Several NFP water companies have reported that some of their purchases have been denied their rightful exemption from sales tax. After many phone calls where they are passed up the ladder from customer service representative to customer service representative, they finally reach a level where the person they are speaking to is familiar with the

process and ultimately approves the exemption. In the meantime retailers and/or suppliers are beginning to become concerned that they are going to be "on the hook" for not collecting the sales tax in the first place and open to penalties and interest being assessed. I must say that this is a very legitimate concern on their part.

To document the exemption, the retailer must obtain from the NFP purchaser a copy of the Certificate of Eligibility for Sales Tax Exemption **issued by** the not-for-profit corporation that operates the community water supply. The Certificate of Eligibility for Sales Tax Exemption must be obtained by the retailer at the time of sale. If the retailer obtains the necessary certifications from the community water supply, the retailer shall be relieved of any tax liability relating to the sale in the event the tangible personal property purchased by the community water supply from the retailer is not used by the community water supply in the construction or maintenance of the community water supply identified in the Certificate of Eligibility for Sales Tax Exemption **issued by** the not-for-profit corporation.

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According to the IDOR guidance policy, this certificate must contain all of the following:
 The name of the not-for-profit corporation operating the community water supply.

- The location or address of the community water supply.
- A statement that the community water supply identified in the Certificate meets all the requirements of Section 2-5 (39) of the Retailers' Occupation Tax Act.
- A statement that the not-for-profit corporation is in good standing and has not been dissolved.
- A description of the tangible personal property being purchased.
- A statement that the tangible personal property is either:
 - Being purchased and used in the construction or maintenance of structures and physical plant owned by a community water supply and physically incorporated into the structures and physical plant;
 - or
 - Being purchased for use in the construction or maintenance of a community water supply by a community water supply.

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IRWA'S MISSION STATEMENT

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



Medicine Disposal Program in Macon County Offers Year-Round Collection for Controlled Substances

By: **Kathy Rodgers, EPA Source Water Specialist & Laura Kammin, IISG Pollution Prevention Specialist**

Maroa, IL – Do you have unwanted medicines taking up space in your cabinets? Have you been waiting for a better disposal option than flushing them down the toilet or tossing them in the trash?

Thanks to the City of Maroa, residents of Macon County now have a year-round, safe disposal alternative for their unneeded pharmaceutical drugs, including controlled substances.

Since the City of Maroa Police Department’s medicine disposal program began in November 2011, 55.4 pounds of unused, unwanted or expired prescription and over-the-counter medications medicine have been collected for proper destruction. All medicines collected will be destroyed using high-heat incineration. 12 pounds of pill bottles were also collected part of a county wide recycling program. The service is free; simply drop off your unused medicines in the secure collection box.

The City of Maroa Police Department, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant (IISG), and Illinois Rural Water Association (IRWA) have teamed up to make this new resource available. “This new collection program will provide Macon County residents with a way to help prevent drug abuse, theft and accidental poisonings by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous unwanted prescription drugs,” said Senior Officer Scott Gaddy.

According to a 2011 report issued by the Office of National Drug Control Policy, prescription drug abuse is a significant public health and public safety issue, and a large source of the problem is a direct result of what is in Americans’ medicine cabinets. Providing individuals with a secure and convenient way to dispose of medications will help prevent diversion and abuse, and help to reduce the introduction of drugs into the environment.

“This is an opportunity to dispose of your expired or unneeded medicines in a way that protects people, pets, wildlife and the environment,” said Laura Kammin, IISG pollution prevention specialist. “Medicines that are flushed down the toilet or thrown in the trash eventually reach our rivers, streams and lakes. Ultimately this can contaminate our drinking water. While the long-term impacts on human health are not currently known, there’s a long list of medicines that are known to cause negative environmental effects.”

The medicine collection program is available to all residents of Macon County, not just those living in Maroa. A secure metal collection box is located in the entryway of Maroa City Hall at 120 S. Locust St. The box is locked and only two Maroa police officers will have access to the contents. Law enforcement control of the box allows the program to accept all types of pharmaceuticals, including controlled substances.

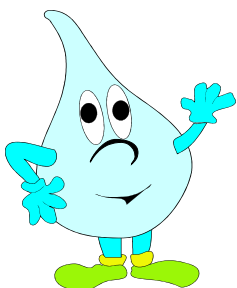
“Proper chemical handling of medication must be maintained from production to destruction,” said Kathy Rodgers, Source Water Specialist with IRWA. “Flushing or trashing unwanted medications has become a growing concern for municipalities as most water and waste water treatment facilities are not designed to process medications. Proper destruction of medications reduces the need of costly facility upgrades for more advanced water treatments and helps keep our waterways viable.”

Residents are instructed to dispose of their pharmaceuticals in the original bottle or packaging with the original label. Please mark out all personal information such as name and address. The program will not take needles or syringes, mercury thermometers, or inhalers. The program is intended for pharmaceuticals from residential sources only; the program is not for use by businesses.

If your community would like to participate in a prescription drug take back event the Drug Enforcement Agency is sponsoring their 4th “**Got Drugs?**” prescription drug take back event on April 28, 2012. Local law enforcement can sign up online at <https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/NTBI>. For further information contact IRWA’s Kathy Rodgers at 217-820-8377 or Rodgers@ilrwa.org.



Pictured is Officer Scott Gaddy participating in the DEA’s October 2011 National “Got Drugs” prescription drug take back event in Maroa, Illinois.



Remember to check out our website, www.ilrwa.org, for the latest training sessions to register for!!

Upcoming Training Sessions

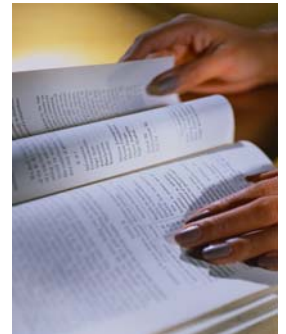
For charge Gas Chlorination Sessions

- April 9— Malta
- April 10— Hudson
- April 11— Effingham
- April 12— Caseyville



1. The chemical in the bacteriological sample bottle that neutralizes chlorine is
 - A. sodium Chloride
 - B. sodium bisulfate
 - C. sodium thiosulfate
 - D. sodium arsenite
2. Chloramines are produced when chlorine reacts with
 - A. organics
 - B. inorganics
 - C. manganese
 - D. ammonia
3. Chloramines are formed
 - A. before the breakpoint
 - B. in free residuals
 - C. after the breakpoint
 - D. with gas chlorine only
4. When taking a free chlorine residual test using the DPD method, after adding the chemical you should read the test:
 - A. after three minutes
 - B. within sixty seconds
 - C. within an hour
 - D. after the sample has warmed to room temperature
5. The total chlorine residual is the same as
 - A. the combined residual
 - B. free times total residual
 - C. total minus free residual
 - D. combined plus free residual
6. Pump packing should be located either side of the
 - A. lantern ring
 - B. packing gland
 - C. wear ring
 - D. stuffing box
7. The C factor is an indication of
 - A. interior pipe roughness
 - B. exterior pipe roughness
 - C. pipe strength
 - D. SDR
8. What is used to convert liquid chlorine to gas
 - A. Evaporator
 - B. Chlorinator
 - C. Hypochlorinator
 - D. Rotometer
9. How many pounds of chlorine gas is needed to provide a 10 mg/l dosage to a flow of 68,000 gallons?
 - A. 7.5
 - B. .57
 - C. 5.7
 - D. 57
10. How many gallons of 12.5% sodium hypochlorite is needed to provide a 10 mg/l dosage to a flow of 68,000 gallons?
 - A. 8.5
 - B. .085
 - C. .544
 - D. 5.44

(answers on back page)



Only in Illinois - (continued from Page 1)

The signature of the chief executive officer of the not-for-profit corporation operating the community water supply or the chief executive officer's duly authorized designee.

In addition to the certificate mentioned above some vendors are asking that not-for-profit corporations prove they are in possession of a valid water supply permit issued under Title IV of the Environmental Protection Act. For those of us that are well entrenched in the water field we know that such a permit is nonexistent. So, in an effort to satisfy this requirement, Dave McMillan, Manager of Public Water Supplies Division of the IEPA, has volunteered to write a letter (upon request) confirming that you are indeed a community water supply. This letter

would also contain your facility number and should serve to satisfy the vendor's requirement. If you are an NFP and would like to have this letter for your file, please drop me an email (dunmire@ilrwa.org) to let me know. I will then provide Mr. McMillan a list of interested systems. If you are with an NFP and have been experiencing problems, IRWA has also posted a model certificate that you can complete, along with the two guidance documents from the IDOR, on our website. These documents can be downloaded for use when dealing with your vendors by pointing your browser to www.ilrwa.org and clicking on the Downloads tab and then the NFP tab on the next screen. Hopefully we can get this issue put to rest – here in Illinois.

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Certification Review Answers

- | | | | |
|----|---|-----|---|
| 1. | C | | Pounds= $10 \times .068 \times 8.34$
Pounds= 5.7 |
| 2. | D | | |
| 3. | A | 10. | D
Pounds= dosage x million
gallons x 8.34 lbs/ gal. |
| 4. | B | | Gallons (pounds divided by
8.34) = dosage x million
gallons |
| 5. | D | | Gallons= dosage x million
gallons |
| 6. | A | | Gallons= $10 \times (68,000 \text{ di}$
vided by 1,000,000) |
| 7. | A | | Gallons= $10 \times .068$ |
| 8. | A | | Gallons= .68
Gallons= .68 divided by
12.5 % |
| 9. | C | | Gallons= .68 divided
by .125
Gallons= 5.44 |
| | | | Pounds= dosage x million
gallons x 8.34 lbs/ gal.
Pounds= $0 \times (68,000$
divided by 1,000,000) x
8.34 |