



# Water Ways

Volume XVIII — Spring 2021





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## STAFF

FRANK DUNMIRE  
*Executive Director*  
dunmire@ilrwa.org • 217-820-4626

DON CRAIG  
*Deputy Director*  
craig@ilrwa.org • 217-561-1061

HEATHER MCLEOD  
*Membership Services Assistant*  
ilrwahm@ilrwa.org

DENISE BURKE  
*Administrative/Program Assistant*  
ilrwadb@ilrwa.org

CLARK CAMERON  
*State Circuit Rider*  
cameron@ilrwa.org • 217-820-3814

BRANDON WINDELL  
*Energy Efficiency Circuit Rider*  
windell@ilrwa.org • 217-820-1560

EVAN JONES  
*Circuit Rider*  
jones@ilrwa.org • 217-820-5508

ROGER NOE  
*Circuit Rider*  
noe@ilrwa.org • 217-820-1564

CHUCK WOODWORTH  
*Circuit Rider*  
ilrwaqw@ilrwa.org • 217-820-1569

MARC LEMRISE  
*Circuit Rider*  
lemrise@ilrwa.org • 217-820-0222

DAVE McMILLAN  
*EPA Program Specialist*  
mcmillan@ilrwa.org • 217-370-6485

JOHN BELL  
*Wastewater Technician*  
ilrwajb@ilrwa.org • 217-820-1568

JEFF MCCREADY  
*Wastewater Technician*  
mccready@ilrwa.org • 217-870-4754

MARK MITCHELL  
*USDA Source Water Specialist*  
mitchell@ilrwa.org • 217-820-1565

JEFF TUMIATI  
*Apprenticeship Coordinator*  
tumiati@ilrwa.org • 217-820-2220

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## MISSION STATEMENT

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

### On the Cover:

**This photo was taken by Jeff McCready, IRWA  
Wastewater Technician, in New Boston with the  
Mississippi River in the background.**

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## *The Importance of Being Informed*

*by Don Craig,  
Deputy Executive Director, IRWA*

Due to the seemingly “uptick” in community water utilities in Illinois (and actually around the nation), being approached by private water companies to possibly purchase those systems, I thought it would be good to again reiterate the importance of any decision by these public supplies, before entering into any such agreement with such profit making entities. Of course, the final decision to move forward with this type of endeavor, rests with the governing board of the community water and/or wastewater utility, and hopefully with customer input or vote.

Below is an excerpt of an editorial article that was recently published in the Chicago Sun-Times. And, although there is an early reference to Chicago initially, the context of the article is directly applicable to all systems in the state, and should be especially reviewed by the rural community systems that IRWA serves throughout Illinois.

In my opinion, this kind of information contained in the editorial article (below the asterisks), should be passed along to city administrators and the public, so that they are inspired to keep such points in mind, and research all the pros and cons prior to any potential purchase of their existing system by a private (profit making) company.

\*\*\*\*\*

In Chicago, Mayor Lori Lightfoot and others have come to realize that you can’t wantonly cut off water for people who just can’t pay. In July, Lightfoot launched a program to help people having trouble paying their city water and sewer bills.

Elsewhere in the state, unfortunately, things are going in the opposite direction. Private companies are turning hefty profits by buying up public water and sewer systems, and jacking up water bills. People who can’t pay the bills can have their water turned off. Because water systems are a monopoly, the consumers have nowhere else to turn.

This trend is bad for customers, communities and the state. Too often, local officials and water customers don’t realize the long-term costs until it’s too late.

Sensible legislation has been introduced in the House and Senate to require a referendum before a public water system can be sold. The House bill was referred to a subcommittee on Monday. The Senate bill has yet to be heard.

Although similar bills in past sessions have failed, referendums make perfect sense. When something as important as the sale of a public water system is at stake, the process should be open and transparent, with the aggressive engagement of the community. Residents should be able to make well-informed decisions.



### *Privatization across the state...*

One reason the Legislature has not acted is that sales of water systems simply are not on the radar screens of the many lawmakers whose constituents are sufficiently served by municipal systems. Yet sales of water systems have occurred from the southern tip of Illinois to the northern border, including in some Chicago suburbs. It’s past time we paid attention.

Private water companies do upgrade aging water systems in communities that feel they can’t afford to do it themselves. That’s their great selling point. But under a 2013 law, the private companies are allowed to jack up rates not only enough to cover their costs but also to build a kitty to buy additional water systems. That leaves some people with bills so inflated they’re afraid to turn on their faucets.

In the end, customers also must pay for a return to investors in the private companies and corporate income taxes. These are costs the Illinois Commerce Commission has deemed reasonable, but which customers of municipal systems don’t have to pay. Rather than sell their water systems, a wiser approach for small communities would be to form regional water districts or enter collaborative agreements that allow them to capture the scale they need to affordably upgrade their water systems. Money to help upgrade public water systems is included in President Joe Biden’s \$1.9 trillion relief package, the American Rescue Plan.

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# Revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule

by Dave McMillan,  
IRWA Training Specialist

The rumors are true, the long-awaited Lead and Copper Rule (Rule) revisions were finalized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on December 21, 2021. However, per the Biden Administration's executive orders, all "new" regulations have been temporarily frozen and the U.S. EPA is required to re-evaluate the Rule to ensure that it protects public health and the environment.

With this said, listening to a recent U.S. EPA webinar, and in discussions with the staff at the Illinois EPA, the consensus is that the rule will not get any less stringent than it currently stands. Additionally, at the time of this article, it is not clear if the "freeze" will delay implementation.

## So, where does that leave us?

Normally, once a "new" rule becomes "official" at the Federal level there is an implementation schedule that includes an opportunity for States to submit a primary enforcement authority application to the U.S. EPA. Once approved, the state would maintain enforcement authority over the Safe Drinking Water Act and related Federal regulations. Obviously, a significant factor in U.S. EPA granting the state the authority to enforce the new regulation is the ability to enforce its requirements at the state level.

To do so in Illinois, the Illinois Pollution Control Board (Board) utilizes a portion of the time allowed under the implementation schedule to introduce (under their own rule making authority) an "identical in substance (to the content of the Federal Rule)" rulemaking. Once the regulation is established by Board Rule, the Illinois EPA can make application (including leaping through several other hoops) to U.S. EPA for primacy. Historically, the time it takes for the Illinois EPA to obtain primacy from the U.S. EPA varies; but, due to the complexity of this rule, it would not be surprising to see the effort take upwards of three years.

Unfortunately, that does not mean that water systems do not have to comply with any deadlines established in the Federal

Rule until Illinois EPA gets primacy. Any established deadlines, prior to Illinois EPA taking over, would be enforceable by the U.S. EPA. To further complicate this process, Illinois EPA normally begins to transition to "new" rules (once upon a time this was called "early implementation") before it receives primacy approval. This is normally necessary to work the bugs out of the various programs Illinois EPA uses to assist water systems in maintaining the capacity to remain in compliance with a newly adopted rule (pre-compliance so to speak). Additionally, once the Board establishes a rule the Illinois EPA is tasked with enforcing it regardless of the primacy status.



## Did the 2020 Rule revision significantly change the "old" lead and copper rule?

In a word, YES. Complying with the Rule is going to be more difficult than working with the previous iterations (first Rule was in 1991, revised in 2000 and again in 2007). The new provisions are far reaching and include new challenges to remaining in compliance. According to the U.S. EPA, "EPA's new rule strengthens every aspect of the Lead and Copper Rule to better protect children and communities from the risks of lead exposure. The rule aims to: better protect children at schools and childcare facilities; get the lead out of our nation's drinking water; and empower communities through information."

Unfortunately, to accomplish these goals, the burden on water systems has increased exponentially. Most significantly, the rule establishes:

- a new lead trigger Level (TL) of 10  $\mu$ g/L with associated

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## The Importance of Being Informed

continued from page 4

Once sold, always sold...

Once a water system is sold, the new owners almost always are loath to sell it back for any reason, and cities typically end up pursuing eminent domain in court. The city must prove that municipal ownership is in the public interest and pay a price set by the court. No system has ever been repurchased in Illinois, although communities — most notably Peoria — have tried. “[The sale of a public water system] is almost irreversible,” Jan Beecher, director of Institute of Public Utilities at Michigan State University, told us. “Selling a water system is a very big decision.”

In their investor reports, private water companies have openly addressed their efforts to get legislation passed to facilitate sales of public water systems. In Illinois, private companies have made record profits since the 2013 law was passed, said John Connor, D-Lockport, who introduced the Senate bill to require a referendum.

“Illinois is going to be at the forefront of water privatizations as these companies invest millions and millions and millions more [to buy systems] because there is no risk,” Connor said.

### Pacing picking up...

Since 2013, for-profit companies have purchased 34 public water systems in Illinois, and the pace is picking up, according to the Citizens Utility Board. Last year, the American Prospect reported that private water companies in Illinois charge 95% more statewide than municipal systems.

Like other basic infrastructure systems, many aging water systems across the state are in need of upgrades. But to pursue those upgrades in a way that threatens to prohibitively drive up the cost of one of life’s most basic necessities — water — is a big mistake. 💧



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## *The Nitrification Action Plan*

*by Greg Bates,  
IRWA Board President*

Most of the water operators in Illinois are busy developing a nitrification action plan (NAP) for their water system or have at least begun collecting the data to develop the plan. After learning of this new requirement, my first response was how much more can they possibly pile on the water operators' plate? It is almost a full-time job just sampling and reporting with bacteriological, THHM/HAA, lead and copper, unregulated chemicals, service line reporting, consumer confidence report, cross connection control, and now a nitrification action plan. And that is just a partial list. The rural water system I manage does not even have a treatment plant and purchases all of its water. The list of testing is extensive, expensive and growing with each passing year.

We attended several training sessions offered by the Illinois Rural Water Association to learn more about the testing requirements and the type of equipment necessary to do the required testing to develop an approved nitrification action plan. After we got over the shock of how much the testing equipment was going to cost, we decided to bite the bullet and purchase it so that we could start collecting sample data. The staff at IRWA assisted us in making sure we purchased the proper equipment as they had been "test driving" equipment to determine which equipment worked the best and was relatively easy to operate.

We started collecting samples daily at our two entry points, two midpoints, and two endpoints and started recording that data in the spreadsheets IRWA created and have available on their web site. To find this spreadsheet go to [www.ilrwa.org](http://www.ilrwa.org) and click "downloads" link under resources. Once you are

in the downloads area, you can select the Excel spreadsheet or a pdf version for manual use. There are also a couple of frequently asked questions documents there as well. We have been collecting sample data

for about two months now. As part of our NAP, we sample daily for total chlorine, monochloramine, free ammonia and nitrite. On a weekly basis, we will also test for nitrate. All sample data collected is entered into the spreadsheet and will be used to assist us in establishing our NAP. On average, it takes about forty minutes to collect and run the samples each day and is usually completed at the beginning of the workday by our employees.

After a couple of weeks, we found it interesting at how some of the daily samples would vary at the same location over a week's time. This has surprised us to a certain degree as we were not aware that these variations were taking place in such a short time span. Although it might be time consuming, I believe it will give us a better picture as to what is taking place in our distribution systems and it will ultimately give us a better sense of security knowing we are documenting what is happening and – more importantly – how to react to those changes. After collecting additional data, we will be ready to formalize our nitrification action plan. Hopefully, you will find the data collected for your system as beneficial to you as it was to us. If you need assistance in creating your NAP, please feel free to contact your local IRWA Circuit Rider. They are ready to assist you in avoiding any future problems in completing your plan.💧







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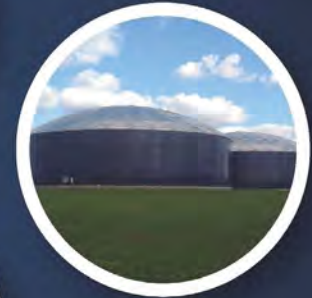
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repercussions in addition to the lead action level (AL) of 15  $\mu$  g/L (also with new requirements if exceeded);

- a change in representative monitoring procedures including selection of sample locations (tiering), sampling procedures (first draw for copper and fifth draw for lead), sampling frequency and how the AL is calculated (90th percentile);
- new requirements for optimizing corrosion control and taking corrective actions at sampling locations that exceed 15  $\mu$  g/L when discovered;
- water systems must prepare an initial lead service line inventory by January 16, 2024 that identifies lead service lines, lead status unknown service lines, galvanized lines requiring replacement (those that may have been constructed down stream of a lead source) and non-service lines;
- water systems with lead service lines must prepare a lead service line replacement program plan by January 16, 2024 that includes, among many other requirements, procedures for conducting full (both the water supply and customer portions of the service line) lead service line replacement; changes to consumer confidence reports and other public notice requirements; and
- sampling and education at schools & childcare facilities including, among other requirements, monitoring 20% of the elementary schools (five samples per school) and childcare facilities (two samples per facility) each year for the first five years of the Rule (upon request thereafter).

As related above, among the significant activities that water systems need to working on is a detailed service line material inventory and a lead service line replacement plan. These two items will need to be supplied to Illinois EPA prior to January 16, 2024 (again assuming that this date is not delayed).

Note: At the time of this article, the Illinois EPA had not developed a mechanism/process to deal with the submission of either the material inventory (specific to the this Rule and not related to the Illinois law requiring annual summary level service line material inventory data) or the replacement plan. Please do not pick up the phone and call the Illinois EPA about delivery of these documents. Again, they will need an opportunity to work with the U.S. EPA to develop an Illinois Rule implantation plan.

### *Where can water systems get additional information and more detail on the Rule?*

The Association will continue to provide information as it becomes available on its website. Currently, you can point your browser to the following link to see the latest information: [http://www.ilrwa.org/Downloads/210101\\_EPA%20RELEASES%20FINAL%20LEAD%20AND%20COPPER%20RULE%20REVISIONS.pdf](http://www.ilrwa.org/Downloads/210101_EPA%20RELEASES%20FINAL%20LEAD%20AND%20COPPER%20RULE%20REVISIONS.pdf) 

### *How much time do water systems have to comply with the Rule?*

Assuming the “freeze” does not delay implementation, the revised Rule’s effective date will be March 16, 2021. Water systems must comply with previous lead and copper rule (as codified in the July 1, 2020 Code of Federal Register) until the revised Rule compliance date of January 16, 2024 becomes effective.



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- \$25,000 - Any combination of whole life or term products; requires employee to purchase policy on themselves

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- Ages 15 days - 25 years, purchase up to \$10,000 of whole life products
- Ages 18-25, purchase up to \$25,000 of term products

\* Spouse must be working at least 20 hours per week outside the home.

\*\* Dependents ages 18-25 years must be full-time students, unmarried and not in the military.

## SIMPLIFIED INSURANCE FOR FAMILY MEMBERS

Simplified issue considers life insurance eligibility based on answers to a few health-related questions and is available for grandchildren and amounts above guaranteed issue limits.

## CONTINUOUS COVER AT LOCKED-IN RATES

These policies belong to you, so even if you no longer work for your present employer, you can continue the policies simply by continuing to pay your premiums.

## CONTACT JOHN TODAY!

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# 39th Annual Technical Conference June 15 & 16, 2021



*Go the Distance!*

**Keller Convention Center - Effingham, IL**  
**Attendee Information**



### HOST HOTEL

Holiday Inn \* 1301 Ave. of Mid-America \* Effingham, IL  
Phone: 217-540-7777 \* \$115.00 + tax per Night

### AUXILLIARY HOTELS

Country Inn & Suites 1200 N. Raney St. Phone: 217-540-5555 \$99.00 + tax per night	LaQuinta 1103 Ave of Mid America Phone: 217-540-1111 \$99.00 + tax per night	Holiday Inn Express (formerly Lexington Inn) 1604 Fayette Ave Phone: 217-994-9949 \$104+ tax per night Use Corporate ID: 787001368	Best Western - Delta Inn 1509 Hampton Drive Phone: 217-342-4499 \$92.00 + tax per night
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**CONFERENCE LOCATION**—The conference will be held at the Thelma Keller Convention Center located at 1202 N. Keller Dr. in Effingham. The convention center is attached to the host hotel.

**REGISTRATION**—Registration & badges are required for all conference attendees. To be in compliance with the CDC and social distancing guidelines, we are only allowed 200 attendees per day for the conference. To further break up the group you will be assigned a classroom for the day when you pick up your badge at the conference. ***Pre-registration is a must this year as THERE WILL BE NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION!*** We prefer that payments be made via credit card. You may do so via our website ([www.ilrwa.org](http://www.ilrwa.org)) and click on the conference link on the home page. A registration form is also included in this packet in case credit card payments are not possible.

An event membership of one-cent per person is included in your registration fee(s) allowing participants in NRWA fundraising activities. This is required by Federal Election Commission laws. If you wish to opt-out please go to the registration booth at the conference for your refund of this one-cent fee.

**BADGE PICKUP HOURS**—When you arrive at the conference, please pick up your badge. You may do so beginning at 8:00 a.m. on the day you are registered for.

**CANCELLATION & REFUNDS**— Please do not attend the conference if you are feeling ill. We will be happy to refund you. You may either send a letter by mail, e-mail or fax to have a refund issued.

**EXHIBIT HALL**— 69 companies will be bringing their products and services to you at this year's conference. You may visit with them during the designated hours throughout the conference. The exhibit hall will be open each day from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### **SAFETY PROTOCOLS**—

- \* Temperatures will be checked daily
- \* Face coverings will be mandatory
- \* Traffic in the exhibit hall will be one way.
- \* Lunches will be plated (no buffet)
- \* Hotel staff will be serving coffee, tea and sodas (no self serve)
- \* Exhibitors must eat lunch at their booth
- \* There will be no cash prizes
- \* There will be no hospitality night or bar crawl
- \* There will be no casino night
- \* We will still have the Sportsman's Raffle to assist with our obligation to NRWA's WaterPac fund.

# Conference At A Glance

Tuesday, June 15, 2021 or Wednesday June 16, 2021

**\*\*This is a tentative schedule\*\***

	CONVENTION CENTER A	CONVENTION CENTER D
8:00—9:00	Opening Session/Awards/RD Update	
9:00—9:45	Water and Wastewater Pump Maintenance	Break/Visit Exhibit Hall
9:45—10:30	Break/Visit Exhibit Hall	IEPA Update
10:30—11:15	Drones and How They Can Work for You	Water and Wastewater Pump Maintenance
11:15—12:00	IEPA Update	Lunch—Ticket Required
12:00—12:45	Lunch—Ticket Required	Inspect & Protect Coatings for Concrete
12:45—1:30	Working Together to Promote Safe Excavation in Illinois	Drones and How They Can Work for You
1:35—2:20	Break/Visit Exhibit Hall	Reduce Non-Revenue Water with Cost Effective Leak and Pressure Data
2:20—3:05	Inspect & Protect Coatings for Concrete	Break/Visit Exhibit Hall
3:10—3:55	How We Handled the Pandemic	Working Together to Promote Safe Excavation in Illinois
4:00—4:45	Reduce Non-Revenue Water with Cost Effective Leak and Pressure Data	How We Handled the Pandemic
4:45 p.m.	Water Taste Test (held on June 16)	

**5.75 water credit hours available— 4.5 credit hours are transferrable to wastewater**

# Sessions At A Glance

**Rural Development Update—Mike Wallace; Rural Development Office** - Updates to the Rural Development programs will be discussed.

**Water & Wastewater Pump Maintenance—Sarah Towle; C and C Pumps** - We'll discuss the preventative maintenance necessary to keep your wastewater lift stations and potable water pumps running efficiently.

**Drones & How They Can Work for You—Shawn O'Shea; MSA Professional Services** - Shawn will explain how you can use drones for various applications. Some examples involve arial photos and videos to view existing resources, 3-D modeling to see future scenarios, surveying, inspections and more!

**IEPA Regulatory Update—Mary Reed; IEPA** - This is always a popular session. See what's new in rules and regulations from IEPA.

**Working Together to Promote Safe Excavation in Illinois—Roger Watwood; J.U.L.I.E.** Working together to promote safe excavation in Illinois presentation includes an overview of the Illinois One-Call System, highlighting best practices in the industry and the importance of safe excavation process in Illinois.

**Inspect and Protect Coatings for Concrete—Darin Clarke; Maguire Iron** - There are lots of concrete tanks out there in the potable water side as well as in wastewater plants. Find out what you need to do to inspect them, protect them and have them cleaned and coated.

**How We Handled the Pandemic—Casey Johnson; Anna Jonesboro** - A case study of what happened when one of their employees tested positive for Covid-19. Protocols and procedures taken to ensure safety of all employees and customers.

**Reduce Non-Revenue Water with Cost Effective Leak and Pressure Data— Steve Bruskiwicz; Nighthawk Control** - Learn how to manage your distributions system more efficiently and respond more effectively to hydraulic events using remote leak detection & pressure monitoring.





# 39th Annual Technical Conference June 15 & 16, 2021

## ATTENDEE REGISTRATION FORM

**Must be completed for all attendees**

(One form for each attendee, please)

FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SYSTEM: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

***Registrations must be postmarked by June 4, 2021***

### ONE DAY REGISTRATION:

**(Includes technical sessions, exhibit hall, meals for 1 day only)**

Member—\$110.00       Non-Member—\$150.00

### PLEASE CIRCLE WHICH DAY YOU WILL BE ATTENDING

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

Registrations are limited to 200 people per day and will be handled on a “first come first served” basis. If the day you choose is filled when we receive your registration, we will contact you with options to switch days or cancel.

***\*\*All fees must be paid when registering—no purchase orders or special billings\*\****

***THERE WILL BE NO ON SITE REGISTRATION***

### Please make check payable to:

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

You may also pay on-line at [www.ilrwa.org](http://www.ilrwa.org) with your credit card



**Have a Question?**

**Call  
1-800-762-3547**

## **GPS/GIS MAPPING SERVICES**



Through the implementation of GPS & GIS technology, IRWA can effectively produce hard copy and digital maps. With this service available from IRWA, utilities can attain new and accurate maps to better manage their water, wastewater and storm sewer assets.

The printed maps can be large-scale wall maps up to 36"x48" showing utility features with the desired layers (aerial photos, streets, topography, etc.).

The digital map file on a CD, can be accessed with free software that IRWA will provide and install on a utility computer. The program allows you to view, print and click on system features (such as a valve, hydrant, meter pit, curb stop, manhole, lift station, treatment facility, etc.) and pull up attribute data about each. As well as several other capabilities such as printing, zooming, etc.

IRWA has a working relationship with DiamondMaps.com, to put your IRWA project maps on their server, for mobile viewing with a smartphone or cellular capable tablet - including editing capability. This is at no extra charge to the system for the first year's subscription. Continuance of the Diamond Maps service after the first year is at the utility's discretion.

Payment for services is a set charge per feature, with IRWA members receiving an automatic 30% discount, and even more of a reduction with bigger projects.

For more information, you may download a brochure from IRWA's website: [www.ilrwa.org/Equipment/Asset\\_Mapping.html](http://www.ilrwa.org/Equipment/Asset_Mapping.html) or contact Don Craig by phone: 217-561-1061 or e-mail: [craig@ilrwa.org](mailto:craig@ilrwa.org)

## **VIDEO INSPECTION SERVICES**

Video inspection technology can help you identify and prioritize maintenance issues, while improving service and reducing emergency maintenance costs.



IRWA is excited to introduce our new Video Inspection Service to our members. The normal fee for this service is \$350.00 for small projects, larger projects requiring more than 1 day will be based on cost per foot.

A contract must be signed in advance of the inspection. Upon completion, your system will be invoiced for the services and will also receive a detailed report including diagrams of the inspection features, and a DVD for your references.

For more information, or to schedule an inspection of your system, please call our office at 217-287-2115 or visit our website: [www.ilrwa.org](http://www.ilrwa.org)



# Electric Demand

by Brandon Windell,  
Energy Efficiency Circuit Rider

What is this electric Demand Charge on my bill? Demand Charge (measured in kW) is a measure of how much energy an account is using at a given time. In most cases, demand charge applies to industrial and commercial customers who usually have higher peak loads (the maximum of electrical power demand). The utility companies apply a demand charge based on the maximum amount of energy a customer has used in any interval (typically 15 minutes) during the billing cycle. Most utility rates detail the maximum energy demand a customer can have. If the customer exceeds the demand allowance for consecutive billing cycles, the utility company will adjust the rate with higher demand charges.

The exact billing practices vary between each utility company. Some utility companies use “off-peak” or “on-peak” hours to determine the demand rate. If your system is powered on during the “peak” hours of the day, it will contribute significantly to the monthly electric bills. The utility companies incur costs in order to ensure they have the ability to provide peak

demand at all times.

This cost is distributed across its customers (i.e. you and I) who might only sometimes need this capacity to meet our energy needs. What do the utility companies do with money generated from demand or peak rates?

The money is used to upgrade and maintain the utility infrastructure. Depending on your utility provider, some companies also use the money to help business, schools, and communities fund energy efficiency projects. If your water or wastewater system(s) are thinking about doing an energy saving project, please reach out to me for a free energy assessment.💧



## FREE RATE STUDY

### Why Have a Rate Study Conducted?

With the amount of grant dollars available for water and wastewater projects continuing to dwindle, coupled with the aging water and/or wastewater infrastructure, it is increasingly more important that decision makers for systems throughout the state become more educated about system finances. This **FREE** rate study takes an in-depth look into the expenses and revenue that a system has. Once all of the data has been gathered and entered into a spreadsheet a detailed report is generated to explain the findings and recommendations. This easy to read report and any rate changes recommended will assist Boards and Councils in mapping out the financial future of their respective systems.

If your system is interested in having a rate study conducted, please contact Clark Cameron at (217) 287-2115(Office) or (217) 820-3814 (Cell).

### What Information Will the Rate Study Provide?

- ⇒ Breakdown of expenses
- ⇒ The cost to produce the water (if applicable)
- ⇒ Amount of nonrevenue water
- ⇒ Amount of lost revenue from water loss
- ⇒ Annual gain or shortfall in revenue
- ⇒ Different rate scenarios



### 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
- ⇒ Amount of water sold during the most current fiscal year
- ⇒ Current rate structure
- ⇒ Number of customers in each rate class
- ⇒ Amount of debt (if any)

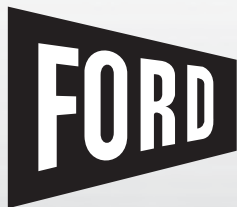
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# MUD

by John Bell,  
IRWA Wastewater Technician

I know most of us have heard of the term “clear as mud”. Normally it means that things are not very clear. Add water to dirt and wallah, you have mud. It appears to be clear when just talking about the ingredients of mud. I feel confident that when faced with new IEPA rules and regulations, MUD may come to mind. The next thoughts may be “what are we gonna-havta-do now” sprinkled with “I aint-gonna-do-it” moving quickly to what do I need to do.

Let us put the mud-pie (water and dirt) to one side and concentrate on just the new ingredients of the EPA regulation concerning keeping your waste water certificate renewed. This now requires an accumulation of training hours. I might mention that fellow water certificated operators have my permission to follow along with this article if you are so inclined.

Class 3 and 4 certified operators must attain 15 hours of training within 3 years starting in July 2019. Class 1 and 2 certified operators must attain 30 hours of training within 3 years

starting in July 2020.

Note, any training prior to your start date DOES NOT COUNT toward renewal of your certificate. If you just got certified or moved up in certification, you

have activated the 3 year period for your renewal time. That’s all the ingredients. Does anyone have any questions? None, then this article is done.

Wait, I see a hand raised in the back of the class. What’s your question? The response: “ I heard from an operator in town A that was talking with an operator in town B ... who heard it from someone with EPA (I can’t remember the name) that what you just said was not quite right”. When in doubt call the EPA certification department. That’s what we do at IRWA. IRWA even goes a bit farther and has a meeting with EPA to make doubly sure that the information we are passing along is correct. The belt and suspenders approach to an answer. During my IRWA travels, I am often asked such questions and am glad to share my information with you. That’s what we do. See you down the road. In the meantime, stay safe and do as your Mama always said “wash your hands” after making mud pies. 💧



## *Navigating Service Line Reporting*

*by Clark Cameron,  
IRWA State Circuit Rider*

Well, here we go again, starting that beautiful time of year where the cycle of life seems to burst forth - it is spring. And with spring come so many good things to look forward to. There is nothing like a spring rain to bring the senses to life. And from that rain comes all the new growth of flowers, vegetables, and mushrooms to enjoy. What a great time of the year.

But, as always, there must be a little dose of reality to along with all that is good. For water operators spring rains can mean a variety of new problems to try to contend with. Spring rains lead to flash floods, endangered dams, and muddy and possibly contaminated runoff to try and treat. These are considered acts of God, occurrences that operators can expect to deal with from year to year, just hoping that this is the year everything goes well, and you slide by that problem for another year without a disaster.

For a water operator this time of year also means a number of manmade occurrences that can be as challenging as the act of God disasters, which brings me to the actual subject of my ramblings. The much dreaded, often cursed EPA requirement of Service Line Inventory reporting. To many operators this is one of the most hated, frustrating reports they must deal with annually.

But don't worry, we got this. It really isn't nearly as difficult as it appears at first glance. For new users it is a piece of cake. We will start by getting the new user registered. Here is a quick step by step summary that will hopefully help with that process.

**Step 1.** Go to EPA drinking water main page.

**Step 2.** On the right side of the page are 4 choices. Click on the third (3rd) choice down (drinking water operator certification). This takes you to the operator certification page.

**Step 3.** Click on the green box that says, "Get Started".

**Step 4.** Click on the box that says, "Public Account".

**Step 5.** Click on "Create a New Account".

**Step 6.** Fill out registration and submit.

**Step 7. WRITE**  
**DOWN ALL** passwords and pin numbers.

For existing users and accounts it can be a little trickier, but again we can do this. Since you have registered before, I will assume you know how to access the EPA operators certification page so that is where we will begin our journey.

**Step 1.** Click the green box that says, "Get Started".

**Step 2.** Click "Public Account".

**Step 3.** Enter your username and password. (you know – the one you wrote down for future use)

**Step 4.** On the left side of the page click on material inventory tab or click green get started box again.

**Step 5.** Click on the green circle in front of facility name to open that facility to be updated. Enter your info.

I hope this helps take some of the anxiety out of the Service Line Inventory reporting mess that comes around every year for water operators to contend with. Lord knows they have enough acts of God to worry about without having to sweat the man-made problems too. 💧





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