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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 Hinckley, Illinois.**

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A Fond Farewell

*by Frank Dunmire,
IRWA Executive Director*

Well, folks, the day is fast approaching — it is time for me to ride off into the sunset of retirement! April 30, 2024 will be my last day and as I bid farewell, I couldn't resist sharing a few of the countless memories that I will be taking with me as I leave the Illinois Rural Water Association.

I was humbled and honored when the Board of Directors for IRWA asked if I would consider becoming their Executive Director. Little did they know, I was scared to death at the time, as I would be jumping out of my comfort zone into a position that would be very demanding of one's time and energy. Now that I am about to be put out to pasture, I can hardly believe that it has been twenty years since the Board had placed their confidence in my abilities to not screw things up so badly that they couldn't be fixed. I thank the Board for their trust and support during the past twenty years as the Association experienced a lot of amazing changes and a few challenges. I will always be grateful to have worked with each and every one of you and for the overwhelming support you afforded me during my tenure.

Twenty years ago, IRWA had a staff of 7 dedicated and hardworking professionals who loved doing their jobs of helping water and wastewater operations specialists with a wide variety of problems. IRWA has grown over the years and now has 18 dedicated professionals working in many different fields assisting small and rural municipalities. The different perspectives and opinions they brought to the table have made it possible for the Association to grow and thrive in many areas not thought possible. I count myself as a fortunate person to have had the opportunity to work with such a diverse group of people and

continue to learn from them to this day. It was great working with all of you—you have truly made a lasting impact on me, and one that has changed me for the better in many ways. Although we worked hard – we also had great times together. I will miss you all very much!



Growth is usually accompanied by challenges and IRWA was no exception. The worst challenge that IRWA had to face, in my opinion, was the loss of funding for the Training and Technical Assistance program through the USEPA. When that funding was cut, the Association was faced with a dilemma – layoff the Training Director or find another avenue to avoid a layoff. Fortunately, 30 years ago the Board of Directors had established a reserve account just for this occasion. As you may recall, IRWA had to switch over to a fee-based training program for a period while the National Rural Water Association and all their State Rural Water Association members lobbied Congress and the USEPA to reinstate funding for this vital program. Our/Your efforts were successful, funding was restored, and the fee-based training went away. Without the great support that IRWA's members provided, this most likely would not have been possible. Once again, IRWA's members "stepped up to the plate" to prove that nothing can stop their Association. IRWA's members are not afraid to work hard for the betterment of its industry in providing clean, safe drinking water and treating wastewater before returning it to the environment. Work doesn't feel like work when you love what you do every day. I want to thank all of IRWA's members for making this an awesome place for me to show up these past two decades.

Lastly, I would like to thank my wife, son, and daughter for allowing me to take this amazing journey. Before accepting the position as Executive Director, we sat down to discuss the pros and cons. Even though the pros far outweighed the cons, we were still concerned about the travel requirements. I knew that the job would require many nights away from home and my family (little did we know how many nights that would turn into). Whenever I interviewed someone for an open position at IRWA, I would make a point to tell them that this is a family-oriented workplace. They would be responsible for their own work schedules, and I would expect them to spend as much time



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Saying Goodbye To An Old Friend

by Greg Bates,
IRWA Board President

Frank Dunmire, the Executive Director of Illinois Rural Water Association, is retiring at the end of April 2024. Frank has been the Executive Director for 20 years and was on the board of directors for 19 years. Over his 39 years of dedicated service, he has shaped this organization to the very successful organization it is today. Frank has earned a great deal of respect in the water and wastewater industry, as well as with other organizations he has encountered in his line of work. Frank likes to avoid the credit of the growth and power of the Illinois Rural Water Association but the truth is that his dedication and work ethic has shaped this organization to something truly special. Many organizations ask Illinois Rural Water Association for assistance and their opinion on issues in the water and wastewater business. This is a tribute to Frank's work and the dedicated staff at the Illinois Rural Water Association.

I have personally known Frank for 27 years and consider him a close friend. Steve Fletcher, our current National Director, has known Frank over his whole 39 year career and considers Frank a close friend as well. For those of you that know Frank very well, you know he is a no nonsense type of guy. He is very direct and expects things to get done, yet he is very fair and generous, especially if you have made the effort and want to learn. Frank has developed so many relationships with people from all states in his 20 year career and has served on countless committees

for National Rural Water Association. Frank doesn't believe in waiting in line for a seat at a restaurant and please don't but put a green vegetable on his plate, for those of us who know him well.

I would personally like to thank Frank for his dedicated service and commitment to the Illinois Rural Water Association. We wish him luck and good health in his retirement which is well deserved. We would also like to thank Frank's wife, Julie, and his two children for allowing us to steal Frank away for the 20 years on business trips. The next Executive Director for Illinois Rural Water Association will have some very big shoes to fill but we know Frank's love for rural water will be unending and his knowledge will be graciously shared. Thank you Frank from the rural water family.

BEST WISHES! 💧



IRWA Board members Steve Fletcher and Greg Bates presenting IRWA Executive Director Frank Dunmire with Person of the Year Award at IRWA's 2024 Annual Conference.

Clerks and Billing Systems: The Struggle is Real

*by Clark Cameron,
IRWA State Circuit Rider*

Well, it is that time again, time for me to write an article for the magazine. For me, this is a real struggle that I dread more than anything else associated with my job. But write I must, so I would like to address the problem that I encounter most often when trying to perform a rate study. Billing systems and software that is either not user friendly, or that of clerks who struggle to utilize the many benefits that their billing system offers.

While researching this article, I contacted the three different billing and software companies that are listed in our industry contact book to get as much input as possible from them. The responses from each varied greatly from complete cooperation from one, to another one wanting to charge me just to have a conversation. These differences are why clerks with municipalities, districts, etc., must make educated decisions about who to partner up with for their billing needs.

I am going to focus on the many services that were offered by the company that was at the top of the user-friendly category to illustrate the differences. While I cannot name which company that I am referring to, I will spell out the differences that a good billing service offers compared to the others that are not as user friendly.

Knowledge of your billing system is the key for a clerk to be successful with the program, and to properly utilize all of the benefits of the software available. While doing a rate study, it is vital to have accurate and complete usage reports and billing information that is available to every water and/or wastewater utility, if the user knows how to access it. That is the key. And here is where making the right choice for your system is most important, because from my research the help offered by the providers varies greatly.

I found out that one company provides weekly zoom training sessions every Thursday at no cost, while another business charges you just to call and have a discussion. Choosing wisely has never been more important. And another thing that I learned, is that when you purchase your billing software, that there are not various levels of access to information available, everyone has the same amount of access. The difference between the clerks that can and cannot provide the needed information when using the same billing programs, is simply a matter of knowledge of their system capabilities.

In conclusion, I have a great amount of respect for the clerks who do a very difficult job and often times have had very little, if any, training for the vast array of responsibilities they shoulder. Choosing the right billing software company, is a very important step in managing the process properly; and can make a potentially difficult task much easier.

The following is a list of capabilities that you should require from your billing system that is offered in varying degrees by the companies contacted. Choose wisely, it can be the difference between accurate billing and chaos.



- Multiple user defined service billing capability (water, sewer, gas, electric, refuse)
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- Meter tracking
- Consumption variance warning
- Consumption reporting
- Geographic usage reporting
- Utility deposits tracking and refund processing
- Email or third-party bill production 💧

A Fond Farewell

continued from page 4

with their families as possible. I wasn't always in full control of my work schedule but tried my best to spend as much time as possible with my family. I know over the past twenty years I have missed several birthdays, anniversaries, and even a few holidays. Yet, through all of those missed family events, they gave me unwavering support to pursue my passion – IRWA. Thank you for being so supportive. I will always love you for that!

I am very proud of the work we have done at IRWA. This Association makes a difference in people's lives, and I can't wait to watch as you – Board, Members, and Staff – continue this important work. Although I'm excited for tomorrow, I also feel a bit sad today to say goodbye. I am going to miss you. I have shared a special bond with all of you, and I am taking with me special memories of our time together. I will always be eternally grateful to have worked with each and every one of you! 💧

A Dying Breed??

by Jeff McCready,
IRWA Wastewater Technician

Recently, I was visiting with the operator of a small system that was in charge and responsible for both the water and the wastewater utilities, like many of you are. He had been there well over 20 years I'm guessing, and we were talking about the shortage of operators throughout the country, when he stated, "We are a dying breed". I stood there for a moment and thought about what he had just said and replied, "We can't be".

We all know that there is a shortage of water and wastewater operation specialists due to many reasons. Retirements, inadequate salaries and benefits, lack of respect from the Councils/Board members and customers, and other factors all come into play in that regard.

Across the country there is a large number of Operation Specialists leaving the workforce due to retirement. Over the next decade, the water sector is expected to lose between 30 and 50 percent of the workforce due to retirement. Since starting with Illinois Rural Water Association, almost seven years ago... I have seen several operators retire. Many are in their early 70's or late 60's, with 30 to 40 years of employment at the same system. And, some are in their late 50's, and have 30 plus years in. They deserve that retirement, and they are the ones that have the passion for the job. But, I have also heard some who are in their late fifties to early sixties say, "I'm not ready to retire yet, but I'm tired of this lead and copper issue, and other non-ending regulatory requirements".

Many smaller municipalities struggle to acquire and/or retain good employees due to the low wages they are paying, inadequate benefits; or because there are management differences with administrative guidelines to the working staff from new board members, mayors, etc.

Being a Water or Wastewater Operations Specialist is not always a glamorous job, and it can be very stressful and frustrating at the same time. Such events as being called out in the middle of the night to answer an alarm at a lift station or at the treatment plant, repairing a collapsed sewer line or fixing a water main break, all add to that stress. Yet, the problems have to be fixed by someone. That someone is us.

I tell some of the younger folks just getting into the industry that this job will always be there because technology

will not be able to replace a section of broken sewer pipe or put a repair clamp on a broken water main. It can also be a gratifying job, as well. Taking pride in your treatment plants and having them operate properly and efficiently, keeping them maintained; and for some, getting that old worn out plant replaced with a new one, are all factors that boost the professionalism and thus enthusiasm as an operator.

We need more water and wastewater operators in this state, and across the nation. A few years back, the National Rural Water Association and its state association affiliates, such as IRWA, implemented a new apprenticeship program to address this issue. Jeff Tumiati is in charge of that program for IRWA, and has the help of Marc Lemrise as a field trainer in that regard. Jeff has several individuals enrolled, with several on the waiting list. Another sign that we may heading in the right direction to address the issue, is the number of people who signed up to take the IEPA Certification exams on the last day of our annual conference in Effingham, recently. There were 66 people to challenge the water certification exam, and 24 registered for the wastewater exam. Hopefully those numbers continue to grow.

There are a lot of young people in the water sector that are very good at their jobs, and I have high hopes that they will stay in the water and wastewater industry, obtain their IEPA Certifications, and make a career of keeping water safe for everyone to drink and wastewater safe to discharge into our tributaries....so that we don't become a *dying breed!* 💧





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Fallout from an Audit and Lead will NEVER Go Away

*by Mary Reed,
IRWA Compliance Assurance Specialist*

It always seems to roll downhill and lately it seems as if the water systems are at the bottom of the pile. Last year the Illinois EPA received the findings of their USEPA audit, and consequently they were placed into a corrective action plan. This is nothing new in the drinking water compliance world but what is different this time is new personnel at both the IEPA and the USEPA who may look at things differently than personnel from the past.

Sanitary Surveys

The Illinois EPA has committed to conducting sanitary surveys over a three-year cycle and will review eight areas, including: Source, Treatment, Distribution system, Finished water storage, Pumps, Monitoring and Reporting, Management & Operation, and Operator Compliance. They have developed pre-screening worksheets to prepare the water systems for their inspection and by completing these prior to the inspection you will have the required information readily available. The worksheets cover Technical Capacity, Financial Capacity, and Asset Management. These will be sent to your system prior to the set inspection date.

They will also be asking what type of chlorine is in your system and if you are maintaining a minimum of 1.0 mg/L total or 0.5 mg/L free in all parts of the distribution system. If you are not maintaining these required levels, they will want to know what your plan is to get back in compliance. In addition, if you have combined chlorine, you must have a Nitrification Action Plan with action levels and records of all testing being done. They have updated the Significant deficiencies/violations Attachment A of sanitary survey report, and it is now called Notice of Significant Deficiencies (NSD). The system will be required to respond to this document within 30 days. The IEPA will review your response and formally approve a corrective action plan with compliance deadlines, or they may leverage the option to issue a Violation Notice. It is important to be very thorough in responding to the NSD making sure to include the actions to be taken in response to the noted deficiencies and the date they will be resolved.

Coliform Sites and Monitoring

During your Sanitary Survey the field office staff will be requesting that your public water supply PWS submit a revised coliform sample site plan.

The site plan must designate repeat samples sites upstream and downstream of your monitoring locations. That means for each of your routine bacteriological sample sites you may need to add up to 5 sites up and 5 sites downstream. That way if you ever have a positive sample requiring repeats you will have a sample point ID to enter onto the sample result sheet. Previously you just noted the address of the sample on the sample result sheet and designated it as upstream or downstream. During the audit they found that some systems did not include the addresses of the samples and only wrote up or downstream, because of that there is no documentation of where the repeat sample had been collected.

Additionally, if your sample site plan indicates that you should be collecting your coliform samples from specific zones you will need to ensure that zone monitoring has been implemented. The audit indicated that some PWS were not following the zone recommendations and therefore they do not have geographic bacteriological monitoring representation.

Monitoring

According to the regulations systems collecting DBP samples quarterly must take them every 90 days. However, as we all know you are also required to collect the DBP samples during a specific month of the quarter and if you continue to collect every 90 days from the previous sample eventually you will not be monitoring in the required peak historical month (PHM). To rectify this the Illinois EPA has sent a Special Exception Permit (SEP) to all systems that are required to collect DBP samples



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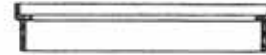
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So, you received a Violation Notice from the IEPA... now what?

*by Kent Cox,
Clean Water Act Training &
Technical Assistant*

We have been hearing from several communities lately which have received a Violation Notice (VN) from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for their wastewater systems. I just had a conversation yesterday with one of these communities. They stated that they had never received anything like this directly from the Agency before. The same statement holds true for most of the communities we are hearing from. This particular community had permit scheduled items listed in their newly issued NPDES permit which had not been completed within the timeline listed in the permit. Other communities we have heard from have received VN's following an inspection by their IEPA Regional FOS inspector.



If you receive a VN, then please act quickly. You need to be aware that a "Violation Notice" is the beginning stage of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act's (415 ILCS 5/31) enforcement process. If you do not respond via certified mail (and we also recommend by email) within the time frame indicated in the correspondence, then the matter can progress to an Illinois EPA referral to the Illinois Attorney General's Office (AGO). Once this matter is forwarded to the Illinois AGO, it is largely out of the Illinois EPA's hands and monetary penalties are likely.

The IEPA website states the following as to what initiates the compliance/enforcement process:

"Generally, the compliance assurance/enforcement process is initiated in three ways: (1) field inspection, either routine or complaint driven; (2) anomalous result, effluent violation on a discharge monitoring report (DMR) or failure to submit a DMR; (3) unplanned pollution event.

1. On-site inspections are completed by the FOS inspectors in the seven FOS regions, who visit sites based upon a complaint or a routine inspection. The FOS inspector

generates a report. See attached map for a breakdown of NPDES permitted facilities by FOS region.

If areas of non-compliance with the regulations are noted, the FOS inspector may issue a Non-Compliance Advisory (NCA) for matters which do not have a significant environmental impact. For example, a recordkeeping deficiency may warrant a NCA.

If the violations are significant or if the facility fails to respond to an NCA, the FOS inspector, from the relevant FOS region, generates a request for a Violation Notice (VN) and forwards the request to Environmental Specialists for drafting, issuance, and follow-up. The VN initiates the Section 31 process, pursuant to Section 31 of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act (Act) discussed below.

2. Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) are required to be submitted to monitor discharge compliance with NPDES permit limits. DMRs that are received are entered into the federal ICIS-NPDES data system. The Environmental Specialists may initiate a VN for effluent limit violations on the DMR; failure to submit a DMR or portion of a DMR, or an anomalous looking DMR. The Section 31 process is the same.
3. In the event of a pollution release, unauthorized discharge or other activity, the FOS inspectors investigate and generate a report. If the issue poses an immediate risk of harm, the Section 43 referral process, pursuant to the Act, is utilized by sending a request to our 5 attorneys. If immediate risk or harm is not an issue, the Section 31 process is utilized.

Please see the IEPA website at <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/complianceenforcement/wastewater/npdes-permits.html> for the full information.

Please reach out to us if you have any questions or need assistance. We are here to help. 💧

2024 Annual Conference Wrap-Up

by Heather McLeod,
IRWA Membership Services Assistant

The Annual Technical Conference in Effingham continues to be a big success. 12.75 water and 10.25 wastewater credits were available over the 2 1/2 days. Total attendance was 549 with 66 registered to take their water license exam and 24 registered for the wastewater exams on Thursday. 109 exhibitor booth spaces were filled. This was a sold out event due to some re-arranging of lunch accommodations (of course we cancelled the tent on the year it was in the 60s! – but you never know what Illinois weather will bring us in February.) Thanks to everyone who supported the conference for another great year! We appreciate all of the feedback and will be tweaking a few things mentioned on the feedback cards so we can continue to improve your experience each year.

Congratulations!

Grand Prize Winner—Greg Fulkerson

Gun Raffle—Scott Bailey

Best Tasting Water—Groveland Township Water District
Water System of the Year – City of Staunton

Water System Operations Specialist of the Year – John Eggers;
City of Princeton

Wastewater System of the Year – Village of Mt. Morris

Wastewater System Operations Specialist of the Year – Jeff
Reininger; City of South Beloit

Runner Up Water Systems of the Year – Village of Somonauk and
Groveland Township Water District

Runner Up Water System Operations Specialists of the Year –
Jake Johnson; Village of Ashmore and Mike Koonce; Village of
Dupo

Runner Up Wastewater Systems of the Year – Village of
Hopedale and City of Vandalia

Runner Up Wastewater Systems Operations Specialists of the
Year – Adam Decker; City of Carterville and Wells Petersen;
Beardstown Sanitary District

Associate Member of the Year—Pace Analytical Laboratories

Spotlight on Scholarship Winners

The Illinois Rural Water Association Associate Member Scholarship Fund was created in 1997 to promote further education for an eligible family member of any active voting member of IRWA. Each year we present two \$1,000 scholarships

(one to a boy and one to a girl). Any current Associate Member of the Illinois Rural Water Association can contribute to this fund. The winners are announced during the awards ceremony on Tuesday morning of the conference.

Each year the applicants must write an essay on a topic of the scholarship committee's choosing and submit it with their application. This year the essay topic was "Disinfection: Chlorine vs. Chloramine in Water Distribution". The winners chosen for 2024 were: Michael David Bagby and Cecilia Sapphire Choate.



Michael is the son of Shayne Bagby who is the Maintenance/Wastewater Operator at the Village of Minier. Michael attends Olympia High School in Stanford, IL. He has been the recipient of the Language Department Award. He is a Student Council Executive Board Member, NHS Member, State Finalist for Speech and Debate, as well as a NSDA Semi-Finalist. Michael is also a member of the chamber choir and a drum major.



Cecilia is the daughter of Staci Choate who is the Village Clerk for the City of Wayne City. She is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene at the University of Southern Indiana. She has had high honors throughout her high school career, is a 3 time winner of the Volleyball blocking award. Cecilia has been a member of the Midland Trail All-Conference Team in Volleyball, Junior Honor Marshall, Beta Club Representative as well as Vice-President of the Beta Club, History Club President and Vice-President as well as Vice-President of her class for 3 years. 💧



Fallout from an Audit and Lead will NEVER Go Away

continued from page 9

quarterly. This letter will give all systems a monitoring date between the 8th and the 21st, so that +/- 7 days will never fall outside of the specified month determined by the PHM. The real issue here is that you need to make sure that you send your chosen laboratory a copy of this SEP so they can get your bottles sent in time to collect as directed by the SEP.

The Illinois EPA will no longer be waiving violations for monitoring outside of the assigned period due to a laboratory error. What this means is that if you collect your samples on time, but there is an issue at the laboratory that they must request a resample, if that resample is collected into the next monitoring period you will receive a violation even though it was not in your control.

What can you do about this? Take your samples early in the monitoring period so that if an issue does arise you will still have time within the monitoring period to collect the resamples if necessary. Download a copy of your monitoring schedule from Drinking Water Watch and make sure that you look at it at the beginning of the quarter to see what is coming up due. **Also, if you receive a box from the laboratory don't just shelve it thinking it is for another time, not all labs mark the boxes with a resample notifications.**

Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR)

Like I said in the title Lead Rules, Revisions, Requirements, and more Requirements are never going to go away they are going to keep evolving until someday there are no lead service lines or possibly it might go as far as plumbing with lead solder within a home.

In November 2023 the Illinois Pollution Control Board adopted the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR). These rules were adopted from the USEPA LCRR identical in substance, meaning that they are the same as the Federal Rule. I don't have the space or really the energy to go into the nitty gritty of all the revisions, but I will highlight a few of the elements that I think are noteworthy.

Let's start off with when this all comes into play, the IEPA will start compliance and enforcement of the LCRR in October 2024. There were no changes to the Lead Action Level, it remains at 15 ppb and the Copper Action Level is still

1300 ppb, but they will implement stricter Corrosion Control steps for systems that exceed the Action Level. A big addition coming from this rule is the added Lead trigger level of 10 ppb. If your 90% value is between 10 ppb and 15 ppb it will trigger increased monitoring, planning and treatment requirements. It is anticipated that there will be a lot of systems that fall into this category.

There will be monitoring changes for systems that indicate they have lead or unknown service lines on their inventory. These systems will start 6-month monitoring January 2025 and if they have lead service lines you must use ONLY sample sites served by a lead service line in your monitoring pool, 100% from LSL sites. The previous rule said 50% of your sites must be LSLs. Prior to starting your 6-month monitoring you will need to update your lead and copper site plans, there are now 5 tiers instead of 3. The IEPA will notify you of the site plan update as time gets closer. If you fall into this category your Lead and copper samples will now be collected in a 5 1L bottle set. The first liter will be analyzed for copper and the 5th Liter analyzed for lead. This will give a true "Service Line" sample result. The LCRR includes updated health effects language, and you will be required to include how your customers can access the lead service line inventory in the CCR. The timing of notices has also escalated, public education after a lead Action Level Exceedance must be distributed within 24 hours after the system is notified of the action level. And if you have an individual sample site with lead result over 15 ppb the customer must be notified within 3 days of the system receiving the results.

And if that is not enough there is always more, PWSs will be required to monitor schools and childcare facilities. This will include submitting a list of all the facilities in your system, monitoring at least 20% of schools and 20% of childcare facilities every year. In addition to the monitoring, you must provide results and public education to them and then certify back to the IEPA that you have done so.

All I can say is hold on to your hats, go with the flow, and stay informed and educated of any changes that may come your way. 💧

What are you looking for? - The ABC's of ilrwa.org

- **Advertising in Water Ways information** (Ad agreement and links) - Publications > Advertising Information
- **Apprenticeship**—Resources > Apprenticeship
- **Becoming a Certified Water or Wastewater Operator**—Resources > Becoming a Certified Operator in Illinois
- **Boil Order Notice**—Resources > Downloads
- **CCR**—Services > e-CCR Hosting
- **Certification Overview from IRWA**—Training > Certification
- **Certified Water Operator Contract**—Resources > Downloads
- **CEU Forms from webinars or conferences**—Training > CEU Form Archives
- **CEU's from CD training**—Training > CD's
- **Compliance Assistance**—Services > Compliance Assistance
- **Cross Connection** (manual, survey & ordinance) - Resources > Cross Connection
- **Current hot topics and upcoming events** - Home
- **Energy Efficiency Assessment**—Services > Energy Efficiency
- **For Sale/Wanted**—Services > For Sale/Wanted
- **Forming a new water district**—Resources > Downloads
- **GPS/GIS**—Services > GPS/GIS Mapping
- **Industry Organizations**—Resources > Links
- **Job Board**—Resources > Job Board
- **Lead Information** —Resources > Lead Information
- **Leak checklist and how much am I losing flyers**—Resources > Downloads
- **Legislative Information** – (Who is my rep?, Bills that IRWA is following)—Resources > Legislative
- **Mutual Aid**—Resources > Downloads
- **Nitrification Action Plan Information**—Resources > NAP
- **NFP Tax Forms** — Resources > Downloads
- **NRWA Fleet** - Membership > Benefits—click on the NRWA logo
- **Operator Groups**—Resources > Links
- **PFAS**—Home
- **Rate Study**— Services > Rate Study
- **Red Flag Act**—Resources > Downloads
- **Speaker Request Form for Conference** —Training > Conferences
- **Tracer Wire Specs**—Resources > Downloads
- **ERP/Contingency Plans**—Resources > Emergency Preparedness Planning
- **Video Inspection Services**—Services > Video Inspection
- **Wastewater CEU information**—Training > Wastewater > under table
- **Water Loss Handouts**—Resources > Downloads



VIDEO INSPECTION SERVICE WITH



Video inspection technology for wastewater and storm sewer systems can help you identify and prioritize maintenance issues, while improving service and reducing emergency maintenance costs.

IRWA incorporates both a "Set Minimum Maintenance Fee" and a "Maintenance Fee per Foot Charge". The sole purpose of each is to operate, and maintain the IRWA Sewer Video Inspection Van and equipment used.

IRWA is glad to provide this Sewer Video Inspection Service to our members, and non-members (at a higher fee). As of March 1, 2024, the IRWA voting members "set minimum maintenance fee" for this service is \$500.00 for projects that do not exceed 500 feet (Non-IRWA voting member utilities pay \$750).

Larger projects requiring more time and inspection coverage, will be based on the set minimum maintenance fee up to 500 feet. Then a maintenance per foot charge of \$1.00, will be assessed for footage above the minimum allowance. IRWA member utilities receive an automatic discount on the "per foot" charge, as well as the reduced set minimum maintenance fee, for each of these types of projects. Non-IRWA member systems will pay the increased set minimum maintenance fee of \$750, plus a charge of \$1.50 per foot, above the initial 500 feet allowed in the minimum.

(Note: Due to staffing varied work demands and logistics, IRWA will not undertake video inspection jobs exceeding 5,000 feet maximum per project.)

A proposal (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 graphic diagrams of the inspection features, and a correlating digital video file for visual reference.

For more information, or to schedule an inspection of your system, email IRWA Deputy Executive Director at: craig@ilrwa.org, or you can call him at 217-561-1061.



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

The digital map files, can be accessed through a working relationship that IRWA has with DiamondMaps.com, to put your IRWA project maps, on their server, for mobile viewing with a smartphone or cellular capable tablet, as well as access on your computer over the internet; and will give users full editing capability. 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.) on various base maps such as aerial and road view; and pull up attribute data about each, which you can edit and add data to.

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. Also, the system will receive a digital copy of all initial GPS and GIS processed mapping files; and IRWA will keep a copy as well.

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

E-mail Don Craig at: craig@ilrwa.org, or call him at 217-561-1061 for additional information.

Rural Water Fleet Program

The National Rural Water Association has created partnerships with motor groups to offer discounts to utilities around the country. Member utilities should contact their State Rural Water Association to access the Rural Water Fleet Program.



Visit <https://nrwa.org/members/products-services-portfolio/fleet-program/> for up-to-date information.



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Energy Efficiency Assessment Program

Will evaluate your energy needs, consumption and costs. It will also recommend measures to reduce energy consumption and identify sources of funding for improvements.

STATISTICS SHOW:



Cost of energy is expected to increase 20% in the next 15 years.

Energy use is the largest controllable cost of providing water and wastewater service to the public.



Rising energy costs represent a major challenge for water and wastewater facilities also facing challenges of:

- 1) Aging Infrastructure which needs replaced
- 2) More stringent regulations
- 3) Population growth
- 4) Higher operational costs and budget restrictions

Consider ...

The high cost of operating utilities has gotten to the point where the utility has to look at all options available. Keeping the operational costs to a minimum ensures that your rates are the lowest possible and still ensure safe drinking water and wastewater utilities.

What do we assess?

The Energy Conservation Circuit Rider will assess your electric bills, system assets and operational procedures. They will break it down into a usable form with options to explore which will lower costs and a projection of the time to payback.

Why ...

Most Operators spend their time in operational issues to ensure safe drinking water and maintaining compliance. They often do not have the time to dedicate to energy savings or expertise in doing assessments. We can take the time and figure it out for you.

Key Offerings

Find where your system can save money on energy. Not only can your system be more efficient, it can outline which changes can generate repayment the quickest.

What is requested of the system?

- Provide Tour of Facilities for Circuit Rider
- Copies of Energy Bills for at least one year
- Review and Share Energy Assessment with Operators
- Review Financing Alternatives if Feasible
- Implement an Energy Efficiency Plan

15-30% SAVINGS ARE READILY ACHIEVABLE



HOW??

- 1) MAKE THE COMMITMENT!
- 2) ASSESS THE FACILITIES
- 3) ESTABLISH A PLAN

A Few Findings of Assessments

- System-Hot Water Heater- 80 Gallon Electric Heater-24/7 in a Filter Room only for Eye Wash Station-Approximately \$2,200/Yr Savings
- System-Water Loss 75%, System Improvements Save \$3,300/year in Electrical For Wells
- System-Aeration running 24/7- \$11,300 potential savings. Improvement Recommendations- \$34,250. Payback 3 years

How Do I Get A Free Energy Assessment?

Contact Dave Speagle

217-820-1560 – cell phone

217-287-2115 – IRWA office

speagle@ilrwa.org

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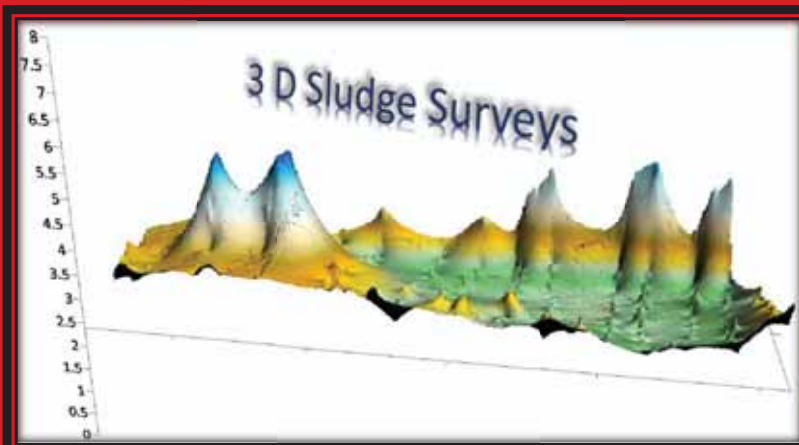
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Improve Your Facility

About the Program

This program provides funding for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and storm water drainage to households and businesses in eligible rural areas.

Funding

Long-term, low-interest loan funding is available. If funds are available, a grant may be combined with a loan if necessary to keep user costs reasonable.



USE YOUR FUNDS TO FINANCE THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, OR IMPROVEMENT OF:

- 01 Drinking water sourcing, treatment, storage, and distribution
- 02 Sewer collection, transmission, treatment, and disposal
- 03 Solid waste collection, disposal, and closure
- 04 Storm water collection, transmission, and disposal
- 05 Other related activities such as permits and legal fees



Scan the QR code to view more information and start your application.