

KRWA Holds Training Sessions in Pittsburg

KRWA held two workshops in Pittsburg the first week of February. A “Water and Wastewater Math Refresher” course was held on February 5 at the city’s Fire Station No. 1. Forty-two operators attended. They were able to attain five hours of water or wastewater operator credit. The training was presented by Don Van Veldhuizen of USA BlueBook. Don’s innovative approach to math provided a new and different way to approach a subject that causes anxiety in many operators.

Then on February 6 and 7, KRWA sponsored a two-day “Activated Sludge Wastewater Workshop”. The workshop was held at the Pittsburg Sewage Treatment Plant. The twenty-two operators who attended received a total of ten hours credit for both days. Don Van Veldhuizen also presented this training.

Don Van Veldhuizen has 30 years of experience in the water and wastewater fields. Don’s previous experience as an operator of several unique plants, allows him to bring a




Chris Farianacci, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent at the city of Pittsburg, Kan., adjusts the microscope during the two-day activated sludge training in Pittsburg, Kan., February 6 and 7, 2019. The microscope lens was projected to the overhead screen. Presenter Don Van Veldhuizen with USABlueBook describes the microbes and bacteria present in the slide.

wealth of relatable case examples on wastewater treatment. Pittsburg’s plant has both an activated sludge and trickling filter train that allowed operators to see different types of treatment at one location. Specific topics covered included how to run settleability tests, determining microscopic predominance and determining respiration rates to ensure bacterial viability in the activated sludge process. Troubleshooting was also covered. Operators appreciated Don’s hands-on approach. KRWA appreciates the cooperation by the city of Pittsburg for use of the Fire Station #1 as the training site.

Don will be presenting also at the KRWA Annual Conference on Tuesday, March 26. The five-hour preconference session is entitled “Water Water Distribution – Practical Thoughts and Actions for Operators”.

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