

Kansas Water Office seeks applications for BAC membership

The Kansas Water Office is inviting the Kansas Rural Water Association to submit member applications for the state's Basin Advisory Committees. Each Kansas river basin has a citizen advisory group formed to provide insight, track issues, and alert the Kansas Water Office and the Kansas Water Authority on issues of interest in the committee's area. To view the 12 river basins in Kansas, look at the map on the Kansas Water Office Web site at: [Kansas.http://www.kwo.org/BACs/BAC_Membership.htm](http://www.kwo.org/BACs/BAC_Membership.htm).

Basin Advisory Committees are a vital voice for water resources issues in the State of Kansas. For the past 20 years, Basin Advisory Committees have been working to assist the Kansas Water Authority to address water resources issues across the State of Kansas. Recently the Kansas Water Authority took steps to reconfigure and revitalize the Basin Advisory Committee structure because of the growing importance of water resources in the state and the increasing need for citizen input in those issues. One of the key components of that restructuring is how Basin Advisory Committee member applications are sought and that is why we are asking the Kansas Rural Water Association to consider submitting candidates for Basin Advisory Committee membership.

Applications for membership will be accepted until April 2, 2007. In May, each committee will consider the applications received and recommend members to the Kansas Water Authority in June. If the nominations are approved, new members will begin terms in August 2007.

I am sure it might be helpful to have some basic information on membership. Members serve four year terms, with no limit on the number of terms a member may serve. There are meeting attendance requirements, to ensure the interest of the Basin remain actively represented by the BAC membership. The Basin Advisory Committees normally meet three or four times per year. Member terms are rotated so that no more than half of the memberships are open every two years. Members represent one of the water resource interest groups or categories identified in the Basin. Membership, while an essential part of Basin representation, does not require an extensive time commitment.

The Kansas Water Authority believes that Kansas Rural Water Association has a deep interest in Kansas water resources.

I hope this brief explanation will prompt Kansas Rural Water Association members to consider forwarding applications for Basin Advisory Committee membership across the State in representative categories. Your nominations will benefit the basin committees by providing greater citizen interest, input and representation on the Basin Advisory Committee.

Further information on the Kansas Water Authority, the Kansas Water Office and Basin Advisory Committee can be found on the Kansas Water Office home Web site at www.kwo.org. Please look in the right column of the Kansas Water Office home page for Basin Advisory Committee applications and information. Applications for membership are located on the Web site, as well.

Please feel free to contact the Kansas Water Office if you have questions or need further information.

Thank you, in advance, for considering this request and for your support.

—Tracy Streeter, Director, Kansas Water Office

EPA to Require Monitoring for Unregulated Contaminants

Approximately 4,000 public water systems will monitor drinking water for up to 25 unregulated chemicals to inform EPA about the frequency and levels at which these contaminants are found in drinking water systems across the United States. The information will help determine whether regulations are needed to protect public health. This is the second scheduled review under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 2).

"Through continuous monitoring and research, EPA collects the information needed to make effective policy decisions," said EPA Assistant Administrator for Water Benjamin H. Grumbles. "Good policy is fundamental to protecting public health and the environment."

EPA currently has regulations for more than 90 contaminants. The Safe Drinking Water Act

requires EPA to identify up to 30 contaminants for monitoring every five years. The first cycle, UCMR 1, was published in 1999 and covered 25 chemicals and one microorganism. The new rule requires systems to monitor for contaminants that are not regulated under existing law. EPA selected the contaminants that will be monitored through a process that included a review of:

- EPA's Contaminant Candidate List, which contains priority contaminants that are researched to make decisions about whether regulations are needed. The contaminants on the list are known or anticipated to occur in public water systems. However, they are unregulated by existing national drinking water regulations.
- Additional contaminants of concern based on current research about occurrence and various health-risk factors.

Costs for the five-year UCMR 2 will total about \$44.3 million. EPA will conduct and pay for the monitoring for those water systems serving 10,000 people or fewer at a cost of \$9 million. More information about the UCMR 2 rule: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ucmr/ucmr2> or call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791, Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., EST.

– *EPA Waterheadlines*, January 2007

EPA Announces System Partnership Solutions to Improve Public Health Protection

As part of its on-going efforts to promote sustainable water infrastructure, EPA has released a new pamphlet to assist state drinking water personnel, drinking water system owners and operators, and technical assistance providers by providing successful case studies in partnership solutions. This pamphlet was developed to highlight successful examples of one-page case studies, which will help EPA and its stakeholders when working with small systems in the area of capacity development by providing alternative solutions to small system challenges.

Small public water systems face many constraints not typically faced by larger systems. Financing limits, shortages of skilled personnel and physical isolation are among the most severe. These systems in turn are supported by outside water professionals: engineers, scientists, regulators, technical assistance providers and others. All of these entities operate within an environment of changing regulations and

competition for funding, better technology, and for trained workers. Each entity needs to be able to make the best informed decision possible when addressing sustainability challenges.

It is EPA's intent that our stakeholders will be able to gain new ideas, perspectives, and possibly valuable insight, on best management practices and solutions by exploring the successes of others. The pamphlet will be made available to water utility staff, state regulators, and technical assistance providers. This document and additional information on sustainable infrastructure initiatives are available on EPA's Web site at:

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/smallsys/ssinfo.htm>.

Additional information about EPA's Sustainable Infrastructure efforts is available at <http://www.epa.gov/waterinfrastructure/>.

– *EPA Waterheadlines*, January 2007

EPA Expands Water Contaminant Information Tool

EPA has expanded the Water Contaminant Information Tool (WCIT) to assist water utilities, public health officials and federal, state and local agencies to better plan for and respond to intentional or accidental contamination events. Launched in November 2005, WCIT is a secure, on-line database profiling chemical, biological, and radiological contaminants of concern for drinking water and wastewater utilities.

WCIT includes both regulated and non-regulated contaminants and provides current, reliable data from peer-reviewed reports and research. The system includes general information for 93 contaminants and now includes additional information in four new data categories: drinking water treatment; wastewater treatment; environmental impacts; and infrastructure decontamination.

Access to WCIT data is password protected and qualified individuals must apply to EPA and undergo screening before being granted access. Currently, drinking water and wastewater utilities, State drinking water primacy agencies and laboratories, drinking water and wastewater associations partnering with EPA, state and local public health officials, and federal officials (including government laboratory personnel) are eligible for access.

– *EPA Waterheadlines*, December 2006