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10th National Brownfields Conference Registration is Free

Sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the International City/County Managers Association, the conference, dubbed, "Brownfields 2005: Reaching New Heights in Redevelopment," will focus on nationwide Brownfields issues as well as the unique environmental issues facing the West, including Tribal Brownfields, mining sites, watershed issues, rural community issues and sustainability.

The conference will feature many learning and networking opportunities, including more than 100 educational sessions and 200 exhibits promoting research and

exploration of solutions to Brownfields redevelopment challenges. The technical program will feature educational sessions, plenaries and workshops. Panel sessions and the popular Marketplace of Ideas roundtables will cover key topics of interest to Brownfields stakeholders.

The educational program will cover many Brownfields-related tracks such as: environmental management; sustainable development and green building; public policy, law and regulation; financing and investment; information technology innovations; community involvement, environmental justice and public health; real estate deal making; economic development and planning; and federal facilities.

Conference registration is free; however register by October 1, 2005 to be included in the published list of participants provided at the conference.

Conference attendance has grown substantially each year from approximately 500 attendees in 1996 to just over 4,000 last year in St. Louis. Mile High City officials anticipate well over 4,000 attendees this year.

For more information regarding conference registration, presentation opportunities, exhibits or poster sessions, visit the 2005 Brownfields Conference website: www.brownfields2005.org, or contact the Region 8 Coordinator, Robin Coursen at coursen.rob@epa.gov.

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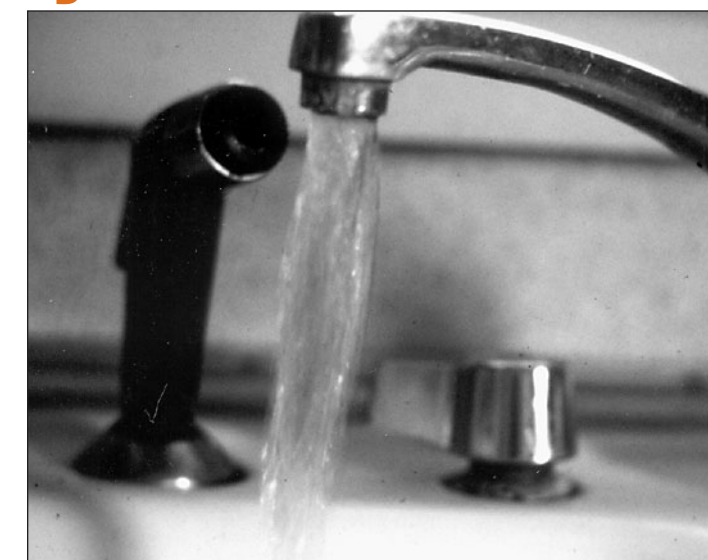
WaterLog

Arsenic Rule Compliance Date is January 23, 2006

On October 31, 2001, EPA announced the new maximum contaminant level (MCL) for arsenic in drinking water of ten parts per billion (ppb) would become effective and the compliance date for all affected water systems would be January 23, 2006. The new MCL replaces the current MCL of 50 ppb.

Arsenic is a common naturally occurring drinking water contaminant found in groundwater in various locations throughout the United States. This arsenic originates from the erosion and dissolution of arsenic-bearing rocks and soils into the groundwater. The occurrence of arsenic in groundwater tends to be higher in western states and the Great Lakes region. While some arsenic does occur in surface water it is predominant in groundwater systems.

EPA established the current MCL of 50 ppb for arsenic in 1975 based on a Public Health Service standard originally established in 1942. The 1996 SDWA Amendments required EPA to finalize a new rule for arsenic by January 2001 based on a 1999 report by the National Academy of Sciences concluding that the 50 ppb standard did not adequately protect human health. According to



the EPA, the new MCL of 10 ppb will decrease non-fatal and fatal bladder and lung cancers and will reduce the frequency of other
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Village of Cosby, Missouri Received MAP Loan

The Midwest Assistance Program Loan Fund (MAPLF) approved a \$10,000 loan to the Village of Cosby, Missouri. The loan request is to fund pre-development costs for a new sanitary sewer system.

Cosby is a small, rural community located in northwest Missouri, less than an hour from St. Joseph and Kansas City. There are roughly 160 residents in Cosby, all proud of the city's heritage as an early

railroad town, and all excited by their potential for growth.

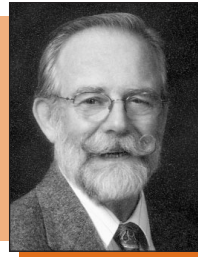
Unfortunately the lack of a sewer system is restricting that desire. The village board and its chairman, Pryor "Junior" Schottel, have been battling for over ten years to turn their "pipe dreams" into a reality. "We wanted to help each other have a better quality of life, so that our children would want to come back to this

town and be able to live healthier, happier lives."

The town is filled with old, onsite septic systems that are failing and discharging raw wastewater directly into storm water drainage structure, roadside ditches, and adjoining property. During the summer months, the unpleasant odor that fills the air is a reminder to Cosby's residents of
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Visit our Web Site! <http://www.map-inc.org>

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C.E.O. Report

Policy issues are at stake

The national news buzzes with the policy issues that are at stake throughout America and the world. Business, commerce, auto manufacturing, energy, airlines, food, finance-the list goes on forever! Where does your community rate in the midst of all the dialogue? Probably doesn't make a difference to anyone, anywhere? SO WE THINK! However, we still need to find ways to make our local, state and national politicians understand the policy issues that affect us- in our communities, our jobs, our health care, our schools, our housing, and our WAY OF LIFE!

The RCAP National "Rural Issues and Best Practices Conference" on August 22-25 in Washington D.C. will give you the opportunity to listen, speak, brainstorm and share about rural issues across America. You are invited to attend!

Speakers will include Dr. Steve E. Hrudehy, professor of Environmental Health Sciences, University of Alberta; Kevin McCray, National Ground Water Association; Ann Peton, CIRC, Rural Policy Research Institute; Thayer Long, Manufactured Housing Institute; Ron Ferguson, Indian Health Service and numerous others.

The three-day conference will include dozens of break-out and training sessions. Even more importantly, the conference incorporates a half-dozen, half-day, policy discussions including one led by William Leonard, Whitefish, Montana. Bill will present the results of the Rural Policy Survey initiated by MAP. His presentation will discuss "Infrastructure Financing: Rural

America Funding Inequities" and allow participants to brainstorm the policy concerns of community leaders throughout rural America. Many of you will recognize Bill as a 20-year Rural Development Specialist who serves Montana communities, and has traveled the world in his previous military career.

The purpose of the conference is to bring together policy leaders, rural practitioners, government agencies, financial institutions, and community leaders to discuss a range of issues affecting the rural communities in which we live and work. In addition, the conference is an opportunity to share best practices in technical, managerial, and financial capacity building and to celebrate the RCAP network's success in community infrastructure development.

We encourage you to join us for an opportunity to develop your skills, network with your peers, and take home new tools and ideas that will help you work more effectively your organization or community.

Information about the conference can be obtained by visiting www.rcap.org. Plan to attend!

Sincerely,

Kenneth Bruzelius
Chief Executive Officer

Fredericktown, Missouri School District Begins Paper Recycling Program

The Fredericktown R-1 School District recently began recycling paper in all classrooms. The paper recycling program is a result of a coordinated effort between the superintendent, the principals and custodians from each school, the City of Fredericktown and MAP.

In October 2002, MAP staff met with the district superintendent to discuss ways whereby the district could efficiently recycle and possibly reduce solid waste collection costs. The district, in cooperation with MAP staff, researched recycling programs and grants availability. MAP agreed to write a grant to the Department

of Natural Resources (DNR) for a grant to conduct a district-wide waste audit. This waste audit would provide the necessary information needed for the school board to determine if a district-wide recycling program was feasible.

MAP conducted the waste audit in October 2003. The audit concluded that the district generated about 58 yards of waste per week. The waste sort revealed that 31 percent (18 cubic yards per week) was cardboard and recyclable paper. Recycling the cardboard and paper would save the school almost \$3,000 per year on waste collection and provide the students

with a model for waste reduction and responsible resource management.

With the audit information, MAP applied for a grant from the Missouri DNR to purchase containers and signage for each classroom in the district and subsidize custodial salaries for the first year. A DNR grant for \$20,000 was awarded to the district in July 2004.

MAP worked with the school principals and custodians to create the recycling program and purchase necessary containers and signage. The City of Fredericktown
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EOE/AA/MFH

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Howard, Kansas develops hazard mitigation and emergency response plan

The City of Howard is a member of the newly formed Public Wholesale Water Supply District #24. Kansas Department of Health and Environment awarded the district a grant for an engineering feasibility study. The grant required each member city to have an emergency operation and response plan for their water system. Howard did not have such a plan. City staff requested MAP help them develop a comprehensive and detailed hazard mitigation and emergency response plan.



city personnel to finalize the plan and explain its utilization. First, mitigation steps need to be taken to reduce the impact a risk may have on the city's water system. Second, a response plan, in the event one of the 24 risks happens, need to be written. Third, the city needs to practice the plan.

The final plan, while over 250 pages, includes user friendly graphics and pictures. For example, this picture shows where to connect a portable generator to run the pumps at the city's raw water treatment pump station. Two weeks after the plan was finalized, the city utilized it when an emergency arose.

*Written by: Phillip Fishburn
Rural Development Specialist, MAP*

MAP staff met and conferred with city personnel to garner information for the plan. MAP staff and the water operator conducted a visual tour to determine how the system may be vulnerable to natural or manmade risks. The water system has several areas of critical exposure, including only one supply source (a lake), and only

has six hours of storage under normal daily water use.

MAP and city workers assessed the risks to the water works. Twenty four risk factors were identified and hazard mitigation and emergency response sheets were prepared for each risk. MAP staff met with

Cosby, Missouri

Continued from page 1

what they have been putting into the ground, but cost and regulation updates for installing new septic tanks prevent residents from resolving these problems.

Since beginning the project, the village has conducted three income surveys and worked with three engineering firms, and several assistance providers. Several years passed and their project stalled. In 2002, the board contacted the Midwest Assistance Program (MAP) for project assistance. MAP performed an assessment of the situation and created a plan of action.

The first hurdle was system development. MAP worked alongside Bartlett and West Engineers to design a feasible system that would be supported by the community. The firm looked into alternative treatment solutions and suggested a gravity collection system with a re-circulating sand filter.

The next major obstacle was project financing. With only 55 houses and 160 residents, Cosby didn't meet the eligibility criteria to receive the maximum financing amount of \$500,000 from a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Additionally, inaccurate census data prevented Cosby initially from meeting USDA Rural Development eligibility criteria so they could acquire grant financing. Nevertheless, this did not deter the community.

"We wanted a project that the entire community could get involved in," says Deb Alexander. "One night at a board meeting, the idea came out that we should put together a cookbook to raise money for the new water system." Local businesses placed ads to offset the costs of printing and people donated old photos. Most of Cosby's households contributed at least one recipe – Paula Veraguth submitted the legendary sugar cookie recipe of her sister and lifelong Cosby resident, Evelyn Veraguth. Paula remarked, "She was a

wonderful cook, and she loved this town. She'd be honored, I'm sure."

Cosby is now eligible to acquire grant financing along with a USDA Rural Development loan to support the cost of the project. The community is still fighting a difficult battle, but the village board and citizens will not give up. The community approved issuing a revenue bond to fund the wastewater project on an interim basis, with USDA and CDBG providing permanent funding through both grants and loans. The mayor and the village board are optimistic that the project will continue to completion.

Contact Tom Kopp, loan fund manager, (952-758-7334) to find out how Midwest Assistance Program's loan fund might help your community.

Written by Michelle Black, Rural Development Specialist, MAP; Chris Fierros, Area Director, MAP; Jared Clarkson, RCAP

Arsenic Rule

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health effects such as diabetes, developmental problems, gastrointestinal disease and heart disease.

The new 10 ppb arsenic MCL is enforceable for community water systems and non-transient non-community water systems. Of all affected systems, 97% are small systems that serve fewer than 10,000 people.

There are affected water systems in all nine states within MAP's service area. The majority are very small – serving less than 1,000 population.

Number of water systems with arsenic above 10 ppb

KS	20
WY	24
MO	24
SD	26
NE	33
ND	36
MT	49
IA	77
MN	89

Source: US EPA, 2000.

Some of those systems have already taken action to come into compliance, however there are a number of systems still trying to find a solution to meeting the arsenic problem.

EPA developed a handbook, "Arsenic Treatment Technology Evaluation Handbook for Small Systems" that contains a checklist of activities that should normally take place in order to comply with the new Arsenic Rule.

The major steps are as follows:

1. Monitor arsenic concentrations at every entry point to the distribution system.
2. Determine compliance status. (check with primacy agency)
3. Determine if a non-treatment mitigation strategy can be implemented. (source abandonment, blending, seasonal use, new source)

4. Measure all water quality parameters. (raw water quality is vital in determining treatment method to remove arsenic)

5. Determine the treatment evaluation criteria.

- a. Existing Treatment Processes
- b. Targeted finished water arsenic concentrations
- c. Waste discharge method
- d. Land availability
- e. Labor commitment
- f. Acceptable percent water loss
- g. Maximum source flow rates
- h. Average source flow rates
- i. Primacy agency requirements that may be more stringent than EPA

6. Select a mitigation strategy.

- a. Enhance existing treatment
 - i. Ion exchange
 - ii. Activated Alumina
 - iii. Iron based sorbents
 - iv. Coagulation-assisted microfiltration
 - v. Coagulation-assisted direct filtration
 - vi. Oxidation filtration
 - vii. Point of Use/Point of Entry treatment options

7. Estimate planning level capital and operation and maintenance costs, including the cost of arsenic removal and waste handling.

8. Evaluate design considerations.

9. Pilot the mitigation strategy – working with the primacy agency.

10. Develop a construction level cost estimate and plan.

11. Implement the mitigation strategy.

12. Monitor arsenic concentrations at each point of entry to the distribution system to ensure that the arsenic levels are now in compliance with the Arsenic Rule.

EPA has established two rounds of demonstration sites for arsenic treatment around the country. Two of the 12 Round One demonstration sites are located in MAP states: Lidgerwood, ND and Climax, MN. The equipment was installed in 2004 and

the studies are still underway. No final reports or final cost evaluations of the demonstrations have been made available.

In the Round Two demonstrations, 32 sites were selected in 19 states. Five of the 32 sites are in MAP states: Sauk Center, Sabin and Stewart, Minnesota; Three Forks, Montana; and Stromberg, Nebraska. The Round Two technologies proposed are as follows:

- Absorption technologies
- Oxidation/filtration
- Iron coagulation/filtration
- Reverse Osmosis
- Ion Exchange
- Process modification
- Dissolved air flotation/filtration
- Distillation
- Point of Use devices

The Round Two sites have just recently had the equipment installed so results will not be available until sometime in mid 2006, after the compliance date for Arsenic Rule.

*Written by: Audrey Boe Olsen
Rural Development Specialist,
North Dakota*

MAP is working under contract with the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDH) to help affected communities come into compliance with the Arsenic Rule. The first phase of the contract was to survey the 29 remaining affected systems to see what action was planned to come into compliance. Three training sessions were held in late March and early April for local community decision makers to help them better understand the requirements and begin to identify their options for meeting the rule. The final contract phase is to provide direct technical assistance to 15 water systems identified by the NDDH in either meeting the rule by January 23, 2006 or submitting the documentation requesting an exemption to the rule. In reality, the exemption is in fact a time extension to have the chosen alternative in place.

Solid waste management plans: Technical to-do list or visionary mission statement?

Any of us could name a job, service or field of work for which we would hesitate to participate in setting policy or operational procedures if we didn't actually work in the field. Especially jobs requiring specialized education, technical training and/or experience can be intimidating to the average person. Law, medicine, auto repair and rocket science probably come to mind for most of us.

Many people also probably feel that devising an integrated solid waste management plan for their community is something the average person shouldn't, or doesn't, want to be involved in. While it's generally true that many members of a community might not care to be part of forming a solid waste plan, as with many civil infrastructure operations, a good number of them would like to have their say. Unfortunately, the people responsible for solid waste operations often don't provide them the opportunity.

Reasons that some solid waste managers have given for not offering that opportunity to the public range from, "It didn't dawn on me anyone would be interested"; to, "I'm not comfortable with opening that can of worms, they'll just complain"; and even, "What the heck would they know about waste collection and management. How can they contribute anything useful?"

The last comment, and to a lesser degree the others, comes from a viewpoint that sees an integrated solid waste management plan purely as a technical document requiring technical knowledge about relevant state and federal laws, collection vehicles and containers, landfill compaction rates, routing plans and software. That point of view is not wrong, it's just not complete. And it happens because of a common, possibly even predominant, misconception.

According to a guidebook for creating solid waste management plans, an integrated solid waste management plan is not an actual solid waste management program. It's meant to be an outline of what a community's solid waste program should be like, given community-specific parameters, needs, goals and the "mission statement" through which the community states those common goals and perceived needs. At its best, this mission statement expresses a community's vision of their desired future as it pertains to solid waste reduction, diversion, collection and disposal.

To tell a secret, many very good solid waste managers aren't even sure they have the proper expertise or time to write a quality integrated solid waste management plan. This may explain why there are so many consultants writing solid waste management plans for communities they don't live in or have much direct knowledge of. It rarely hurts to bring in specialized and experienced assistance, but that's also not enough to produce a solid waste management plan that will survive and succeed to optimal levels. A truly successful solid waste management plan is not just a technical document or sequential list of directional moves.

There are many program options available within the universe of 'integrated solid waste management' beyond the most familiar and basic ones of collection and disposal in landfills or incinerators. They include educating and assisting the public in ways to reduce their generation of solid waste and stop harmful practices like backyard burning and illegal dumping; fostering diversion activities such as residential and larger-scale composting and recycling; and implementing user service fees based on how much waste a customer actually disposes.

Not all of the program options are equally feasible in all communities, nor would they all be supported or used equally in all communities. That is why it is so important to include the public in the earliest consideration of the options. As any business or corporation would agree, the program's customers are its stakeholders and, as such, should be included in the planning process from the beginning.

In his groundbreaking book, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, Stephen Covey discusses the importance of creating a mission statement on the level of individual, family and corporation. He observes, "The process is as important as the product."

Much of what he states as the value and purpose of mission statements also applies to a community's solid waste management plan. "When the problems and crises come, the [solid waste management plan] is there to remind [community] members of the things that matter most and to provide direction for problem solving and decision making based on correct principles."

Once those 'correct principles', goals and priorities have been determined, the professionals who manage and operate the solid waste department or utility can formulate the specific procedures and systems they will use to translate those principles, goals and priorities into daily operational practices. And once community members have had the opportunity to be involved in setting those 'correct principles', they are comfortable with leaving the operational implementation to the professionals and are much more likely to be supportive and cooperative customers, as well as advocates for the program's goals and operations. To again quote Covey, "Without involvement, there is no com-

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Fredericktown, Missouri School District

Continued from page 2

collects and processes materials from the schools and takes the paper to the city's new material recovery facility (MRF), which opened just in time to receive paper from the district.

A contest was held among the high school art students to create posters promoting recycling among students and staff. The high school art teacher and MAP staff chose five posters. Each student was awarded \$120 for the creation of these winning posters. The posters were copied, laminated and placed in each classroom and school traffic areas.

Classroom teachers encourage students to recycle newspapers, magazines, catalogs, notebook paper, copy paper, and junk mail. The only paper that cannot be recycled is contaminated or heavily coated papers. The custodians empty the recy-

cling containers every Tuesday and Thursday into rolling carts purchased with the grant. The Vo-Ag students built two ramps to load and unload recycling carts at the elementary and intermediate schools. The City of Fredericktown picks up the filled rolling carts each Wednesday and Friday and drops off a corresponding number of empty carts.

The paper recycling program is environmentally beneficial to both the district and the city. Students acquire recycling habits that will hopefully last into adulthood, and the district should be able to reduce waste hauling costs. It is truly a win-win situation for all.



Tom Mauer from the City of Fredericktown exchanges an empty recycling cart for a full one at the middle school.

*Written by: Dennis Siders
Rural Development Specialist, Missouri*

Solid waste management plans

Continued from page 4

mitment... If they don't have that involvement, they don't buy it. Then you have a significant motivational problem which cannot be solved at the same level of thinking that created it."

Creating an integrated solid waste management plan is a complicated process that requires a great deal of time, effort and resources. It's more than a written description of the steps a community is going to take to a destination; it's a statement of what that destination is and why they are going there. A plan is meant to assure environmentally sound and sustainable practices and adequate disposal for current and future wastes. It's too important to the community as a whole to be created in a vacuum. Too many plans end up gathering dust on a shelf because neither the professionals nor the public knows about them, understands them or buys into them.

"The process is as important as the product." This applies to another important reason for creating an integrated solid

waste management plan with public involvement. A solid waste plan is three basic components: an assessment and description of current solid waste generation and disposal; a statement of where it would like to be in five years; and an outline of what available program options are to be employed to reach those goals, prioritized and given timelines.

Often, when a community begins work on the first component, it will discover that it's harder than they thought it would be to quantify and describe where they are in terms of solid waste. They may find that they don't know how much waste is generated by different sectors of their community: residences, businesses, government offices, schools and health facilities. They may find the operational costs hard to identify or quantify. And they may find that services being provided aren't even formalized in a contract that would protect the community from improper activities. Properly doing the groundwork for the creation of a solid waste management plan can identify any such deficiencies and result in much better accountability, which may also produce cost savings or

efficiencies that will benefit the whole community in the long term.

Any long-term plan that does not begin with a thorough and accurate assessment of current operations, waste generation amounts and full-cost accounting is not going to produce a realistic guide to a community's future goals. Can you imagine realistically plotting your travel to a given destination without knowing where you are starting from? Or a physician prescribing treatment for a patient that hasn't been properly examined and diagnosed?

A true team effort process begins with an honest and full assessment of existing resources and operational data. It involves all interested community members in identifying goals, objectives and preferred program options. Only then will your community launch a solid waste plan that can serve as a guide through unexpected rough waters and be relevant and sustainable well into the future.

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