

KDHE Recognizes Public Water Supply Systems for Excellence

by Cathy Tucker-Vogel, KDHE Bureau of Water

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) awarded seven public water supply systems with the first-ever Capacity Development Awards. The award program is the first of its kind in the country and is designed to encourage public water systems to go beyond mere compliance with the Safe Water Drinking Act (SWDA). The program is intended to promote exceeding the standards set forth in the Act.

The 2007 Capacity Development Achievement Awards were presented to the following recipients.

- Lyon County Rural Water District #3
- WaterOne of Johnson County
- City of Bentley
- Public Wholesale Water Supply District #4
- City of Chapman
- City of Deerfield
- City of Concordia

Up to five Capacity Development Awards per year will be given for systems serving a population of 500 or less. Up to five additional awards will be given for systems serving populations between 501 and 3,300 residents. No more than one award each will be granted every year for systems serving between 3,301 and 10,000 people and for 10,001 or more people. In addition, no

more than one wholesale water district will receive an award each year.

The awards are made possible using EPA funds that are allocated to states and are just one of many activities that KDHE performs for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the SDWA. The majority of SDWA compliance activities performed by KDHE include monitoring public water supplies for health and safety, administering low interest loans to communities that enable them to upgrade and maintain their public water supply treatment systems and providing training and technical assistance to public water supply operators.

The federal SDWA was passed by Congress in 1974 and amended in 1996. The amendments required states to put strategies in place that help public water systems maintain technical, financial and managerial capacity. Originally, the SDWA focused primarily on treatment as the means of providing safe drinking water at the tap. The 1996 amendments greatly enhanced the existing law by recognizing source water protection, operator training, funding for water system improvements and public information as important activities for ensuring safe drinking water from source to tap.

If you would like more information on the Capacity Development Awards, please contact Cathy Tucker-Vogel at 785-368-7130.

Recap of 2007 Kansas Environmental Conference

by Cathy Colglazier, KDHE Bureau of Environmental Field Services

The 2007 Kansas Environmental Conference was held August 21 – 23 at the Grand Prairie Hotel and Convention Center in Hutchinson. Over 80 conference attendees enjoyed touring the Underground Salt Museum on Tuesday, August 21. The conference kicked off on Wednesday morning with a keynote address by Jeffrey Burke, Executive Director of the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable. Approximately 350 individuals attended the annual conference, which focused on environmental compliance, pollution prevention, and sustainability. The presentations from the conference can be viewed on the conference Web site at www.kdheks.gov/sbcs/environment_conf.html.

Thirty-six vendors displayed their products and services at the conference. Many of them offered great prizes for the vendor drawings held on Thursday. A vendor social hour was held on Wednesday evening. This was a great opportunity to visit with the vendors in a relaxed atmosphere.

The 2008 conference is tentatively planned to be held in Overland Park. If you'd like to participate in the planning of the session topics and agenda, feel free to e-mail Cathy Colglazier at ccolglaz@kdhe.state.ks.us.