

The National Drinking Water Clearinghouse:

“A great source of information for small systems”.

By Douglas R. Smorol, Circuit Rider II

If you have never visited the National Drinking Water Clearinghouse website, www.nesc.wvu.edu/ndwc take the time to do so, you will not be disappointed. This site is a goldmine of information for small system operators and administrators. I utilize this website quite often when researching a wide variety of topics and questions put to me by the small systems that I service. You can get detailed information on just about anything that has to do with drinking water, treatment, regulations and security. If you do not have internet access, (Is it possible in this day and age?), go to your public library and take advantage of their Internet access resources. If you just can't bring yourself to sit down in front of a computer, you do not have to feel left out. Almost all the information available on the website is also available in paper form and can be yours just by writing to the good folks at the NDWC at the following address:

National Environmental Services Center
Box 6064
West Virginia University
Morgantown, WV 26506-6064

Phone: (800) 624-8301 / (304) 293-4191
Fax: (304) 293-3161

Too busy to write, just give the staff at NDWC a call, they will be happy to add your name to their mailing list and see that you get the documents and information you seek. I have called the staff at NDWC on many occasions and have found them to quite obliging. The NDWC also publishes a quarterly publication, “On Tap”, which I have found to be very informative. My personal favorites are the Tech Briefs; these are technical papers that are written by experts in their fields and are available on many different subjects from treatment processes to distribution problems. The Tech Briefs are in PDF format and are easily downloaded from the website. The website also features a Listserv that you can easily subscribe to that will automatically e-mail to you the latest news in the water industry. Databases available online feature archives of almost all NDWC publications. The NDWC is only one feature of the National Environmental Services Center website. The site is also the home of the National Small Flows Clearinghouse (NSFC) and the National Onsite Demonstration Program (NODP). These two sites deal with wastewater issues and are also very good sources of information. All of these websites can be accessed from the links section of the New York Rural Water Association website. Next time you find yourself surfing the Internet, swing into the National Drinking Water Clearinghouse website. You will be pleasantly surprised at the amount of quality information that can be found there.