



Water Lines

Featured Article:

One Small Water System's Compliance with EPA Method 334.0

By: Eric Johnson, Kingsbury GID

In 2009 the US EPA announced Method 334.0 "Determination of Residual Chlorine in Drinking Water Using an Online Chlorine Analyzer":

1.1 This method is for the analysis of residual chlorine (free or total) in drinking water. It is primarily intended to be used by drinking water utilities for compliance with daily monitoring requirements. This method allows the use of any type of on-line chlorine analyzer (e.g., amperometric, DPD, etc.) for compliance monitoring when used in conjunction with a grab sample reference method that is approved for drinking water compliance monitoring. This method is intended to be used when chlorine residuals (free or total) are in the range of 0.2 mg/L to 4 mg/L.

This method laid out the procedures for using online analyzers - of any type - for compliance monitoring. Key to this is the use of grab samples as a reference check, as well as steps for verifying the calibration of all instruments, and demonstrations of capability by each person performing the chlorine checks.

In the fall of 2010, Kingsbury GID needed to replace an older chlorine analyzer at its Lake Station, which is a 4MGD surface water treatment plant at Lake Tahoe. It is a non-filtered system, currently using ozone to treat the water, and as such, we have always had to use online chlorine analyzers to monitor effluent residuals. For compliance purposes, we had used a Hach CL17 unit (a colorimetric DPD analyzer), which replaced an older Capital Controls 1870E machine (an amperometric analyzer). The Capital Controls analyzer was inactive for a long time, until out of curiosity, we turned it on to see how it compared to the CL17 and found that it seemed to be much more stable. This stability, as well as, its reliability, is very important to us because our plant is not staffed continuously. Also, having a second analyzer reading from the same source gives us redundancy and is part of our troubleshooting routine; if one analyzer reports a faulty residual but the other doesn't, it indicates an analyzer problem,

narrowing down the possible source of the problem.

At the time, our understanding was that only DPD method online analyzers were approved for compliance monitoring, so the CL17 remained in service. However, when it was time to replace the CL17, we wanted to go with another amperometric type because it was more stable and more importantly because of the high cost of the DPD reagents used by the CL17. The choice was made easier with the announcement of EPA Method 334.0 which addressed all online chlorine analyzers, regardless of type. Another benefit was that we would have two identical units in service, and only need to keep one set of repair parts in stock.

The first step was to learn the requirements of EPA Method 334. There was little information on how water systems were handling compliance, so KGID started this process from scratch. We read through the EPA documentation on EPA's website and also found a simple guide for compliance from Hach at the following website: <http://www.hach.com/asset-get.download-en.jsa?id=9035496050>. Between them we formulated a plan and began to collect the

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equipment needed, as well as to develop record keeping methods, and SOP's. Basic steps are:

Initial Steps:

1. Verify Calibration of the pocket colorimeters (we have two)
2. Verification of Secondary Standards for both colorimeters
3. Initial Demonstration of Capability (IDC) for field samplers (tests both accuracy and precision)
4. Initial Calibration of Online analyzer
5. IDC of online analyzer (14 days)

Ongoing Procedures:

6. Routine verification of the pocket colorimeter calibration
7. Routine verification of online analyzers

This sounds like a lot of work, but we made up spreadsheets to do most of the calculations and to generate the documentation. For equipment we use Class A glassware (flasks and pipettes) for measuring and making the dilutions, as we use the Hach primary chlorine standards in the 2mL ampoules. To simplify the math, 100mL flasks are used for all dilutions, and once the concentration of the primary standard is entered in the form, along with the desired dilutions, the amount of standard per flask is calculated, and many of the fields are automatically populated.

When we began implementation, the entire water crew gathered at the treatment plant and shared the tasks of making the dilutions and performing the calibration checks. We followed the above mentioned steps, documenting as we went. We have a single set of Hach Spec-Check secondary standards, but two colorimeters, so both colorimeters were used to check each vial in the set of standards and the values for each instrument were recorded, so we would have them regardless of which one was in use on a given day. This plays a role later in the ongoing QA/QC checks of the colorimeters.

Each treatment operator then performed an Initial Demonstration of Capability. To do this we made a dilution near our normal chlorine concentration and each person pulled and analyzed five samples. The analyzed values were recorded on a spreadsheet which calculated the results - giving a pass/fail grade - and served as documentation.

We were then ready to move into the actual calibration and IDC of our online analyzer. Grab samples were used to check the initial calibration of the analyzer, and any adjustments needed were made. Then we started the 14-day IDC check of the analyzer. This was done with two grab samples per day which represented the nominal high and low ends of the normal residual range. The analyzer had to be within the tolerance range (+/- 0.1 mg/L or 15%) for all of the samples taken for the 14-day period. If a calibration adjustment had to be made during that time, the 14-day IDC would begin again. Once this process was complete, the analyzer was put into duty for compliance monitoring. We repeated steps 4 & 5 with our second analyzer, with one difference. The second unit uses the same methodology as the first and runs on the same source, so the IDC was only required to be seven days.

Our operator's daily and weekly routines have changed a little with the increased checks and verifications required under EPA Method 334. The operator has to check the pocket colorimeters with the secondary standards each day before beginning to check residuals throughout the distribution system. Since there are three different strength

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Work It! Q & A:**Answers to the “Work It!” questions are on**

1. The Oxidation-Reduction Potential (ORP) of a sample of wastewater is measured in millivolts (mV). If the ORP in an activated sludge basin is greater than +100 mV, what condition would be expected?
A. Anoxic, Denitrification occurs B. Septic, with hydrogen sulfide formation
C. Polyphosphate breakdown occurs D. Aerobic, dissolved oxygen exists
2. A required Tier 1 Public Notification for a water quality violation would most probably be associated with which of the following?
A. Nitrate concentration is 11 mg/L in a single sample
B. TTHM quarterly result exceeds the MCL
C. For a running annual average of quarterly samples, the arsenic concentration is 8 µg/L
D. Uranium concentration is 15 mg/L in a single sample
3. Effective disinfection depends on the concentration of disinfectant, water temperature, contact time, pH, and the organism being inactivated. Which of these are under operator control?
A. pH and water temperature B. Disinfectant dose and water temperature
C. Contact time and disinfectant dose D. pH and organism present in the water or wastewater
4. A canal with a trapezoidal profile is used to supply raw water to a treatment plant. The canal width is 17 feet at the water line and 9 feet at the base, and water is flowing 4 ft deep. At the present time, water velocity in the canal is 2.8 feet per second. A railroad crosses the canal 2.7 miles upstream and emergency services calls saying that there has been a derailment at the bridge. Assuming plug flow in the canal, how long would it take for any material spilled at the bridge to reach the plant?
A. 28 hours B. 85 minutes C. 2.8 hours D. 146 minutes
5. Five gallons of 12.5% sodium hypochlorite having a specific gravity of 1.24 is added to a batch tank and diluted to 25 gallons final volume. If a 24 gallon per day chemical feeder is pumping this solution at 36% stroke and 55% speed, how many pounds of chlorine will be delivered in a day?
A. 1.2 B. 1.04 C. 0.052 D. 0.26

Work It! Is prepared by the NvRWA, you can contact them at 775-841-4222.

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standards in each kit, we rotate through them daily, so we aren't using the same vial for all the checks and we see the full range of the colorimeter. These checks are recorded on the daily water sample logs. Twice a week, on Monday and Friday, an operator pulls a grab sample and checks both online analyzers against the result from the pocket colorimeter. If the result is out of tolerance (+/- 0.1mg/L or 15%) the analyzer in question is adjusted and this is recorded. Lastly, since the pocket colorimeters are used to verify the quality of readings for the online analyzers, the rule requires quarterly calibration verification checks of the pocket colorimeters, performed with a dilution made from the primary standards.

This whole process has been quite a learning experience. With feedback from NDEP, especially Andrea Seifert and Don LaFara, we have tweaked and modified the record-keeping process to ensure we are doing everything needed. Also, with operational experience we have come up with SOP's and techniques to simplify the various ongoing procedures, to make it easier for the operators and to make tasks as simple and foolproof as possible.

If you have any questions, or would like to see the forms and sheets we developed, feel free to contact me at eric@kqid.org.

Weed Control for Wastewater Ponds

By: Curtis Duff, NvRWA

The fall season is almost here, so now is the time to start thinking about next year's weed abatement program. Many of the undesirable weeds around our wastewater ponds can be prevented from cropping up next year by making preparations now.

First, let's look at why it's important to maintain a "weed-free" wastewater pond. From a health and operational stand-point, rooted plants in the water help promote mosquito breeding, encourage aquatic animals, and add to the sludge layer. For these reasons, from a compliance stand-point, NDEP's Water Pollution Control Bureau likes to see weed-free wastewater ponds when making their on-site inspections. Plants at the waters' edge can be controlled either by physical removal or herbicide treatment. Following all of your site safety procedures for working inside the berm, pull or dig them when plants first appear and before the root system is established.

If plants have become well established, control is quite difficult and may not always be successful. In some instances, the use of herbicides that are labeled for the target plants, work well and can protect algae by not targeting those plants. Apply it directly using an applicator. Use broadcast spraying sparingly because it requires more chemical and this may get into the water. See NAC 555 concerning application of restricted-use chemicals, and be sure to comply with all of the regulations and safety requirements. Dead plants are organic debris that may cause odor and add to the sludge layer, so the plants killed by herbicide application should be removed.

Control the vegetation on the berm. If your berm is grass-covered (more common in southern Nevada), keep the grass on the inside slope no taller than six to eight inches, mow often enough so that no more than half of the growth is removed each time. Mow cool-season grasses

such as fescue every week or two in cool months and monthly when it is hot. Discharge clippings away from the water or collect and remove them.

Mow the top and outside of the berm to stimulate a dense, healthy grass cover. Cut cool-season grasses in early May and mid-June. Cut warm-season (native) species in early July and mid-August. Burn areas as needed to control woody plants, residue, and unwanted species. The ideal time to burn is in the spring when new growth is just beginning. Always follow fire safety precautions and check with the local authority before burning.

Control your floating plants also. Aerobic bacteria are essential for good treatment in lagoons and they require oxygen. This is best supplied by dispersed, single-cell algae. Sunlight must penetrate the water and reach the algae to produce the oxygen. Floating plants like water lilies, duck weed, or filamentous algae (moss) intercept the light. This causes the oxygen level to drop and when this happens the lagoon treatment and color will not be as good. As discussed for rooted plants, control floating plants when they first appear either by removal or with herbicides.

The removal of trees and woody plants is also desirable. Remove trees and shrubs within 20 feet of the berm to reduce the risk of roots in the berm and lagoon. This also helps keep leaves out of the lagoon and avoids their addition to the sludge layer. Remove or trim trees that shade the lagoon on the east, south, and west sides. Sunlight must reach the surface year around and air must freely move across it. Oxygen enters the water both through exchange at the water surface and photosynthesis by algae.

There exists such a large array of herbicides it

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may be difficult to know which one is right for your application. Many herbicides target one particular plant, while others claim to kill a wide variety of vegetation. BE CAREFUL applying herbicides! Many herbicides may also kill your ponds precious algae!

The best solution may be to call in the professionals. Most of the companies in Nevada that provide weed removal services have a thorough knowledge of the plant species growing in and around our wastewater ponds and can target the unwanted plants while preserving the needed ones (algae). Many of these professionals begin work in the fall, laying

down a “pre-emergent” that inhibits next year’s growth. A few companies will also guarantee their work for several years!

Finally, if your system cannot afford the costs associated in chemicals or hiring of professionals, but has access to a small herd of goats, you might be in business. At this point you may be laughing, but goats have been known to clear heavily over-grown ponds of their weed problem in just a few short weeks!

If you have any questions regarding the removal of weeds in and around your wastewater pond, do not hesitate to contact me for assistance.

This article appeared in NvRWA’s Water Logged, Fall 2009



Photo of the Alamo Wastewater pond before weed control measures
Photo courtesy of NDEP’s Office of Financial Assistance

Available Drinking Water and Wastewater Operator Trainings

By: Kelly McGowan, NDEP - Bureau of Safe Drinking Water

Continuing education is vital to operators and the facilities they operate. Continuing education allows operators the ability to stay informed on the latest information in their respective professional trades. For drinking water operators, it's also required in order to renew their certificates. A frequent question from operators is where available training for both drinking water and wastewater operators can be found. We have included on-line training resources and other information that we hope will be helpful.

Nevada Water Environment Association (NWEA) has an approved course list (attached) and they also grant blanket approval for training from the following organizations:

Nevada Water Environment Association - <http://nvwea.org/certification/training-opportunities>

California State University - Sacramento (Ken Kerri) Correspondence Courses -

<http://www.owp.csus.edu/courses/catalog.php>

Nevada Rural Water Association Annual Conference - <http://www.nvrwa.org/>

Tri-State Seminar On-the-River - <http://www.tristateseminar.com/>

Water & Wastewater Education and Training - <http://wwet.org/>

Water Environment Federation – www.wef.org

The NWEA has an online training calendar that can be found on the NWEA website at <http://nvwea.org/certification/training-calendar>

Please visit our website at <http://nvwea.org/> to view other helpful information about NWEA.

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW) Approved External Educational Resources

This (alphabetical) listing of approved on-line training and contact hour classes for Operator Certification Renewal and Testing is not exhaustive, and does not promote any one vendor over another. If you are a training organization or you are seeking approval for a training course and would like to have your materials reviewed for inclusion, please contact the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water, Operator Certification Program at 775-687-9521.

American Water College - <http://americanwatercollege.org/>

Montana Water Center - <http://watercenter.montana.edu/training/ob2005/default.htm>

Nevada Rural Water Association - <http://www.nvrwa.org/>

RCAC - <http://www.rcac.org/doc.aspx?305>

Office of Water Programs at the California State University, Sacramento - <http://www.owp.csus.edu/courses/catalog.php>

Target Solutions - <http://targetsolutions.com/>

CEU Plan - <https://www.ceuplan.com/default.aspx>

In-house trainings and conferences sponsored by AWWA, CA/NV AWWA, NvRWA, RCAC (<http://www.rcac.org/doc.aspx?305>), Tri-State Seminar On-The-River, and WWET are generally approved by the BSDW. Nevada Water and Wastewater Certified Operator Forum meetings are open to the public and operators can receive credit for attending those meetings as well. Please keep in mind that a maximum of 2.5 hours of safety training can be applied towards the renewal of each drinking water operator certificate.

Please visit our website at http://ndep.nv.gov/bsdw/cert_home.htm to view all of this information as well as other helpful resources for both new and existing safe drinking water operators. We also have a Google training calendar available from our website at: <http://ndep.nv.gov/dwo/main/calendar.html> that displays all approved training requests and contact information.



Answers to the Work It! questions

1. d 2. a 3. c 4. b 5. a

4. 2.7 miles x 5,280 ft / mile = 14,256 ft travel

14,256 ft x 1 second / 2.8 ft x 1 minute / 60 seconds = 85 minutes

5. Purchased Chemical Solution density = sp. gr. x density of water

1.24 x 8.34 = 10.34 lb solution / gallon

12.5% by weight is hypochlorite

10.34 lb solution/gallon x 12.5 lb hypochlorite/100 lb solution = 1.2927 lb hypochlorite/gal

Dilution:

(5 gal x 1.3 lb hypochlorite/gal) / 25 gallons =

6.46 lb hypochlorite/25 gallons =

0.26 lb hypochlorite/gal

Pumping: 24 gal/day max x 0.36 stroke x 0.55 speed = 4.75 gallons / day pumping rate

4.75 gal/day x 0.26 lb hypochlorite/gal = 1.2 lb hypochlorite / day

Updates and Announcements

Water Operators: Contact Hours & CEUs

Obtaining Contact Hours and Continuing Education Units (CEUs) is a crucial requirement for every Water Operator that works in the State.

Education programs provide Water Operators the opportunity to improve their understanding of the Drinking Water Industry. For example, Water Operators can choose to enter the areas of Water Distribution, Water Treatment, Water Quality, Backflow, Management, etc. It also allows Water Operators to further develop their skill levels. By improving their skills, they will be better prepared to provide and protect safe drinking water for everyone. In addition, they will become more familiar with new developments in their field as technology and regulations change.

When Water Operators are looking for continuing education options, they should check the NDEP Bureau of Safe Drinking Water's Calendar of Events for approved contact hour classes for certification renewal. The NDEP requires Grade 3 and Grade 4 operators to take courses from International Association of Education Training (IACET) authorized providers or accredited colleges.

Wastewater Exam dates for 2012 & 2013:

Exam date - 12/20/12	Deadline - 11/20/12
Exam date - 3/15/13	Deadline - 2/21/13 ; NvRWA Conference (testing in Reno only)
Exam date - 3/21/13	Deadline - 2/21/13
Exam date - 6/20/13	Deadline - 5/20/13
Exam date - 9/19/13	Deadline - 8/19/13
Exam date - 12/19/13	Deadline - 11/19/13

Change of Mailing Address Requested

Operator Certification Administrators have noted that a number of certificates are being returned to the State, because Operators have not updated their mailing addresses after moving. Operators are asked to promptly notify the State when they have changed addresses.

Please contact Nan Paulson at 775-687-9447 or npaulson@ndep.nv.gov

Wastewater Operators Certified



The following wastewater professionals passed their Wastewater Treatment, Laboratory, Collection, Industrial Waste Inspector, and Nevada Plant Maintenance exam in June 2012.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT GRADES

Grade 1: Shawn Burt, Scott Dancz, Dennis Galleron, David Knudsen, Kenneth Ross

Grade 3: Bradley Huza

Grade 4: Robert Zoncki

NEVADA COLLECTION

Grade 1: Floyd Johnson

Grade 2: Michael Oxley

NEVADA PLANT MAINTENANCE

Grade 1: Matthew Sunseri

Grade 2: Robert Adams, Michael Haddenham

Water Operators Certified



The following water professionals took their Water Treatment and Water Distribution exams in June 2012.

Water Distribution Grades:

Grade 1: Demetrius Allen, Edward Bell, Ian Burford, Christopher Burnett, Gabriel Corral, Mark Czichotzki, Kevin Demaurez, Jerry Eckart, Leo Ferns IV, Joshua Gephart, Mathew Gleason, Theresa Hammonds, David Knudsen, Richard Lara Jr., Christopher Lauborough, Ramona Lobato, Israel Loyola, Gilbert Madrid, Corbin McFarlane, Louis

Cont' Water Operators Certified

Mercado, Eric Mitchell, Juan Moreno, Joel Murphy, Brian Niida, David Northum, Willard Nusser II, James Odell, Derek Oliver, Misael Pantaleon-Morales, Lori Radman, Robert Saunders, Adam Shay, Carl Siemer, Wendell Sparks, Charles Stewart, David Villegas, Shawn Walker

Grade 2: Richard Beeghly, Victor Bitter, Robert Bringhurst, Kenneth Dela Vega Jr., Robert Devaney, Joseph Groves, Bradley Huza, Jim Kelley, Peter Lumos, Jason Ormiston, Christopher Orton, Larry Proctor, Galen Sammaripa, Isaac Steed, John Stock, Jerome Taylor, Tommy Winans, Jeff Wohlgemuth, James Woodward

Grade 3: Michael Boney, Miles Davies, John Day, Mario Fernandez Jr., Kyle Habberstad, Patrick Heath, Shane Mortensen, Joseph Westerlund

Grade 4: Christopher Helda, Ryan Swirczek

Water Treatment Grades:

Grade 1: Robert Devaney, Bruce Gordon, Elizabeth Henasey, Clarence Howard, Breona Jo'l Jones, Mathew Martensen, Timothy McCandlish, Jack Smith

Grade 2: Lee Ahrens, Timothy Avalos, Joseph Groves, Bradley Huza, Mica Leatham, Corbin McFarlane, Marc Rohus, Mason Stratton

Grade 3: Samuel Billin, Jason Dukek, John Summers

Grade 4: Mitchell McGlynn, Dennis Southfield

TRAINING CALENDAR

Oct. 19, 2012 - Pumps

9:00 am to 12:00 pm by Larry Hopkins from Gormann-Rupp

Contact: NvRWA at 775-841-4222
frontdesk@nvrwa.org or visit
<http://www.nvrwa.org/> and click on training

Nov. 9, 2012 - Hot Tapping Pipes

9:00 am to 12:00 pm by Pak Hughes from Western NV Supply & Steve Staudy from Romac

Contact: NvRWA at 775-841-4222
frontdesk@nvrwa.org or visit
<http://www.nvrwa.org/> and click on training

Dec 7, 2012 - Regulation Update

9:00 am to 12:00 pm by Andrea Siefert & Kerry Schmelzer from NDEP

Contact: NvRWA at 775-841-4222
frontdesk@nvrwa.org or visit
<http://www.nvrwa.org/> and click on training

Check out ongoing Training from RCAC at:

<http://www.rcac.org>

Ongoing On Site - Various Management, Board, Wastewater and Water Topics, at your request - NvRWA

Contact: Bob Foerster at 775-841-4222

Upon Request: Instructor-Lead CSUSac Courses: Distribution or Treatment, 6 - 8 weekly trngs. Contact NvRWA for details and to schedule. Gain the approved post-secondary training while preparing for your exams. Also offering water and wastewater classes powered by SunCoast Learning Systems. Water Courses have been approved for recertification hours. Visit the NvRWA web page and select the

SunCoast Learning target: <http://www.nvrwa.org/>

Contact: Bob Foerster at 775-841-4222

*send us your email address to get on the announcement list.

NDEP Bureau of Safe Drinking Water - training calendar for approved classes:

<http://ndep.nv.gov/dwo/main/calendar.html>

Nevada Section of the American Water Works Association. Visit the web site

www.ca-nv-awwa.org for many more education opportunities

Check out ongoing Wastewater Training from NWEA at:

<http://nvwea.org/>

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Fall 2012

NV Water and Wastewater Operator's Forum Members:	Training Contacts
<p>Bob Foerster, Chair 775-841-4222 NvRWA - nvrwa@pyramid.net</p> <p>Harvey Johnson, Chair 775-832-1289 Incline Village GID - Harvey_johnson@ivgid.org</p> <p>John Hulett 775-954-4612 Washoe Co Water Resources - Hulett@washoecounty.us</p> <p>Cameron McKay, 775-588-3548 Kingsbury GID - cam@kgid.org</p> <p>Dale Johnson 775-738-6816 Elko Co Public Works - djohnson@elkocountynv.net</p> <p>Dave Johnson 702-567-2051 Southern NV Water Authority - dave.johnson@snwa.com</p> <p>Lynn Forsberg 775-738-6816 Elko County Public Works - lforsberg@elkocountynv.net</p> <p>Tom Georgi 702-822-8026 Las Vegas Valley Water Dist - Thomas.Georgi@lvvwd.com</p> <p>Mike Ariztia 775-673-2220 Sun Valley GID - mariztia@svgid.com</p>	<p>University of NV, Reno - CABNR & Cooperative Extension UNR videoconference classes for water system operators and managers are available in most communities. Call Crystel Montecinos at: 775-240-1396 or email at: xtelle@aol.com</p> <p>Community College of Southern Nevada Wastewater Water Technology Program www.cleanwaterteam.com LeAnna Risso at 702-668-8487 or LRiso@cleanwaterteam.com</p> <p>WWET Training in Clark County - www.wwet.org Training for water treatment and distribution system operators, wastewater treatment and collection system operators, and other professionals in these fields. Contact Jeff Butler 702-258-3296</p> <p>State of Nevada Water Certification Exams Exam applications and fees are due to the State Bureau of Safe Drinking Water 45 days before exam dates. A proctor will contact examinees to schedule testing. Contact: Ron Penrose at 775-834-8017 for information about the exam dates. Additional information call: 775-687-9527 or http://ndep.nv.gov/bsdw/cert_home.htm</p> <p>Nevada Water Environment Association - www.nvwea.org Jennifer McMartin (775)465-2045 or jenniferm@nvwea.org</p> <p>Nevada Rural Water Association Please send requests for training to www.nvrwa.org or contact staff directly at 775-841-4222</p>