



NEW MEXICO WATER UTILITIES NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED FOR THE OPERATORS OF NEW MEXICO

SPRING 2004

“THANK YOU”

Caroline Martinez, Executive Manager

I would like to thank all of you that were involved in honoring me for my 30 year anniversary at our 49th Annual Awards Banquet which was held at the Las Cruces Hilton on January 28, 2004.

Thank you for the wonderful recognition in which you named an award after me, the “Caroline Martinez Award” which gave me great pleasure to present it to the Town of Taos- OMI. I am truly grateful and honored for this outstanding recognition.

Special thanks to all the speakers who had a lot to share about the years they have worked with me which include: Eric Lopez, Cas Ruybalid, Pat Hanson, Tim McDonough, Debbie Hartell, Ken Garcia, Ted Martinez, Gene Salazar, Terry Mount, Mike Coffman, Art Torrez, Susie Cordero, Richard Griego, Robert Sparks, Frankie Martinez, Sandy Coriz, and letters from Haywood Martin, Ray Espinoza, and Senator Pete Domenici.

Thanks to the Executive Board, the Sections, Cindy Huntsman, and to my daughter Sandy Coriz for all the flowers, gifts, jewelry and money. Thanks to David Salazar for all the wonderful pictures.

Special thanks to Eric Lopez who lined up all the speakers and worked really hard to make this event unforgettable. I was overwhelmed by all of you and what you had to say about me. All these years of hard work really paid off. This was one of most special nights of my life. I will never forget your overpowering expressions of appreciation and gratitude.

All of you are right in saying that this Association of ours is like a family. Throughout the years we have established friendships that will last us a lifetime. Our Association is unique and it amazes me that it works so



Dennis Fernandez from OMI, Town of Taos Wastewater Treatment Plant with Caroline Martinez

well. We are soon approaching our 50th year anniversary and without the help of so many dedicated members we would not have the quality and professional existence of the NM Water & Wastewater Association. I am truly honored to have had the privilege to work for the Association for the past 30 years and I look forward to working another 10 years.

2004 NMWWA AWARDS

On January 28, 2004, at the Annual School Awards Banquet in Las Cruces, the following awards were presented:

1. Award to Caroline Martinez for 30 years of Service.
2. "Caroline Martinez Award" for outstanding achievement
Town of Taos, OMI
3. "Good Housekeeping Award"
Town of Taos, OMI Activated Sludge
City of Gallup, Ground Water
City of Grants – Lagoons
City of Aztec – Surface Water
LANL – Environmental Excellence
4. "Max Summerlot Award" -
City of Gallup, Water Plant
5. NMED "O&M Excellence Award" –
City of Las Vegas (water)
HAFB (wastewater)
6. "Charles Caldwell Award" for highest increase in membership
Northeast Section
7. "Outstanding Operator of the Year"
Veronica Montoya, "Lab Analyst Operator"
Des Stuart, "Wastewater Treatment Operator"
David Bustos, "Wastewater Collection Operator"
8. "Section President's Award" Most Improved Plant
NE - City of Santa Fe, Wastewater Plant
NW - City of Farmington, Wastewater
SE - City of Carlsbad Water Plant
SW – WSMR Wastewater Plant
WC – City of Gallup Wastewater Plant
9. Scholarships:
Gabriel Duran
David Chavez
SW Section Scholarship: David Gamon
10. Lifetime Members -
Dave Bernardone
Arlene Coen
Sammy Dorado
Roxie Luster
Willie Luster
Herman Madrid
Kelly Maestas
Ron Montoya
Gale Perkins
Felix Quintana
Robert Romero
Nick Salayandia
Gene Salazar
Richard Sanchez
Joe Serrano
Pat Vigil
11. "John Clark Award"- Robert George
12. "President's Award" - Eric Lopez
13. "Cynthia Hiers-Robinson Instructor of the Year Award"
Albert Barela
James Wiggs



Robert George of NMSU WUTAP receives the John Clark Award from NMWWA President, Cindy Huntsman

NMWWA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Cindy Huntsman

This Association has helped us all over the years and I would like to thank you for allowing me the chance to have a hand in it. We have had the same executive manager, Caroline Martinez, the whole time. We have all had an opportunity over the years to work with her in some way or another, for everything from registering for school to asking advice on who to contact for other concerns. Any of you calling the office for any reason might let her know that we do appreciate the dedication she has shown.

I am hoping to see the Wastewater study guide out in the near future. There have been problems holding this up but it seems that it may be very soon now.

Unfortunately, at the time of this reading the revisions to the Utility Operator Certification Act have not been approved. There has been a tremendous amount of work done to get this far, I would like to thank all of those who have worked on it. They have put in countless hours and had to travel long distances to try to get this to fruition. We'll have to keep up the work this year in anticipation of the next legislative session.

We have been having strong schools and have been receiving many good reviews. If there is something that you would like to see training on in the future let us know. On the same note if you feel that you would be able to teach a class get in contact with myself or Caroline. We are always looking for teachers.

OPERATOR CERTIFICATION NEWS

UTILITY OPERATOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR EXAM SESSIONS

■ The Utility Operator Certification Program staff shall provide the following information to approved applicants/examinees by first class mail (post card) prior to the exam:

- Name of applicant/examinee
- Time and date of exam
- Location of exam
- Type and class of exam to be taken

■ Examinees shall present his/her post card and a valid picture identification card prior to entrance to the test session. Examinees shall sign a sign-in sheet and will receive the following:

- Exam booklet, with sheet to mark answers
- Scratch paper
- #2 pencils

The following items shall not be allowed in the exam room:

- Pagers
- Cell phones
- Programmable calculators
- Study material/notebooks
- Other material(s) at the discretion of the NMED proctors

■ Exam sessions shall be a maximum of six and one-half (6 ½) hours. Sessions shall begin at approximately 8:00 am and end at approximately 2:30 pm. Examinees shall be allowed breaks during the session, not to exceed five (5) minutes each. Examinees shall not be allowed to leave designated break areas.

■ At the conclusion of the exam, examinees shall return all material provided to them at sign in and shall sign the sign-out sheet.

■ Failure of examinees to comply with these requirements may result in immediate failure of the exam and other actions that might be permitted by law.



VACANCY NOTICE

The New Mexico Utility Operators Certification Advisory Board is seeking applicants for four regular board positions that will become vacant on June 30,

2004. The Utility Operators Certification Advisory Board works with the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) to establish qualifications of operators, classify systems, adopt regulations and advise the administration of the Utility Operators Certification Act 61-33-4(G).

The Board usually meets between four and six times a year for general business, and may plan additional less formal working sessions on special projects such as exam

development. To apply for a board position, please send the Facility Operations Section a current Resume accompanied with a cover letter requesting to be considered for a position on the Utility Operator Certification Advisory Board. Address letter no later than June 1, 2004 and submit to:

Mike D. Coffman, Chairman
Facility Operations Section
P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87502

or

Leo J. Wilson, Executive Secretary
UOC Advisory Board
300 N Turner
Hobbs, NM 88240



If you have any questions regarding the Board positions, feel free to call Mike D. Coffman at (505) 827-0108 or Leo Wilson @ (505) 397-9396.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE UTILITY OPERATOR CERTIFICATION ACT BILL?

Before I begin explaining what happen to HB 172 and SB 131, I would like to thank all the great people that put their time, effort and hard work into amending the Certification Act. Thank you for a job well done. The following is an outline of what occurred during the 2004 Legislative session.

- ❖ SB131 and HB172 were exactly the same bill.
- ❖ SB131 passed the Senate.
- ❖ HB172 passed the House.
- ❖ HB172 was withdrawn.
- ❖ After SB131 passed the Senate, it had to go through the House, even though the House passed the same bill in the form of HB172.
- ❖ SB131 needed to get through the House Appropriations and Finance Committee and the House to be enacted. The bill died in committee.
- ❖ Appropriations and Finance Committee did not act on the bill before the end of the session.

Were do we go from here? Well, the Department will submit the exact same bill to the 2005 Legislative session. I personally believe that it is time for Water and Wastewater Utility workers to raise the bar in their profession. This is the first step on a long road to travel, and your Operator Certification Program is here to support your efforts.

Thank you, operators for the job you do every day.

Mike D. Coffman ,
Operator Certification Officer

2004 NEW MEXICO TRAINING CALENDAR 2004

MARCH

NMRWA TRAINING — ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DATE: March 22-24, Monday-Wednesday
CONTACT: N.M. Rural Water Association, 505-884-1031,
www.nmrwa.org

NMED EXAM: March 25, 8 to 2:30.

Submit your test application by Feb. 24th at the latest.

APRIL

RAGSDALE & ASSOCIATES - 3-DAY BASIC WATER CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP

TOPICS: Levels 1 & 2, Basic water
DATE: April 14-16, Wednesday - Friday
TIMES: 8 to 5 each day
LOCATION: Albuquerque, TVI Workforce Training Center
REGISTRATION: \$200, **Advanced registration is requested**
CREDITS: 21 hours
CONTACT: Fred Ragsdale, 505-293-4658 or fredragsdale@comcast.net

The NM Water & Wastewater Association office will move on March 15, 2004. The new location : 1116-A Plaza Del Norte (located at the Lazarro Subdivision off of Industrial Park Road), Espanola.

NMWWA NORTHWEST SECTION — JOHN ALLISON MEMORIAL WORKSHOP

TOPICS: Levels 1 & 2, Basic & Adv. Water & Wastewater
DATES: April 20-22, Tuesday through Thursday
TIMES: 8 to 5, each day
LOCATION: Farmington, San Juan College. 4601 College Blvd.
REGISTRATION: \$100, members; \$130, non-members
Advanced registration is requested.

CONTACT: Cindy Huntsman, 505-334-8684

CREDITS: 20 hours

NMED EXAM: April 23, 8 to 2:30.

Submit your test application by March 24th at the latest.

NMSU WUTAP WORKSHOP — NPDES LABORATORY

PARAMETERS & QA/QC

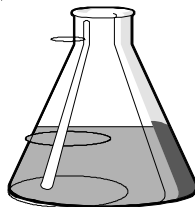
TOPICS: Standard Methods update, BOD, pH, TRC, Fecal Coliform, TSS, & troubleshooting
DATE: April 21-22, Wednesday & Thursday

LOCATION: Socorro, Holiday Inn Express (1100 N California) & Wastewater Treatment Plant Laboratory

REGISTRATION: \$150. **Pre-Registration is Required.**

CREDITS: 14 hours

CONTACT: NMSU WUTAP, 505-984-0676, FAX 982-3137;
e-mail wutap@qwest.net



NMRWA TRAINING — SMALL WATER O & M

DATE: April 28-29, Wednesday & Thursday
LOCATION: Truth or Consequences Civic Center
CONTACT: N.M. Rural Water Association, 505-884-1031,
www.nmrwa.org

MAY

NMSU WUTAP WORKSHOPS — HOMELAND SECURITY

TOPICS: historical overview of water sabotage, terrorism case studies, chemical & biological agents, areas to protect, procedures to follow, solutions for protection and detection
DATE: May 11, Tuesday
REGISTRATION: free
CREDITS: 6 hours
LOCATION: Silver City, Town of Silver City Annex Bldg.,
1203 North Hudson St.
CONTACT: NMSU WUTAP, 505-984-0676,
FAX 982-3137

NMRWA TRAINING — TRIBAL LAGOON WORKSHOP

DATE: May 14, Friday
LOCATION: Acoma Pueblo
CONTACT: N.M. Rural Water Association, 505-884-1031,
www.nmrwa.org

NMWWA NORTHERN SCHOOL

TOPICS: This general water & wastewater operations school is for both basic and advanced, Levels 1-4.
DATES: May 24-27, Monday through Thursday
TIMES: 8 to 5 each day [26 hours credit]
LOCATION: Las Vegas, Luna Vo Tech, 1000 Luna Drive
REGISTRATION: \$200 for members, \$250 for non-members.

Advanced registration is required

CREDITS: 26 hours

CONTACT: Caroline Martinez, 505-753-8840,
FAX 505-753-9810.

NMED EXAM: May 28, 8 to 2:30.

Submit your test application by April 28th at the latest.

JUNE

RAGSDALE & ASSOCIATES - 3-DAY ADVANCED WASTEWATER CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP

TOPICS: Levels 3 & 4, Advanced Wastewater
DATE: June 1-3, Tuesday - Thursday
TIMES: 8 to 5 each day

2004 NEW MEXICO TRAINING CALENDAR 2004

LOCATION: Albuquerque, TVI Workforce Training Center
REGISTRATION: \$200, *Advanced registration is requested*
CREDITS: 21 hours
CONTACT: Fred Ragsdale, 505-293-465, or
fredragsdale@comcast.net

NMWWA SOUTHWEST SECTION — JAKE HANDS MEMORIAL WORKSHOP

TOPICS: Levels 1 & 2, Basic water & wastewater
DATE: June 16-17, Wednesday & Thursday
TIMES: 8 to 5 each day
LOCATION: Ruidoso, Swiss Chalet Inn, 1451 Mechem Dr.
REGISTRATION: \$80, members; \$100, non-members
Advanced registration is requested
CREDITS: 14 hours
CONTACT: Lorenzo Martinez, 505-528-3599
NMED EXAM: June 18, 8 to 2:30.
Submit your test application by May 18th at the latest.

JULY

NMWWA WEST CENTRAL SECTION WORKSHOP

TOPICS: Levels 1 & 2, Basic Water & Wastewater
DATE: July 7-8, Wednesday & Thursday
TIMES: 8 to 5, each day
LOCATION: Gallup, UNM Gallup, 200 College Dr.
REGISTRATION: \$80, members; \$100, non-members.
Advanced registration is requested.
CREDITS: 13 hours
CONTACT: Pat Sanchez, 505-863-1211
NMED EXAM: July 9, 8 to 2:30
Submit your test application by June 9th at the latest.

RAGSDALE & ASSOCIATES - 3-DAY ADVANCED WATER CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP

TOPICS: Levels 3 & 4, Advanced water
DATE: July 13-15, Tuesday - Thursday
TIMES: 8 to 5 each day
LOCATION: Albuquerque, TVI Workforce Training Center
REGISTRATION: \$200, *Advanced registration is requested*
CREDITS: 21 hours
CONTACT: Fred Ragsdale, 505-293-465, or
fredragsdale@comcast.net

AUGUST

NMWWA SOUTHEAST SECTION WORKSHOP

TOPICS: Levels 1 & 2, Basic Water & Wastewater
DATE: August 4-5, Wednesday & Thursday
TIMES: 8 to 5, both days
LOCATION: Roswell, Oil Field Training Center
REGISTRATION: \$80, members; \$100, non-members.
Advanced registration is requested.
CREDITS: 13 hours
CONTACT: Debbie Lopez, 505-624-6753
or Ector Alvarado, 505-347-5421
NMED EXAM: August 6, 8 to 2:30.
Submit your test application by July 7th at the latest.

NMSU WUTAP WORKSHOP — HOMELAND SECURITY

TOPICS: historical overview of water sabotage, terrorism case studies, chemical & biological agents, areas to protect, procedures to follow, solutions for protection and detection
DATE: August 25, Wednesday
TIME: 8-5
LOCATION: Raton, Convention Center, 901 South 3rd
REGISTRATION: free of charge, but *Preregistration is required.*
CREDITS: 6 hours
CONTACT: NMSU WUTAP, 505-984-0676, FAX 982-3137;
e-mail wutap@qwest.net

SEPTEMBER

NMWWA CENTRAL SCHOOL

TOPICS: This general water & wastewater operations school is for both basic and advanced, Levels 1-4.
DATES: September 13-16, Monday through Thursday
TIMES: 8 to 5 each day [26 hours credit]
LOCATION: Albuquerque, UNM Continuing Education Bldg.
1634 University Blvd., NE
REGISTRATION: \$200 for members, \$250 for non-members.
Advanced registration is required
CREDITS: 26 hours
CONTACT: Caroline Martinez, 505-753-8840,
FAX 505-753-9810.
NMED EXAM: September 17, 8 to 2:30.
Submit your test application by August 18th at the latest.

Calendar, continued on page 6

FIELD TRAINING

The New Mexico State University, Water Utilities Technical Assistance Program (NMSU WUTAP) provides on-site, no cost training in O&M, process control, lab, & financial management of wastewater treatment operations or water supply to municipal facilities. 505-984-0676; FAX 505-982-3137; e-mail wutap@qwest.net

NEW MEXICO WATER & WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION

2004 NORTHERN SHORT SCHOOL - PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

NORTHERN SHORT SCHOOL

May 24-27, 2004

**Luna Voc-Tech. Institute
Hot Springs Blvd. Camp Luna
Las Vegas, NM**

Payment in full must accompany this registration form or it will NOT be processed.

NAME: _____ **SOCIAL SECURITY #:** _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____ **CITY:** _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

EMPLOYED BY: _____ **EMPLOYER PHONE #:** _____

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF NEW MEXICO WATER & WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION: YES NO

ARE YOU CURRENTLY CERTIFIED: YES NO

PLEASE NOTE: Pre-registration is *required* and on a "first come - first served" basis. There will be **NO** registration at the door. You must specify which *category* you will attend. When a specific *category* has reached its student capacity, no further registration will be allowed in that area, either at pre-registration or at the time of the school. Registration confirmation will **NOT** be sent. Call (505)753-8840 to confirm registration. Refunds apply **ONLY** if cancellation instructions are received one week before the specified short school and there will be a \$25 processing fee for all cancellations.

REGISTRATION FEES:

Member Fee: \$200 _____
Non-Member Fee: \$250 _____

NMWWA State & Section Dues (if not yet paid):

Active \$30 _____
Corporate \$28 _____
Associate \$25 _____
Student \$20 _____

TOTAL \$ _____

CLASSES:

You **MUST** mark the *category* of classes that you will be attending in order for this form to be complete. You may attend one or two categories of classes. **26 credits each category:**

<u>ENROLLMENT</u>		<u>CATEGORY</u>
50 people	Basic Water (I - II)	_____
50 people	Basic Wastewater (I-II)	_____
50 people	Advanced Water(III-IV)	_____
50 people	Adv. Wastewater (III-IV)	_____

Make check payable to:
N.M. Water & Wastewater Association

Mail form & check to:
Caroline Martinez, Executive Manager
P.O. Box 819
Española, NM 87532

Pre-Registration Deadline: May 10, 2004
Make your motel reservations before May 10.
Be sure to tell them you're with NMWWA to get this rate.

- Super 8, 2029 N. Highway 85
505-425-5288 \$47.39 single
- Comfort Inn 2500 N. Grand Ave.
505-425-1100 \$65 single
- Days Inn 2000 N. Grand Ave.
505-425-1967 \$51.30 single

OPERATOR SPOTLIGHT - VERONICA MONTOYA

Veronica Montoya was presented the "Lab Analyst - Operator of the Year" award by Eric Lopez at the NMWWA Annual School banquet this year. In her nomination letter, Jeff Burkett of OMI had this to say:

Ms. Montoya is the laboratory analyst for the City of Rio Rancho's water utilities department, which is operated for the city by OMI. In this capacity, she supervises all process and control testing required by and for the permits for the city's three wastewater treatment plants. She has over ten years experience in water and wastewater, a WW III and a WI certificate, and has earned a Bachelor of Environmental Science degree from NM Highlands University.

Veronica has more than 10 years experience in wastewater and water laboratory analysis with extensive knowledge of laboratory procedures, requirements, frequencies, and QA/QC. Her consistent attention to detail and meticulous procedures and documentation were critical in establishing and maintaining the high quality of testing now enjoyed at the Rio Rancho facilities. Ms. Montoya's involvement and active participation with the OMI laboratory

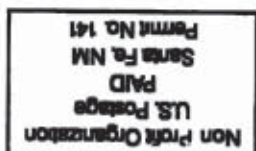


start-up team were essential to evaluating and addressing the shortfalls in procedures and techniques and have led directly to the optimized lab management in place now.

Ms. Montoya's outstanding performance is further demonstrated by her willingness and initiative to conduct tours for local citizens and students. These tours educate them on the importance of wastewater laboratory functions & how these tests determine plant performance and the subsequent beneficial effects of the treated wastewater on the environment.

NMWWA MONTHLY SECTION MEETINGS

- Southeast Section
 - ⊕ 1st Wednesday, rotating
 - ☎ Hector Alvarado, 505-347-5421
- Southwest Section
 - ⊕ 3rd Wednesday, Las Cruces
 - ☎ Lorenzo Martinez, 505-528-3601
- West Central Section
 - ⊕ 4th Wednesday, Gallup
 - ☎ Ray Espinoza, 505-863-1210
- Central Section
 - ⊕ 1st Monday, Albuquerque
 - ☎ John Kelley, 505-363-6348
- Northeast Section
 - ⊕ 2nd Monday, rotating
 - ☎ Louis Lujan, 505-753-4740
- Northwest Section
 - ⊕ 1st Thursday, rotating
 - ☎ Andrew Galloway, 505-334-8684



NM Water & Wastewater Assoc at on
P.O. Box 819
Española, NM 87532