

Public Notification for Small Utilities

Description:

Despite the efforts of water suppliers, water quality can sometimes change, & problems with drinking water can & do occur. When problems arise, consumers have a right to know what happened & what they need to do to protect themselves. The public notice requirement of the Safe Drinking Water Act requires water suppliers to provide this notice, & sets strict requirements on the form, manner, content & frequency of public notices. EPA specifies three categories, or tiers, of public notification. The delivery timeframe depends on what tier a violation or situation falls into. Each tier has different required methods for delivery.

Participants will learn:

- The 10 required elements of a public notice
- How to determine which tier your situation falls under
- Federal & state requirements pertaining to public communication & notification
- Consumer Confidence Report basics

We will be using the Go To Training (GTT) virtual platform to present this workshop. Attendees will participate through pre and post-tests, polls and interactive exercises.

Schedule

9:00 – 9:10 Introductions

9:10 – 9:20 Pre-Test

9:20 – 9:50 Background – Importance of Public Notice/ Public Information

9:50 – 10:40 Public Notice Rule

10:40 -11:20 Revised Total Coliform Rule

11:20 – 11:45 Consumer Confidence Reports

11:45 – 12:00 Post Test

Tricia Kent
RDS Environmental

Portland, Oregon

Skills

- Community outreach, training, and education
- Stakeholder relations
- Bilingual Spanish/ English at full professional proficiency
- Data collection, management, and statistical analysis
- Process improvement
- Participatory analysis
- Small grant management
- Monitoring, reporting and evaluation

Experience

Tricia Kent joined RCAC as a Rural Development Specialist (RDS) in March 2023. They provides technical, managerial, and financial assistance to small, disadvantaged community water and wastewater systems in Oregon and Washington so that they can operate sustainably and deliver quality services to the communities served. Tricia works closely with rural residents and local leaders to assist them in the development and management of water, wastewater, or solid waste systems.

Prior to joining RCAC, Ms. Kent served as an Environmental Education Volunteer with Peace Corps Mexico for four years, where they developed stakeholder relationships, delivered in person trainings and workshops, and conducted surveys and other participatory analysis tools. There, Ms. Kent also managed two small grants from USAID that centered around climate change adaptation in rural communities in southern Mexico. Tricia worked as a material engineer for two years, where they developed and improved casting, plating, and coating processes.

Education

Master of Natural Resource Management - University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska

Bachelor of Science, Material Science and Engineering - Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York