

Philip Van Atta

Agency Instructor



Mr. Philip Van Atta is an Instructor for the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX).

Prior to joining TEEX in October of 2021, Mr. Van Atta retired as Manager of the Division of Water Supply and Treatment, within the City of Dayton (Ohio) Department of Water. Mr. Van Atta was responsible for managing six 24/7/365 operations including two water treatment plants, two well fields, one Lime Recalcination Facility, and pumping operations. He also provided oversight for the Water Quality Laboratory. Mr. Van Atta started his career in public health and water treatment in 1981, working for the U.S. Public Health Service on the Flathead Reservation in northwest Montana.

Philip started with the Division of Water Supply and Treatment as a Water Bacteriologist/Chemist in 1982. His duties included laboratory analysis, sample collection, water treatment, monitoring well development, and regulatory compliance. He also served as Research and Control Specialist and Water Treatment Technical Supervisor.

Mr. Van Atta also developed and conducted training programs for employee safety for compliance with OSHA regulations, water plant operator training, and emergency response training. He also updated the division's Emergency Response Plan, and developed a Risk Management Plan for chlorine gas to comply with USEPA regulations.

Mr. Van Atta also helped develop and supervised Microbial Challenge Studies at Dayton's Miami

and Ottawa water treatment plants for compliance with Ohio EPA regulations for Ground Water Under the Influence of Surface Water. In 2008, Mr. Van Atta developed a Pandemic Continuity of Operations Plan template for water systems that is still used as a reference by U.S. EPA and others.

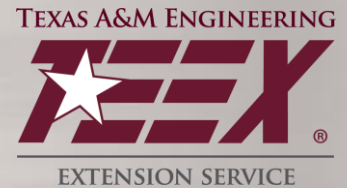
Mr. Van Atta received Best Paper Award from the American Water Works Association (AWWA) for Water System Preparedness and Best Practices for Pandemic Influenza. This was published in the January 2009 issue of the Journal AWWA. He also received Best Paper Award from the Ohio Section of the AWWA for his paper about the City of Dayton's Lime Recalcination Facility in 2014. Mr. Van Atta received the Richard Melick Training Award from the Ohio Section of the AWWA in 2011.

Philip has IC 100, 200, 300, and 400 certification and served as Incident Commander during emergencies that involved the City of Dayton Division of Water Supply and Treatment. He is a member of the Dayton Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the Ohio Medical Reserve Corp. He also volunteers as a Stream Quality Monitor for the Ohio Department of Natural Sources, and as a trail builder and monitor for Five Rivers Metro Parks in Montgomery County, Ohio. Mr. Van Atta continues to maintain his Class IV Water Operator license in the State of Ohio and continues to attend water and emergency response related training throughout each year.

TEEX makes a difference by providing training, developing practical solutions, and saving lives.

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Professional History

- Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service 2021 – Present
- City of Dayton Water Department 1982 – 2017
- U.S. Public Health Service 1981

Education and Training

- Advanced Water Treatment Operator Training Committee of Ohio
- Incident Command System Certification 100.PW (Public Works), 200, 300, 400
- B.S. Biology/Environmental Health, Wright State University, 1982
- Master of Public Health Wright State University, 2008

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