

# UPDATE

### Meetings & Events

*ORWA Fall Management Conference  
August 22-24, 2006  
Western Hills Lodge  
Wagoner, Oklahoma*

*NRWA Annual Conference  
September 24-27, 2006  
Hyatt Regency Reunion  
Dallas, Texas*

*ORWA 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Technical Conference  
April 23-25, 2007  
Marriott Southern Hills  
Tulsa, Oklahoma*

### ORWA SUBMITS COMMENTS ON EPA'S PROPOSED AFFORDABILITY AND VARIANCE TECHNOLOGIES METHODOLOGIES

Since the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments were enacted in 1996, the number of contaminants regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has risen from 83 to almost 100. The cost of complying with all of these federal mandates has been based on what is affordable for large municipalities. Small systems, which represent over 85 percent of the nation's public water supplies, are finding it increasingly difficult to meet new regulatory requirements and maintain affordable water rates.

The EPA has proposed a new policy that promises to provide some regulatory relief for small water systems. The change at EPA is in response to many years of work by the National Rural Water Association (NRWA). Several of the white papers submitted by NRWA were cited as the basis for the proposed changes and EPA has adopted many of

NRWA's recommendations on how to correct their affordability methodology.

A more realistic and reasonable approach to small system affordability is long over due. Giving small water systems alternative treatment technologies and alternative MCL's can help reduce compliance costs while still providing full health protection. ORWA along with NRWA and other state associations submitted comments supporting EPA's proposed changes in April.

The new policy would apply to the Stage 2 D/DPB Rule, LT2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule and future rules, but would not apply to the arsenic standard. Don't expect anything soon. We understand environmental groups and large municipalities oppose the proposed rules and it could take up to one year for EPA to review and finalize the policy.

### SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS MAY BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL

House Bill 2396 by Representative Marian Cooksey and Senator Clark Jolley amends the Open Records Act to allow public bodies to keep customers social security numbers confidential. Other information that may be kept confidential by public bodies that pro-

vide utility services to the public are credit information, credit card numbers, telephone numbers and bank account information for individual customers. HB 2396 was signed into law on April 7 by Governor Henry and becomes effective November 1, 2006.

### ORWA FALL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 23-25, 2006 AT WESTERN HILLS LODGE

The Oklahoma Rural Water Association's annual fall management conference will be held at scenic Western Hills Lodge again this year. A golf tournament and fishing tournament are scheduled for Wednesday, August 23. Training classes will be held all day Thursday and until noon on Friday. ORWA Associate Members will display the latest in products and services at the conference, provide prizes and

sponsor a free bar-b-que Thursday evening. Board members can satisfy their six hour training requirement by attending training sessions all day on Thursday. Additional information on the conference and registration forms are enclosed with this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you at Western Hills.

### FREE PUBLIC RELATIONS MATERIALS AVAILABLE

In connection with the Rural Water Public Relations Campaign, ORWA developed and printed public relations and promotional materials last year, which were made available to systems at a nominal cost. Requests for these materials has been less than expected, so the ORWA Board has authorized distribution of the public relations materials free of charge to systems that contributed to the public relations campaign. Materials include posters, brochures, etc. To order your free PR materials contact the ORWA office at (405) 672-8925. This free offer is limited to existing supplies and is on a first-come, first-served basis.





For emergency calls after office hours, nights, weekends and holidays, contact Gene Whatley at 405/794-0841



### ORWA ANNUAL MEETING AND TECHNICAL CONFERENCE



*Congressman Ernest Istook addresses ORWA members at the opening session of the 36th Annual Conference in Oklahoma City.*

The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Technical Conference of the Oklahoma Rural Water Association held April 17-19, 2006 at the Clarion Meridian Convention Center in Oklahoma City was a great success. It was our best attended meeting to date, with 670 rural water officials, associate members, agency representatives, legislators and other guests registered for the conference. We would like to express our appreciation to our instructors, associates

and everyone who attended for their assistance and participation. Mark your calendars now. Next years ORWA Annual Meeting will be held April 23-25, 2007 at the Marriott Southern Hills in Tulsa.

### RURAL WATER RALLY

This years Rural Water Rally was held April 2-4, in Washington, D.C. Attending the Rally from Oklahoma were: Wallace and Doris Lee Howard, Bill and Jackie Porter, Bill and Bonnie Sims, Willie Bridgeman, Jimmy Seago, Bob Chase, Charles and Carolyn Lewis, Ronnie and Donna Hartin, Jerry and Loyce Eldridge, Wendyl and Patsy Parrish, Sam and Charolette Goodwin, Donnie and Marcia Huffman, Boyd and Nelwyn Hughes, James Gammill and Gene Whatley. Rally participants visited with congressional members and/or their staff to promote support for rural water funding initiatives. All of Oklahoma's congressional delegation committed to sign a delegation letter supporting funding for the Rural Development Rural Water Loan and Grant Program and rural water training, technical assistance, wellhead protection and source water protection programs. Senator James Inhofe initiated a dear colleague letter in the Senate asking the appropriations subcommittees to fund these important programs. Our appreciation to everyone who participated and helped make this years Rally a success.

### NRWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The National Rural Water Association (NRWA) 2006 Annual Conference and Technology Exhibit is scheduled for September 24-27, 2006 at the Hyatt Regency Reunion, 300 Reunion Boulevard, Dallas, Texas. Toll-free Reservations: 800-233-1234. Rate: \$153.00 single/double. The over flow hotel is the Hotel Lawrence Dallas, 302 South Houston Street, phone 877-396-0334. Rate: \$149.00 single/double. A one-night non-refundable deposit is required for each and every reservation. When making reservations, please let the hotel know that you are with the National Rural Water Association. For more information and to register for the conference contact NRWA at (580) 252-0629 or go on-line at [www.nrwa.org](http://www.nrwa.org).

ORWA members that serve less than 400 connections are eligible for a free registration to the national conference. For details, contact ORWA at (405) 672-8925.

### TEMPLATES AVAILABLE TO ASSIST WITH STAGE 2 COMPLIANCE

The National Rural Water Association has developed a compliance checklist to help systems comply with the Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE) requirement of the Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts Rule. The checklist significantly simplifies the IDSE component of the Stage 2 Rule. Templates are available from ORWA Circuit Riders, or can be requested from the ORWA office. When requesting a template please indicate whether you are a water treatment system or a purchase water system.

### CITY OF WICHITA INTERNET ONLY ONLINE AUCTION VEHICLE, EQUIPMENT, WATER METERS AND TOOLS TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2006, 10:00 A.M. CDT

[www.purplewave.com](http://www.purplewave.com)

INCLUDES: Autos, pick-ups, vans, tractor, loader, paint booth, propane systems, mobile water tank, water meters, equipment and tools. All items will be offered on an "AS IS" "WHERE IS" basis without warranty or guarantee of any kind, either expressed or implied. For an item listing with pictures, or to place bids, visit [www.purplewave.com](http://www.purplewave.com).