



2015 BOSC Review

## Examples of Communications and Outreach Activities Providing Current Information and Training

### Webinars

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#### ❖ **Safe and Sustainable Water Resources Research Monthly Webinar Series**

ORD is hosting monthly webinars to share information on its SSWR Research Program. This webinar series allows ORD to communicate current SSWR research to EPA's program offices and Regions, while also reaching out to stakeholders across the Nation. Although this webinar series typically features SSWR Research Program scientists, some of the webinars include presentations from outside partners and partners in the Regions. To-date (Jan 2015-July 2015), the webinar series has attracted over 1,237 attendees from across the Nation.

*Webinar schedule and registration:*

<http://www2.epa.gov/water-research/2015-water-research-webinar-series>

#### ❖ **Small Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems Monthly Webinar Series**

As part of our small systems outreach efforts, the Office of Research and Development's (ORD) SSWR Research Program and the Office of Water (OW) are hosting a 2015 collaborative monthly webinar series, *Challenges and Treatment Solutions for Small Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems*, which is providing information and training to hundreds of state and local agency personnel across the Nation. This webinar series is providing a forum for EPA to communicate current small systems research in concert with Agency priorities directly to state personnel, EPA Regions, and other drinking water and wastewater small systems professionals. This allows ORD and OW to provide training and foster collaboration and dissemination of information, which, in turn, will help state and local agencies communicate current information to their small systems. To-date (Jan 2015-July 2015), the webinar series has attracted over 4,800 attendees from across the Nation, 54% of which were state personnel, and has provided over 1,800 continuing education contact hour certificates.

*Webinar schedule, registration, and past recordings:*

<http://www2.epa.gov/water-research/2015-small-systems-webinar-series>

## Workshops

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### ❖ Annual Workshop for Small Drinking Water Systems

This workshop is a collaborative effort between EPA's ORD and OW, in cooperation with the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA). ORD hosted the first workshop in 2004 to assist state field staff working with small systems. Four years later the workshop was expanded to include the collaboration with OW and ASDWA. Today, the annual workshop is open to the public and offers in-depth training and information for handling small drinking water systems problems and compliance challenges. It is held on an annual basis in August or September in Cincinnati, OH, and is primarily designed for state personnel responsible for drinking water regulations compliance and treatment technologies permitting. The workshop typically attracts over 200 attendees from over 40 states, including attendees from state, federal, and local agencies, academia, consultants, NGOs, and others.

*12th Annual U.S. EPA Drinking Water Workshop (August 25-27):*

<http://www2.epa.gov/research/12th-annual-us-epa-drinking-water-workshop-small-drinking-water-systems-challenges-and>

### ❖ Water Sensor Workshop

A concerted effort is underway by ORD, OW, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, and the Regions to identify EPA's priorities and requirements for monitoring nutrients and micro-organisms in water. EPA's water sensor working group has identified priority nutrient monitoring and measurement needs and has developed nutrient sensor requirements to meet these needs, which will be further refined at the workshop. Sensor requirements for micro-organisms are in an earlier stage of development and thus will benefit from discussion of key user needs, the state of technology and preliminary general requirements. The goal of this workshop is to develop a unified vision for water sensor uses; finalize specific water sensor requirements for N and P; propose sensor requirements for micro-organisms; and lay the groundwork to plan EPA's development and use of sensor technology to accelerate sensor deployment for improved effectiveness and efficiency of EPA's water programs. It will bring together EPA, key federal partners, and invited experts from the sensor development and user communities to discuss EPA's requirements for water sensors; ground-truth and validate these requirements with the user and sensor development communities; and refine the requirements based on input from workshop participants. The workshop does not have a firm date, but will take place sometime in Mid-October 2015.

### ❖ Water Technology Innovation Cluster Innovation Showcase

EPA hosted the 2014 Technology Innovation Showcase to display drinking water treatment technologies. The showcase offered hands-on demonstrations of cutting-edge water technologies, and provided information to participants on how they can work with EPA to design, develop and demonstrate their innovative solutions to water challenges. Panel discussions highlighted the afternoon Technology Transfer and Collaboration Seminar. Notable guests included Vice Mayor David Mann (Cincinnati, OH) and Mayor Sherry Carran (Covington, KY). Approximately 300 representatives from business, government, utilities, universities, economic development organizations and the financial community attended.

## Workgroups

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### ❖ **Small Drinking Water Systems Technical Communications Workgroup**

This workgroup, led by ORD, was formed during the 2011 Annual Small Drinking Water Systems Workshop to focus on targeted communication efforts between ORD/OW and the states, taking into account the different needs of the operators. The workgroup is led by ORD, and includes EPA staff and representatives from 17 States, including regulatory agencies, representatives from water utilities, and plumbing contractors. The first outcome of the workgroup was the development of the communications document designed to assist utilities and consumers with identification of lead-free certified drinking water system and plumbing materials. The document is a highly successful communications tool having over 15,000 downloads from EPA's website.

*Communications tool:* <http://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi?Dockey=P100LVYK.txt>

### ❖ **EPA Water Sensor Working Group**

### ❖ **OW Regulation Workgroups**

### ❖ **Energy-Water Workgroup**

## Quarterly Science Meetings

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### ❖ **Chautauqua with Internal Partners**

Sharing of information face-to-face with OW on selected SSWR research topics. Past topics include the development and assessment of next generation water services, research updates on CECs, health effect of microbial contaminants and DBPs, and nanotechnology.

### ❖ **EPA-USGS Collaborative Research Meeting**

The goal of this meeting is to leverage current EPA and USGS research to further develop collaborative efforts. The meeting provides a forum for EPA and USGS to share updates on research activities for a given topic and discuss plans for future studies.

## Newsletters

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### ❖ **SSWR Internal Highlight Newsletters**

Each week, the SSWR Research Program distributes program highlights to ORD staff to keep them informed of current research and communications activities. At the end of each month, highlights are compiled and sent partners in OW and the Regions.

### ❖ **Science Matters External Newsletters**

EPA-wide, online newsletter that publishes articles on research the Agency is conducting. The newsletter also includes profiles on the EPA scientists conducting the research. The SSWR Research Program contributes articles to the newsletter as an external outreach effort.

*Science Matters:* <http://www2.epa.gov/sciencematters>