

The Water Spout

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Drinking Water

Volume XXXI “*SAFE DRINKING WATER IS WHAT WE SPOUT ABOUT*” February, 2019

After the Interim - Sue Dempsey is Drinking Water Program Administrator

By Michael Wentink; Field Services and Training

Effective on October 1, 2018, Sue Dempsey is the Administrator of the Nebraska Drinking Water Program. Sue brings to the program more than 25 years of vast public health expertise from her prior role as State Risk Assessor and Toxicologist for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). That work entailed assisting the public, local health departments, DHHS, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and other agencies in addressing both human and ecological health risks associated with contaminant exposure.

Sue also serves as a member of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (SACC). Members of the SACC are appointed by the Administrator of the EPA, and provide independent advice to the EPA on science and technical aspects of risk assessment, methodologies, and pollution prevention measures and approaches for regulated chemicals.

The Drinking Water Program has undergone some personnel shifts / changes during the last six months. The current personnel and responsibilities are listed on pages 2 and 3 of this edition.

As a Reminder

The DHHS Drinking Water Program physical mailing address is:

Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services
Division of Drinking Water
1200 N Street, Suite 400
P.O. Box 98922
Lincoln, NE 68509-8922

Water Operator License Wallet Cards

As established policy during the last couple of years, Nebraska DHHS Licensure Unit will not mail wallet cards to operators following initial issuance, or subsequent renewal, of their water operator licenses. License holders can go to the Nebraska DHHS license search webpage and generate a license wallet card. Go to:

<http://www.nebraska.gov/LISSearch/search.cgi> .

Select “Individual Search,” then type the information requested; usually the last name, license number and selection of “water operator” in the profession dropdown box is sufficient. Click on “Search Individuals.” Click on your name and the page with the license details will appear. A green button to generate a wallet card will be located at both the top and bottom of that page. Click on either button and print the wallet card.

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Editor: Michael Wentink

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Website address:

www.dhhs.ne.gov/DrinkingWater

Main phone number: (402) 471-2541
24-hour Emergency Phone: (402) 499-6922

Drinking Water Division

Sue Dempsey, Administrator – office: 402.471.0510 / cell: 402.417.9028 / sue.dempsey@nebraska.gov
Janell Miller, Administrative Assistant 402.471.6435 / janell.miller@nebraska.gov

Monitoring and Compliance

Justin Nelsen, Program Manager – office: 402.471.0930 / cell: 402.531.207.2769 / justin.nelsen@nebraska.gov
Lori Hoemann, Staff Assistant – 402.471.0525 / lori.hoemann@nebraska.gov
Dawn McFarland, Staff Assistant – 402.471.2713 / dawn.mcfarland@nebraska.gov

Elizabeth Esseks Lincoln Office	Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR), Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR), Interim Enhanced SWTR, LT1/LT2 ESWTR and Filter Backwash Rule, <i>GWR Back-up</i>	402.471.1010 elizabeth.esseks@nebraska.gov
Vacant Lincoln Office	Nitrate, Synthetic Organic Chemical (SOC)	402.471.0172
Zidarta "Z" Winfrey Lincoln Office	Lead & Copper Rule (LCR), Fluoridation and Public Notification Rule (PNR), <i>SOC Back-up and Nitrate Back-up</i>	402.471.1008 zidarta.winfrey@nebraska.gov
David Fox Lincoln Office	Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS) and Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR)	402.471.0785 david.fox@nebraska.gov
Vacant Lincoln Office	Volatile Organic Chemical (VOC), Radon, Radionuclide Rules, Inorganic Chemical (IOC), Arsenic and Asbestos, <i>Lead and Copper and Nitrate Back-up</i>	402.471.1009
Mary Poe Lincoln Office	Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rules (D/DBP), Ground Water Rule (GWR) and Unregulated Contaminant Rule (UCMR4), <i>RTCR Back-up and SDWIS Back-up</i>	402.471.1003 mary.poe@nebraska.gov

Engineering Services

Chin Chew, Program Manager – office: 402.471.0522 / cell: 402.416.2366 / chin.chew@nebraska.gov
Vacant, Staff Assistant – office: 402.471.0597

Vince Kuppig Lincoln Office	Plan Review, Engineering Reports, Regulation Development, Design Memorandums, Inspections, O & M Manuals	402.471.1004 vince.kuppig@nebraska.gov
Steve Jillson Lincoln Office	Plan Review, Engineering Reports, Regulation Development, Design Memorandums, Inspections, O & M Manuals, Swimming Pools	402.471.6448 steve.jillson@nebraska.gov
Cyril Martinmaas Lincoln Office	Plan Review, Engineering Reports, Regulation Development, MHP Issues, Inspections, Design Memorandums, Well Site Evaluation & Encroachment Issues, O & M Manuals	402.471.0513 cyril.martinmaas@nebraska.gov
Steve McNulty Lincoln Office	Plan Review, Engineering Reports, Regulation Development, Design Memorandums, Inspections, O & M Manuals, DWSRF, WWAC	402.471.1006 steve.mcnulty@nebraska.gov
Steve Rowell Lincoln Office	Plan Review, Engineering Reports, Regulation Development, Design Memorandums, Inspections, O & M Manuals, WWAC, DWSRF, MHP issues	402.471.6347 steve.j.rowell@nebraska.gov
Kyle Tillinghast Lincoln Office	Plan Review, Engineering Reports, Regulation Development, Design Memorandums, Inspections, O & M Manuals, Three-Year Systems	402.471.0931 kyle.tillinghast@nebraska.gov



Field Services / Training / Emergency Response and Water System Security
Andy Kahle, Program Manager – office: 402.471.0521 / cell: 402.432.4692 / andy.kahle@nebraska.gov
Vacant, Staff Assistant – office: 402.471.0523
24 - Hour Emergency Contact Phone: 402.499.6922

Greg Brekel Lincoln Office	(Field Service Area 1) Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson	Office: 402.471.0519 Cell: 402.219.1079 greg.brekel@nebraska.gov
Tim Thares 597 Grant St. Ste. 100 Blair, NE 68008-2544	(Field Service Area 2) Cass, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy, Saunders, Washington	Office: 402.426.9655 Cell: 402.679.7214 tim.thares@nebraska.gov
Rich Koenig 209 N 5 th St. Norfolk, NE 68701	(Field Service Area 3) Burt, Cedar, Colfax, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Knox, Madison, Pierce, Stanton, Thurston, Wayne	Cell: 402.649.6243 rich.koenig@nebraska.gov
Bob Byrkit P.O. Box 33 Nelson, NE 68961	(Field Service Area 4) Butler, Clay, Fillmore, Hamilton, Merrick, Nuckolls, Polk, Saline, Seward, Thayer, York	Cell: 402.432.4831 bob.byrkit@nebraska.gov
Ralph Naber 208 N Pine St. Grand Island, NE 68801-5926	(Field Service Area 5) Adams, Buffalo, Dawson (Johnson Lake Area), Franklin, Gosper, Hall, Harlan, Kearney, Phelps, Webster	Cell: 308.390.2071 ralph.naber@nebraska.gov
David Jundt 209 N 5 th St. Norfolk, NE 68701	(Field Service Area 6) Antelope, Blaine, Boone, Boyd, Brown, Garfield, Greeley, Holt, Howard, Keya Paha, Loup, Nance, Platte, Rock, Sherman, Valley, Wheeler	Cell: 402.750.0967 david.jundt@nebraska.gov
Tony Martinez 200 S. Silber North Platte, NE 69101	(Field Service Area 7) Chase, Custer, Dawson, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Lincoln, Perkins, Red Willow	Cell: 308.530.4651 tony.martinez@nebraska.gov
Doug Woodbeck 1033 E 3 rd St, P.O. Box 310 Chadron, NE 69337-2491	(Field Service Area 8) Arthur, Banner, Box Butte, Cherry, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Grant, Hooker, Kimball, Logan, McPherson, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, Sioux, Thomas	Cell: 308.763.8926 doug.woodbeck@nebraska.gov
Mike Wentink 200 S Silber North Platte, NE 69101	Water Operator Training and Certification	Office: 308.535.8135 Cell: 308.530.3930 mike.wentink@nebraska.gov
Shelley Rekte Lincoln Office	Capacity Development/Water System Security	Office: 402.471.0088 Cell: 402.326.4954 shelley.rekte@nebraska.gov

Nebraska Public Health Environmental Lab

Mary Boden, Lab Manager – 402.471.8441 / mary.boden@nebraska.gov

Main Lab Attendant	402.471.2122	Drinking Water Results	402.471.8449
Customer Service – Order Sample Kit(s), Inquire About Status of Sample(s)	402.471.3935	Billing Questions	402.471.2839 <u>or</u> 402.471.8441

REGULATORY UPDATE

Drinking Water Reminders

By Justin Nelsen, Monitoring and Compliance

Being part of the Drinking Water Program over the past 9 years has proven one thing: just when you think you have it figured out....you don't! Things get lost, people get new jobs, and retirements occur, resulting in a loss of institutional knowledge. Many things can happen that can cause items to fall through the cracks, so here is a list of reminders, tips, and useful resources for our friends in the field.

Emergency Contact List and Sample Site Plans

These can be found online at
http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/enh_pwsindex.aspx

Reminder: Emergency Contact Lists are **due ANNUALLY** by the end of February.

Lead and Copper Reminders

- Systems must provide written justification for sample site choices in order to facilitate use of Tier 1 sites. If a system changes sample site from previously approved site the new site must also be justified in writing.
- Systems with exceedance in Lead and/or Copper must start the Optimal Corrosion Control Treatment (OCCT) schedule. A pause of the OCCT schedule will only apply to systems that have not had an exceedance in past 10 years.
- Failure to collect requested number of samples before deadline will result in a violation.
- Failure to provide educational materials and sample results to public will result in a violation.
- Failure to meet OCCT deadlines will result in a violation.
- All violations must be listed on Consumer Confidence Report (CCR).
- There are new forms and new sample directions coming your way for Lead and Copper.

Public Notice Reminders

- Public Notice Rule (PNR) requires **BOTH** a certification of completion **AND** a copy of what was posted and/or distributed be submitted to the Drinking Water Program.
- Failure to provide certification and copy of public notice will result in a violation.

Staff Changes

They are occurring here in Lincoln but I wanted to give you our latest information:

Drinking Water Administrator – Sue Dempsey; 402-471-0510

Monitoring and Compliance Manager – Justin Nelsen;
402-471-0930

Total Coliform, Surface Water Treatment – Elizabeth Esseks;
402-471-1010

Lead & Copper, Public Notice, Fluoride, Nitrate – Z Winfrey;
402-471-1008

DBP, Groundwater – Mary Poe; 402-471-1003

VOC, SOC, IOC, Radionuclides, Arsenic – Justin Nelsen;
402-471-0930

We want to hear how we are doing so please call Justin Nelsen at 402-471-0930 with feedback on how we can better serve you!

The Chips in the Flint Michigan Game

The chips are beginning to fall in the Flint Michigan lead episode after a lengthy timespan of finger pointing and sorting out the facts. Two articles below represent a small portion that may have been sorted out thus far. There will likely be more to come.

<http://www.michiganradio.org/post/officials-charged-flint-water-crisis-back-court-week-2-years-after-first-indictments>

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/midwest/ct-flint-water-scandal-plea-deals-20181226-story.html>

Title 179 Latest Revision Dates of Regulations

NAC

2-001	November 15, 2003
2-002	March 22, 2016
2-015	September 22, 1999
3	March 22, 2016
4	March 22, 2016
5	December 22, 2012
6	March 22, 2016
7	April 4, 2010
8	March 22, 2016
9	March 22, 2004
10	June 21, 2011
11	November 15, 2003
12	December 22, 2012
13	March 22, 2016
14	March 22, 2016
16	March 22, 2016
17	November 13, 2005
18	November 15, 2003
19	November 13, 2005
21	March 22, 2004
22	March 22, 2004
23	June 11, 2013
24	June 11, 2013
25	June 11, 2013
26	March 22, 2016

These regulations can be viewed at:
http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/reg_t179.aspx

Proper Data Entry for Reports and Records

By Elizabeth Esseks, Monitoring and Compliance

Every water operator has to fill out records and reports to submit to the Department at some point during the work day. Below are several reminders about good recordkeeping and reporting to make your task as painless as possible, **AND** to ensure that the data you are reporting is legally defensible.

1. Be sure that all data entry is in ink.
2. If you need to change an entry:
 - a. Make a single line through the original entry so the original entry is still readable. Write the correct entry as close to the lined-through entry as possible, and write your initials and the date when the entry was changed.
 - b. If you need to make many changes, consider submitting a second data sheet or another sheet of paper with the correct data and an explanation of why the changes were made.
3. The following alterations of original data entries **are NOT acceptable**:
 - a. "Whiting out" the original entry;
 - b. Writing the new entry over the original entry so that the original entry is no longer readable;
 - c. Crossing out the original entry so that it is no longer readable.
4. Be sure to sign or initial the form as required.
5. Keep a copy for your records of any paperwork you submit to the Department.
6. If you have questions about how to fill out a compliance report or how to record operations and maintenance data, please call your field representative or a staff person in Lincoln for help.

[This information was summarized from *Manual for the Certification of Laboratories Analyzing Drinking Water – Criteria and Procedures*; USEPA, March 1997]



Q & A from the Lab

By Mary Boden, Manager

Nebraska Public Health Environmental Laboratory

What samples do I take this month? Do I have the kits?

It is **YOUR** responsibility to contact the laboratory or the appropriate Monitoring and Compliance Rule Manager for any kits not received per the **Sample Schedule** (part of the annual mailing). If you have not received your kit from NPHEL, your field area rep can check to see if you are on the overdue account list.

I ordered special sample kits? Did I get them?

It is **YOUR** responsibility to confirm that you received all special kits ordered from the lab. If you do not receive them, please call our customer service at 402-471-3935. USPS has been fairly slow, so be patient.



Per the Laboratory's 90 Day Unused Kit Rule, we will charge for the cost of the kit plus the postage it took to send to you for any kits **not** returned to the lab after 90 days.

Water Operator Grades I - IV and VI Continuing Education – 2019

Please contact the appropriate organization at the phone number provided for further information regarding these scheduled training activities.

For additional upcoming training events, visit <http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Documents/TrainingSchedule.pdf>

			HOURS AVAILABLE FOR GRADE						
DATE	LOCATION	TOPIC(S)	I	II	III	IV	VI	CONTACT	PHONE
February 5	Nebraska City	Backflow	5	5	5	5	5	NeRWA	402-443-5216
February 5	Norfolk	Water	5	5	5	5	0	LoNM/AWWA	402-476-2829
February 6	Blair	Water	5	5	5	5	0	LoNM/AWWA	402-476-2829
February 7	Beatrice	Water	5	5	5	5	0	LoNM/AWWA	402-476-2829
February 7	Stanton	Backflow	5	5	5	5	5	NeRWA	402-443-5216
February 12	Norfolk	Water	3	3	3	3	0	DHHS DPH	402-471-0523
February 13	Wahoo	Wastewater	1	1	1	1	0	NeRWA	402-443-5216
February 28	Lexington	Backflow	0	0	0	0	5	TBR	888-305-5292
March 5	Sidney	Water	5	5	5	5	0	LoNM/AWWA	402-476-2829
March 6	North Platte	Water	5	5	5	5	0	LoNM/AWWA	402-476-2829
March 6	Kearney	Backflow	7	7	7	7	6	Reg. 12 ABPA	308-535-6740
March 7	McCook	Water	5	5	5	5	0	LoNM/AWWA	402-476-2829
March 7	Norfolk	Water	5	5	5	5	0	CCC	877-222-0780
March 11–13	Kearney	Spring Conf.	14	14	14	14	5	NeRWA	402-443-5216
March 26	North Platte	Water	3	3	3	3	0	DHHS DPH	402-471-0523
April 4	Kearney	Backflow	5	5	5	5	5	CCC	877-222-0780
April 9	Bridgeport	Water	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	NeRWA	402-443-5216
April 9	Lincoln	Backflow	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	E. NE ABPA	402-570-6690
April 10	Lesington	Water	5	5	5	5	0	LoNM/AWWA	402-476-2829
April 11	Ord	Water	5	5	5	5	0	LoNM/AWWA	402-476-2829
April 16	Cairo	Backflow	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	NeRWA	402-443-5216
April 18	Wymore	Backflow	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	NeRWA	402-443-5216
April 24	Wahoo	Backflow	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	NeRWA	402-443-5216
May 7	Emerson	Water	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	NeRWA	402-443-5216
May 8	Valentine	Backflow	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	NeRWA	402-443-5216
May 15	Ashland	Water	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	AWWA	402-441-1622
May 21	Beatrice	Water	3	3	3	3	0	DHHS DPH	402-471-0523
June 12	Sutton	Water	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	NeRWA	402-443-5216

TBA – Hours not assigned at time of printing

TBR – Total Backflow Resources, Salix Iowa

NeRWA – Nebraska Rural Water Association, Wahoo

LoNM – League of Nebraska Municipalities, Lincoln

AWWA – Nebraska Section American Water Works Association

CCC – Central Community College, Grand Island (When calling the 877 number, select extension #7527, or call 308 - 398 -7527.)

Reg. 12 ABPA—Region 12 of the American Backflow Prevention Association (When dialing the 308-535-6740 number, select extension 3124.)

DHHS – Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health

E. NE ABPA – Eastern Nebraska Chapter of Region 12 American Backflow Prevention Association

RTCR MCL VIOLATIONS

TC+ = Total coliform-positive or present; **TC-** = Total coliform-negative or absent
EC+ = *E. coli*-positive or present; **EC-** = *E. coli*-negative or absent

If Routine Sample Is	And	Any Repeat Sample Is:	Action: What do your sample results mean?	Violation
TC+ EC-	&	TC+ EC-	The presence of total coliform bacteria in both the original routine sample and in the follow-up repeat sample suggests there could be a problem and the water may not be safe to use. 1. Conduct a Level 1 or Level 2 assessment. The Department will tell the system which type of assessment is required.	No MCL violation
TC+ EC-	&	TC+ EC+	The presence of <i>E. coli</i> bacteria in the system's water is an indicator of fecal contamination and your water may not be safe to use. The Department will consult with the system. 1. Issue a Public Notice (PN) within 24 hours. 2. Conduct a Level 2 assessment within 30 days.	E. coli MCL violation*
TC+ EC-	&	Any or all repeat samples missing	The presence of total coliform bacteria in the original routine sample suggests there could be a problem, and because repeat samples were not tested, it is unknown whether or not the water is safe to use. 1. Conduct a Level 1 or Level 2 assessment.	No MCL violation
TC+ EC+	&	TC+	The presence of <i>E. coli</i> bacteria in the water is an indicator of fecal contamination and the water may not be safe to use. The Department will consult with the system. 1. Issue a PN within 24 hours. 2. Conduct a Level 2 assessment within 30 days.	E. coli MCL violation*
TC+ EC+	&	Any or all repeat samples missing	The presence of <i>E. coli</i> bacteria in the water is an indicator of fecal contamination and the water may not be safe to use. The Department will consult with the system. 1. Issue a PN within 24 hours 2. Conduct a Level 2 assessment within 30 days.	E. coli MCL violation*

NOTE:

* A system is required to provide Tier 1 public notice within 24 hours of the Department's notification and consultation in response to an *E. coli* MCL violation. For more information, visit our website at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/drinkingwater> or contact Elizabeth Esseks at 402-471-1010.

Water Operator Courses - 2019

Register Early!
Registration required prior to the class.
(Seating is limited)
 Call DHHS at (402) 471-0523.
 The course registration form for grades I – IV
 water operator training courses is available at
www.dhhs.ne.gov/DrinkingWater.

PWS Regulation Review

Encouraged for Grade IV Scheduled Course Attendees
Open to all; 3 hours of continuing education available for water operator grades I – IV.
 Begins at 1:00 P.M. on the afternoon prior to the scheduled two-day Grade IV course

March 26	North Platte
May 21	Beatrice
July 16	Scottsbluff
September 4	Fremont
December 3	Grand Island

Grade IV

Cost is \$80.00 for the class and \$180.00 for the two textbooks if needed.

March 27 - 28	North Platte
May 22 - 23	Beatrice
July 17 - 18	Scottsbluff
September 5 - 6	Fremont
December 4 - 5	Grand Island

Grade III

Cost is \$200.00 for the class and \$180.00 for the two textbooks if needed.

April 15 - 19	Grand Island
October 7 - 11	Beatrice

Grade I & II

Cost is \$200.00 for the class and \$139.00 for the two textbooks if needed.

February 25 - March 1	Blair
August 13 - 17	Grand Island

Grade VI Training Courses

Note – To obtain additional information on the **Grade VI** (backflow) courses below, please contact the identified training provider.

February 25 - March 1 **Lexington**
 Contact Total Backflow Resources at (888) 305-5292 or (712) 946-1012.

Note: You may also register for future TBR classes at <http://www.totalbackflow.com/agenda.html>.

April 8 -12 **Wahoo**
 Contact the Nebraska Rural Water Association at (800) 842-8039 or (402) 443-5216.

Note: You may also register for future NeRWA classes at <http://www.nerwa.org/trainc.htm>.

October 7 - March 11 **Wahoo**
 Contact the Nebraska Rural Water Association at (800) 842-8039 or (402) 443-5216.

Note: You may also register for future NeRWA classes at <http://www.nerwa.org/trainc.htm>.

2019 Training Calendar and Continuing Education Hours

The 2019 Coalition Training Calendar is posted on the Nebraska Public Water Supply Program webpage. As typical for each year, training providers offer many continuing education events for 2019 in many locations across the State. There are ample opportunities to obtain the continuing education hours needed for renewal of a water operator license.

Also posted on the Program webpage are two lists of continuing education hours obtained by licensed water operators during the 2018 - 2019 license period. One list is identified as water operator license grades I - IV. The second list is for water operator license grade VI (backflow preventer testing and repair).

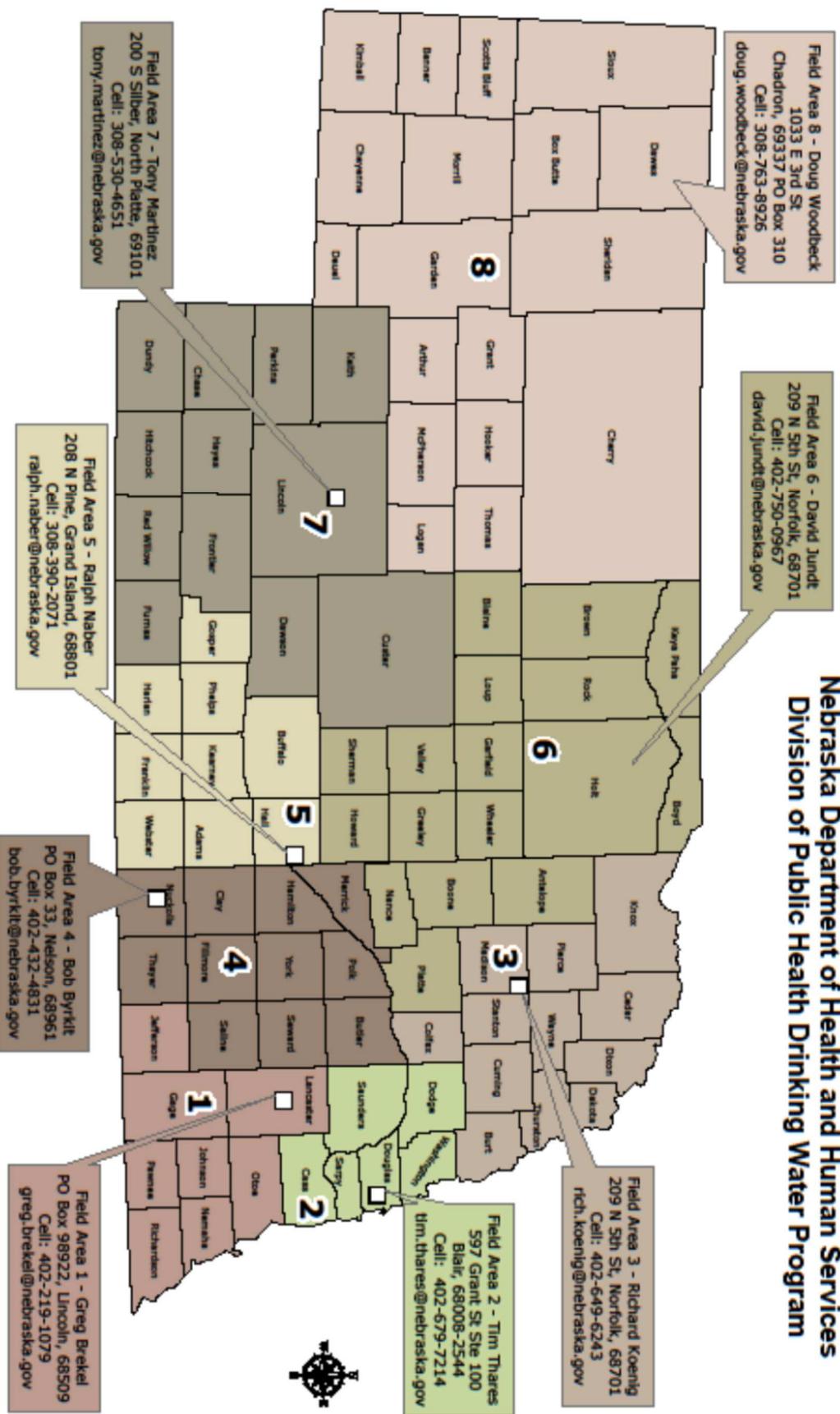
The hours recorded on those two lists are a snapshot in time. Information from the training providers for recording those hours, is not submitted to DHHS in chronological order relative to the occurrence of training events. Some attendance lists are received immediately after an event, and some received after completion of a series of training events. The water operator must maintain a record of continuing education obtained.

On these two lists you will find a column with the license number, water operator grade level (**important - some license numbers are duplicate and were issued for more than one license grade level**), the hours recorded, and total hours needed to renew the water operator license (will be 10, 5 or 0).

The Coalition Training Calendar, and recorded continuing education hours can be found on Public Water Supply Program webpage at:

www.dhhs.ne.gov/DrinkingWater.

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health Drinking Water Program



Legend

- Field Service Area Office
- County outline
- Field Area 1
- Field Area 2
- Field Area 3
- Field Area 4
- Field Area 5
- Field Area 6
- Field Area 7
- Field Area 8

PWS Field Service Areas

Andy Talle - Field Services Manager
Cell: 402-471-4031
OFR: 402-432-4032
andy.talle@nebraska.gov

Map created by
Public Health GIS Analyst
Revised: 6/18