

# SOUTH DAKOTA RURAL WATER'S

# Quality On Tap!

October 2015 | Volume 11, Issue 2

## What is SCADA?

## Water Operator Workforce Crisis

## YOUR MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT

## System Spotlight Bear Butte Valley Water

1880 Town - Midland, SD

Leadership Agenda | Calendar of Events | SDARWS Membership Benefits

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Ron Gillen, President  
South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems



Now that fall is upon us, we are gearing up for our Annual Leadership Conference which will be held at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Pierre November 18-19th. The cost to attend Leadership is \$125 and tentatively features informational sessions on water rates, asset management, sustainability, financing, and director and manager panels.

This training is great for Rural Water System Directors and Board Members. If you haven't attended a leadership training in the past, I highly suggest you register to attend this one. Registration for this event is available on our website at [www.sdarws.com](http://www.sdarws.com), or on our online class registration site at: [go.activecalendar.com/sdarws/event/leadership](http://go.activecalendar.com/sdarws/event/leadership). The tentative agenda is below:

## Wednesday – November 18, 2015

- 1:00** Welcome – Ron Gillen, President (SDARWS)  
Flag Presentation – Nick Jackson (SDARWS)  
National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance
- 1:15** Manager Panel Discussion: Technology and the Board Room
- Steve Harper (WEB)
  - Kurt Pfeifle (Mid-Dakota)
  - Jake Fitzgerald (WRLJ)
- 2:00** Sustainable Water Systems
- Dennis N. Davis (SDARWS)
  - Dave Meyerink (Randall)
  - Glen Gilbertson (Clay)
  - Jack Tomac (Rapid Valley)
  - Lloyd Rave (MCWC)
  - Ron Gillen (Aurora-Brule)
- 3:15** Break
- 3:30** Rouge Board Members and Board Do's and Don'ts – Margo Northrup (Riter, Rogers, Wattier, & Northrup, LLP)
- 5:30** President's Reception
- 6:00** Dinner w/ Guest Speaker – Lucas Lentsch, South Dakota Secretary of Agriculture

## Thursday – November 19, 2015

- 8:00** Water Rates and Asset Management – Delvin DeBoer (AE2S)
- 9:00** Break
- 9:15** Financial Reports Explained – Dan Harrington (Harrington & Assoc.)
- 10:00** Break
- 10:30** Board Panel:
- Choosing AMR – Dan Carlson (Big Sioux)
  - Addressing Aging Infrastructure – Dale Thompson (Kingbrook)
  - Serving Large Users – Doug Feten (Brookings-Deuel)
  - Board's role in recruiting & retaining good employees – Mike Neuharth (WEB)
- 11:30** Rural Water Financing – Mike Perkovich, Water and Waste Funding Program Administrator (DENR) and Pat Hemen, Community Program Specialist (Rural Development)
- 12:00** Closing Comments – Ron Gillen, President (SDARWS)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Aurora-Brule Rural Water System**  
Ron Gillen, President

**Kingbrook Rural Water System**  
Dale Thompson, Vice President

**Sioux Rural Water System**  
Jim Thyen, Secretary

**Grant-Roberts Rural Water System**  
Tom Frogner, Treasurer

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**Davison Rural Water System**  
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**Fall River Water User District**  
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Willard Clifford

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**Randall Community Water District**  
Tom Travis

**Rapid Valley Sanitary District/Water Service**  
Jack Tomac

**TM Rural Water District**  
Jay Jorgensen

**Tri-County/Mni Wasté Water Association**  
J.R. Holloway

**Tripp County Water User District**  
Louis Kehn

**WEB Water Development Association**  
Mike Neuharth

**West River/Lyman-Jones Rural Water System**  
Rick Dou

**Class B East River**  
Fred Snoderly

**Class B West River**  
Brad Lawrence

**Class C**  
Francis Toscana



# SDARWS HAS A NEW WEBSITE!

The South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems is excited to announce that after months of development and design, we have a brand new website! Our main goals for the new [sdarws.com](http://sdarws.com) were to make it faster, easier to navigate, and easier for us to update – so that we can share our news and events with you as soon as possible. Most of all, we wanted to help you, our members, get to know us better and make life easier for you. In addition to the updated design and layout, we have also increased functionality to make visiting the site a more friendly experience. By browsing the site, we think you'll get a pretty good idea of who we are, what we do and more importantly see the benefit of being a member of South Dakota Rural Water.

## Website Highlights

- Find up-to-date contact information for SDARWS Board Members and Staff
- Use the interactive Rural Water System map to find contact information for each system
- Keep up to date on major SDARWS events such as the ATC and Golf Tournament
- Register for upcoming training classes
- Read our publications online
- Find and place job openings
- Locate information regarding SD Rural Water

- Stay up to date with SDARWS's legislative activities
- Find resources to help with Sustainable Management
- Read up on studies produced by the Regional Water System Research Consortium

## Improved Class Registration

Along with this new website comes a new way to register for our classes. Registration for all upcoming trainings is available at: [go.activecalendar.com/sdarws](http://go.activecalendar.com/sdarws) – and through direct links on [sdarws.com](http://sdarws.com). Online registration is fast and easy!

## This improved registration will allow you to:

- Search for upcoming classes based on dates, locations, and times
- Register multiple individuals at once
- Share classes with others through email or social media
- Add classes to your Outlook, Apple or Google Calendar - and set up reminders
- Download class agendas
- Keep track of every class you have attended
- and more!

We hope these changes excite you as much as they do us here at South Dakota Rural Water!



# OUT AND ABOUT

## SEPTEMBER

### **30 – SOUTH DAKOTA FILM FESTIVAL ABERDEEN, SD**

The South Dakota Film Festival features jury-selected films from South Dakota and around the world. The events run Thursday through Sunday. Sessions vary, so please check the website for specific times. Most sessions take place at the Capitol Theatre in downtown Aberdeen.  
[southdakotafilmfest.org](http://southdakotafilmfest.org)

## OCTOBER

### **3 – BIERBORSE RAPID CITY, SD**

The fifth annual Bierborse, a beer festival, will be on Saturday, October 3, in Main Street Square in downtown Rapid City. Admission is free. The event runs 12 noon-6 p.m. and features a microbrew tasting, homebrew sampling, polka music, beer stock exchange and more. All ages are welcome. IDs are required to consume alcohol.  
[mainstreetsquarerc.com](http://mainstreetsquarerc.com)

### **8 – WILD WEST SONGWRITERS FESTIVAL DEADWOOD, SD**

Join us in welcoming more than 20 top songwriters and artists to Deadwood to take part in the fourth annual Wild West Songwriters Festival. This festival will feature informal performances at various locations around Deadwood, writers rounds, and Grand Jam sessions.  
[www.wildwestsongwriters.com](http://www.wildwestsongwriters.com)

### **17 – SACOTA FALL CRAFT FAIR WESSINGTON SPRINGS, SD**

Come spend the day shopping from a vast selection of handcrafted items, including handmade rugs, kitchenware, candles, jewelry and Christmas items. Food Concessions available.  
[www.wessingtonsprings.com](http://www.wessingtonsprings.com)

### **24 – ZOMBIE WALK AND BOO FALLS PARADE SIOUX FALLS, SD**

Spectators of all ages will line the streets of historic downtown to enjoy the frights and sounds of Halloween through floats, entertainment and best of all – ZOMBIES!!  
[www.siouxfallszombiewalk.com](http://www.siouxfallszombiewalk.com)

*If you would like your event featured in the January 2016 issue of Quality On Tap!, please email your event description to: [info@sdarws.com](mailto:info@sdarws.com). January's issue will cover events taking place January - March 2016. Event listings are subject to approval by the QOT Editorial Board.*

## NOVEMBER

### **27 – UPTOWN HOLIDAY LIGHTED PARADE WATERTOWN, SD**

Join us in Watertown on the parade route along Kemp Avenue at 6:30pm and kick off the holiday season. The Uptown Holiday Lighted Parade offers something for everyone. Santa makes an annual appearance, much to the delight of the little ones, while the beautiful lighted floats and vehicles draw oohs and aahs from the young and old alike.  
[visitwatertownsd.com/events](http://visitwatertownsd.com/events)

## DECEMBER

### **5-6 – LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE ABERDEEN, SD**

Celebrating its 27th year, the Aberdeen Living Christmas Tree features a full orchestra, children's choir and adult choir. Saturday: 7pm-8:30pm, Sunday: 3pm-4:30pm and 7pm-8:30pm.  
[www.aberdeenlivingchristmastree.com](http://www.aberdeenlivingchristmastree.com)

### **11 – SHARPSHOOTER CLASSIC WINNER, SD**

This one box Competition Hunt is limited to 20 teams, with six hunters per team. The goal is for each team to bring in 18 pheasants during the four-hour hunt, and is a great way to show off sharpshooting skills. Awards will be determined by the team that acquires the most birds in the fewest shots.  
[www.winnersd.org/sharpsooterclassic.html](http://www.winnersd.org/sharpsooterclassic.html)

### **12 – FRONTIER CHRISTMAS FORT SISSETON STATE PARK**

Celebrate Christmas in classic 1860's fashion as only Fort Sisseton can. There will be close to a dozen make and take craft stations, handmade decorations, festive treats, and of course caroling! Be sure to bring the kids and make sure they're not naughty because Father Christmas will be stopping by.  
605-448-5474

## JANUARY

### **7 – 15TH ANNUAL MOBRIDGE ICE FISHING TOURNAMENT MOBRIDGE, SD**

Come to Mobridge for the largest ice fishing tournament in South Dakota. With more than 500 teams and more than \$85,000 in prizes, this annual weekend tournament is one of our favorite events all year - and shows participants just how much fun winter can be.  
[mobridgeoutdoors.com](http://mobridgeoutdoors.com)



# Your Membership Agreement

*By Dave J. Larson, Larson Law PC*

One of the facts that is unique about your rural water system is the fact that you aren't just a customer – you are a member/owner of your rural water system. Your rural water system is a not for profit membership association, meaning that instead of being owned by a group of faceless stockholders with a headquarters in some far off place – your system is owned by the people that use it, right here in your community. This article is going to touch on your membership agreement, and why it is important to you.

Most of us have become members of our rural water system without giving it much thought. We met with one of the employees, signed the papers they handed us, and forgot all about it. You shouldn't forget about it. One of the papers you signed is your membership agreement, and that one document forms the entire basis of your relationship to your system.

On its most basic level, the membership agreement serves as your application for service. Without signing it and requesting service, you are not going to get water. The importance of the membership agreement doesn't stop there. This agreement is a contract between you, your water system, and the other members. As a contract, the membership agreement sets the legal framework for all of your interactions with the system.

One of the most important things the membership agreement does is establish who the member is. Is the member you? Is it your spouse? Is it your corporation, partnership, or LLC? If you are married, are you and your spouse "joint members?" Unless your name is on the agreement, you are not a member. If you are not a member, you have none of the rights of membership.

Unless you are a member, or in the case of a legal entity that is a member, and are authorized to vote for the entity, you have no right to vote. You have no vote in the director elections. You have no vote on the bylaws. You have no right to serve as a director

of the system. In short; you have no right to participate in the governance of the system.

Unless you are a member, you have no right to obtain information regarding an account. You don't have the right to terminate service or redirect the billing. Those things can only be done by the member or their legally authorized representative.

Along with the benefits of membership, the membership agreement also establishes the basis of your obligations to the system. When you sign the membership agreement, you agree that you will be bound by the bylaws and polices of the system. Those include both the present rules, and future rules adopted by the members and board of directors, so long as you continue to be a member.

If you are the member, you are the one obligated to pay the bill, regardless of who actually lives at the meter location or uses the water. As the member, you are the one legally responsible.

Signing the membership doesn't just obligate you to pay your bill. One of the most important obligations owed many systems is the requirement that you provide your system with the easements necessary to serve both you, and other members. Because the members are all in this together, many systems, from the very beginning, required their members to cooperate with each other to provide the necessary easements to run the water lines necessary to serve all the system's members.

Signing the membership agreement also obligates you to respect the right of way and system facilities. It obligates you not to build over the water lines, or do anything that would damage a line, relief valve, meter, or make it impossible to access and perform necessary maintenance.

Signing the membership agreement is more than just an application for service. It is the entire basis of your water system's commitment to you, and your commitment to the water system and the other members.



# Water & Wastewater Operations Specialists: A Workforce Crisis

In 2012, Readers Digest named Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant and System Operators as one of the top 10 jobs Americans can't live without – second only to registered nurses. The men and women who work in the water industry have an obligation to continually provide an adequate and safe supply of drinking water to their customers with every turn of the tap. Their job is necessary for public health and critical to the viability of our communities. An important job such as this needs trained and committed individuals to provide these vital services. While a college degree is not always required, Water and Wastewater Operations Specialists

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in South Dakota are required to be certified and attend between 10 and 30 hours of training per year. To obtain their certification, they must be able to pass a certification exam – the level of which depends on the size and complexity of their system. Training for water and wastewater certification is provided through the State of South Dakota in cooperation with the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems. On the job they are tasked with following critical guidelines set forth by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The trouble is, finding qualified Operations Specialists is getting tougher each and every year. Many of South Dakota's Operations Specialists were born during the Baby Boomer generation and entered the water and wastewater field during the 1970's and 80's. Alarming, most facility managers are over 50 years of age – and are getting ready to retire. The loss of these individuals not only creates a job opening – but the loss of years of technical skills, experience and knowledge on how to run the system they have been operating for decades. This workforce crisis is leaving water systems looking for dependable, competent, and knowledgeable workers.

Besides losing qualified personnel, another issue is the lack of people interested in taking a job in the “unglamorous” field of water and wastewater. Operator turnover has been – and continues to be – a significant obstacle in the effort to increase operational capacity of rural and municipal utilities. The most crucial component of protecting our water quality is the experienced, trained and certified workforce that operates and maintains the infrastructure of our water and wastewater systems.

One has to wonder where these replacement workers are going to come from. In this age of computer technology and electronic communications, the number of people willing to step into the water and wastewater industry has declined. Some of this stems from the low wages cities and public utilities are willing and able to offer those responsible for the quality and availability of water. Try to convince elected officials that the miracle cure for budget deficits and aging infrastructures isn't finding cheap help, or underpaying

your employees. Like all businesses, utilities must find a balance between competitive and justifiable salaries. Low salaries will increase employee turnover. Without decent wages, benefits and

working conditions, work quality can suffer due to high turnover, inadequate training and experience, and low morale. Can utilities change the way they do business to reverse this job vacancy trend? Governing boards and management should start establishing long-range plans to assure essential services are not disrupted or sacrificed due to inexperienced staff.

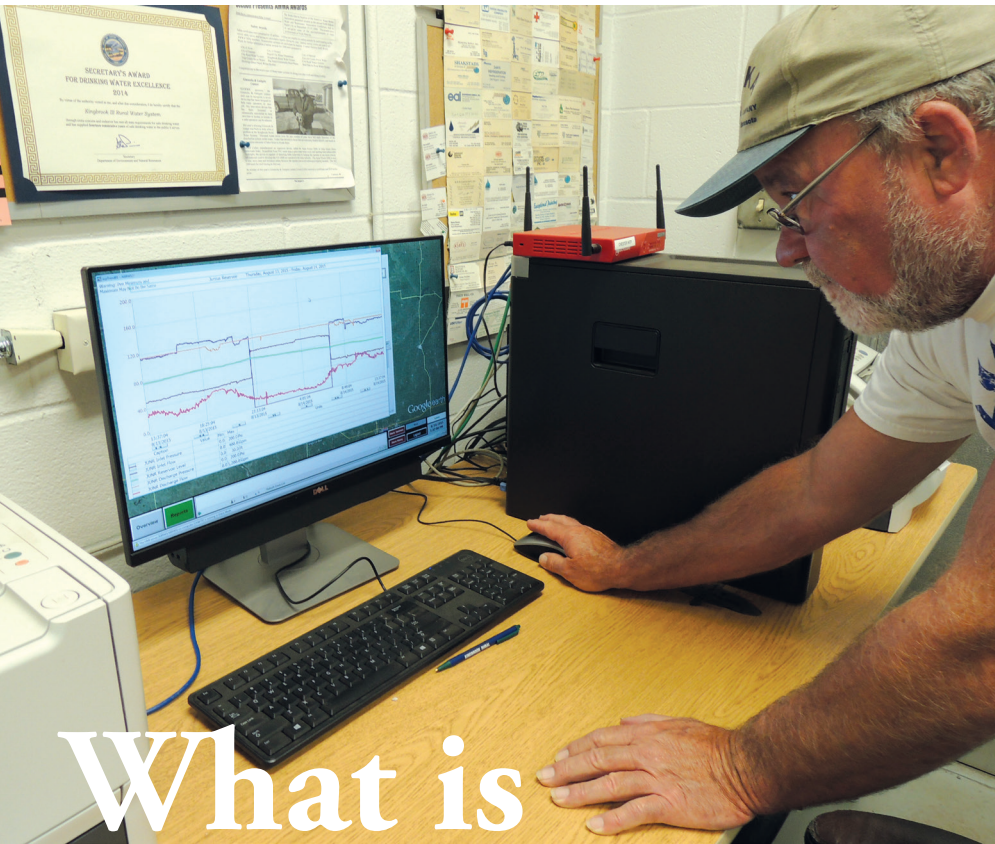
It is no question that Operations Specialists are important public stewards whose jobs are necessary for public health, and critical to the economic viability of our communities. There is no doubt that we need trained and committed individuals to provide these services. Turnover in the workforce can lead to the loss of key technical skills and expertise. As water systems work to overcome these workforce obstacles, the most vital part of protecting our water quality is through the skilled professionals who work to treat and distribute safe public drinking water.

Turnovers may bring in lower-paid, less qualified personnel. This change can have damaging effects on service quality and work environments. Hiring inexperienced employees to make repairs or respond to customer concerns is just asking for trouble. Maintenance issues will fall by the wayside, equipment will wear out

faster, and the public will complain. Deficits in your system could cause State and Federal Environmental Standards violations – forcing your system or utility into paying penalties and fines for non-compliance issues and violations.

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# What is SCADA?

*By Bruce Jennings, DGR*



It is midnight, and Kingbrook on-call operator Brian Callies wakes up to a lightning bolt and a huge clap of thunder. One look at the light show out the window confirms that this is a big storm. Big storms can mean power outages, and electrical power is essential to continuous water service. Brian wonders whether the storm has impacted Kingbrook stations which are spread out miles and miles from his home. Rather than hit the highway, Brian rolls over and grabs his iPad from the nightstand. Bringing up the Kingbrook SCADA app, Brian can instantly see the status of every pump, every water tank, every well and every station on the system. Satisfied that all is well, he gets back to a night's sleep.

Rural Water is important to member customers for many reasons, but all of them come back to an emphasis on a reliable continuous supply of safe water. Your water system staff is dedicated to operating all of the facilities to meet your expectations.

Kingbrook Rural Water System in east central South Dakota recently invested in a new Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system to help assure a continuous supply of safe water. The Kingbrook system includes an array of facilities, which are typical of most rural water systems in South Dakota.

SCADA encompasses the brains and the communication for control of the network of water system facilities. A water treatment plant is a typical example, and the Kingbrook system has water plants near DeSmet, near Chester and a shared plant near Bruce. These water plant facilities operate unattended and automatically, day and night. At each water plant there is a water storage tank. The SCADA system continuously monitors the water level in the tank. When the level falls, the SCADA system will start pumps at the wells, which have been preselected by the operator. The water will flow from the wells

**SCADA encompasses the brains and the communication for control of the network of water system facilities.**



to the water plant, where equipment is automatically controlled to add chemicals and sequence a filtration process. Water then flows to the storage tank. When the SCADA system determines that the tank is full, the well pumps and treatment process are stopped.

The Kingbrook SCADA system performs similar functions at more than twenty locations spread from Iroquois to Bruce, from Montrose to Badger. Day and night, weekends and holidays, the SCADA system makes sure that there is always quality water available.

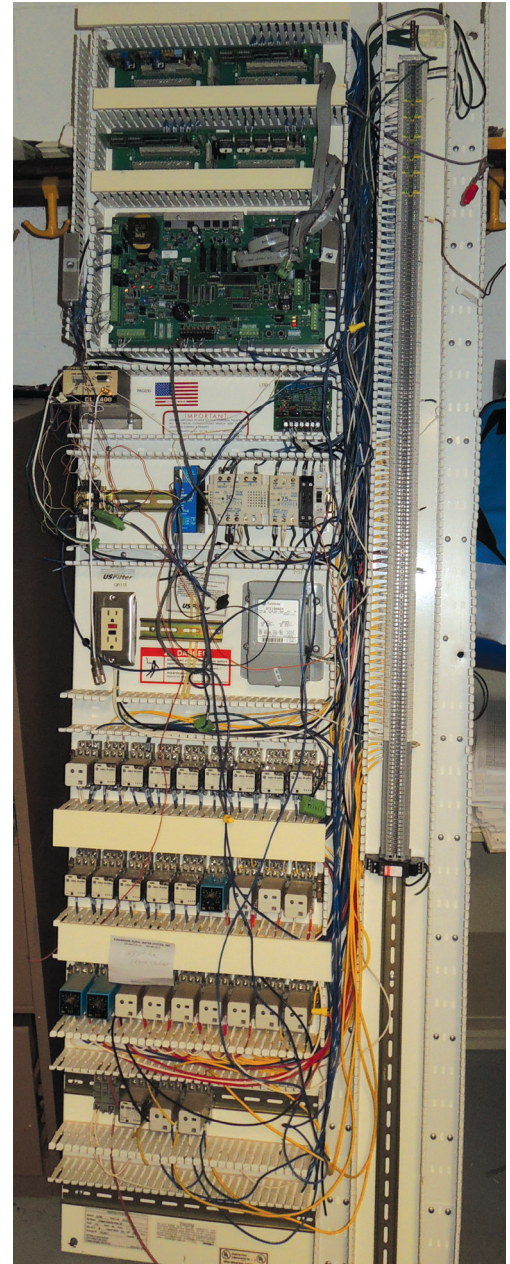
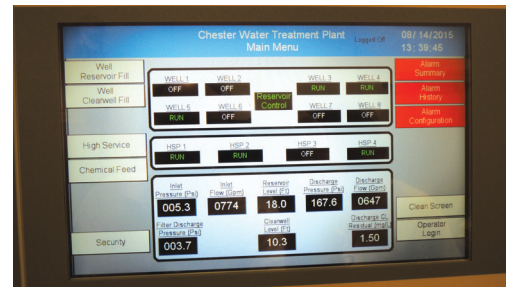
While the “C” in SCADA stands for Control, there is also the “D” for Data. The SCADA system continuously monitors, reports, summarizes and records data from all over the water system. The new system at Kingbrook includes Ethernet radios that transmit the data to a master computer at the Arlington office. The master makes available information to allow Kingbrook operators to “check in” on all of the facilities without making a physical stop. Operators can monitor tank water levels, pumping system flow rates and water pressure all over the Kingbrook system. Whenever there is a problem, the SCADA system can automatically call or text the operators to alert them to the need for service.

The ability to monitor the system also extends beyond the office. The new SCADA master includes remote access capability. Kingbrook operators can use their iPads to call up the SCADA information from anywhere within the system to look at current and historical conditions. If there is an alarm condition at a given station, the operators can look not only at the specific problem, but also at information from adjacent stations on the system to determine how widespread is the issue, and what repair action is needed. Operators can respond more quickly, often eliminating any customer outages and minimizing travel required.

Long term, the SCADA system is used to analyze trends and capacity issues on the system. The SCADA master can quickly summarize instantaneous, daily, weekly and monthly flow volumes at all stations. The information is used to plan future facilities to make sure the water stays on at Kingbrook.

This project was a challenge to implement. Kingbrook facilities have had an older technology SCADA system for years. The old system was failing, and parts were no longer available. As failures occurred and things were changed over the years, lots of interconnections were made to provide for continuing operations. This project was a “brain transplant” at each location. The old control equipment was disconnected and removed, new wiring was installed to simplify connections to existing equipment, and the new SCADA gear was installed. During this painstaking process, Kingbrook staff had to keep the facilities operating to assure continuous water service to the membership.

Kingbrook staff established the basic requirements for the new system with assistance from DGR Engineering. A qualifications based selection process was used to engage InControl Inc. of Blaine, Minnesota for the control system work. InControl assigned Lake Preston native Jeff Iverson to manage the project. Jeff has done similar work all over the nation, but as he put it “this one is personal.” Jeff and the InControl staff went the extra mile to assure Kingbrook of a modern, reliable system. The radio network system was designed and installed by Larson Data Communications of Mitchell, SD. DeSmet native Mike Larson managed the project, and his familiarity with the area and Kingbrook helped him to set up the system. All of the parties had to work together as the changeover was made in each individual station, and for the system as a whole. This new system will serve Kingbrook for many years.



## Bear Butte Valley Rural Water

The first documented and recorded minutes for the formation of the Bear Butte Valley Rural Water System (BBV) located east and north of the town of Sturgis were recorded on April 2, 2009. The organizational meeting was the culmination of several telephone calls from Neal Rowett, a rural area resident, to the South Dakota Rural Water Office located in Spearfish. “If I recall the first conversation, said George Vansco, “it went something like this: 'Are you the guy who can help a bunch of rural area ranchers and homeowners start up a water system?’” The reason for his interest in starting a new system stemmed from a concern over poor water quality due to the local creek picking up undesirables as it weaved its way through the town of Sturgis. Bear Butte Creek has allowed some owners the benefit of drilling shallow wells near the creek while others were forced into deeper aquifers at a much higher cost.

With a desire to provide the area with quality drinking water; the next steps were getting local area residents involved and beginning to search for funds enabling them to conduct a feasibility study. After attending several Meade County Commission meetings and bringing the idea of developing another west river water system to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the steering committee decided to incorporate as a non-profit.

Five days after the first documented meeting, Bear Butte Valley Water was incorporated on May 7, 2009. At this meeting the following board members were elected: Neal Rowett, President; Robert Yantis, Vice-President; Bruce Weyrich, Secretary/Treasurer; Clair Rowett, Director; Don Chord, Director; Jesse Whitford, Director. As the years have passed, some directors dropped off the board and others were newly elected – but the majority of the board has remained the same.

While it takes most water systems about 30 years from inception to completion, Bear Butte Valley Water has been on the fast track. After receiving their certificate of incorporation on May 7, 2009, they received funding from the state just a year later. Incorporating allowed them to get an initial \$7,500 in planning funds, which they used to pay DGR Engineering to draw up plans for the system. Total project costs in 2010 were estimated at \$5.1 million.

In April of 2010, BBV was given the go-ahead from USDA Rural Development to apply for loans after an archaeological study was conducted. A \$500,000 grant was received from the State of South Dakota through the Consolidated Water Facilities Construction Program to begin the project. The initial cost for those interested in hooking up to the system was \$1,500/connection. Meetings continued to be held to determine where the best source of water would come from. Proposals came in from cities, individual landowners, campgrounds and others, while drilling a well for the system was also looked at as an option.

USDA Rural Development awarded Bear Butte Valley Water, Inc. with a water and environmental loan in the amount of \$2,917,000,



*Signing land purchase papers - January 2014*

and a grant of \$2,000,000 in January of 2014. The State of South Dakota also kicked in additional funding through a \$1,500,000 grant, an additional \$500,000 was acquired from DENR, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service provided significant funding through its EQIP program to provide water for livestock. Through this funding, construction was planned to expand the system to 150 miles of distribution pipeline, with water available to 220 users and 150 service locations upon completion.

A ground breaking ceremony was held on June 24, 2015 to commemorate the awarding of bids to complete the entire rural water system – including installing 110 miles of pipeline, storage reservoirs, and pumping stations. Bruce Jones – USDA Rural Development Acting State Director, and Jacqueline M. Ponti-Lazaruk – USDA Rural Development Assistant Administrator for the Water and Environmental Program in Washington, DC, were on hand at the ground breaking to announce additional funding of a \$200,000 loan coupled with a \$2,527,000 grant to complete the system. Representatives from the Congressional offices, the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems, Meade County Commissioners, the engineer, and Sturgis Economic Development were also on site for the ground breaking activities.



Said Neal Rowett, Board President of BBV Water, Inc. "This accomplishment is the result of many days, weeks, and years of service and perseverance by a dedicated board of directors, along with the help of professional guidance received from our engineering partners and South Dakota Rural Water. We appreciate the support of the community for the confidence these people have shown in our efforts. Bear Butte Valley Water is a community owned, non-profit corporation that will serve its members for many future generations. It is with great pride that we will be providing drinking water of excellent quality with enough volume and pressure to fulfill the needs of our members."

As of today, 6+ years after incorporation and as construction continues on the 150 miles of pipeline, two storage tanks, and two booster stations; Neal Rowett, Bruce Weyrich, Don Chord, and Clair Rowett remain on the board as original members, joined by Ralph Greslin, Rich Grosch, and Ed Blair. Without this core of dedicated individuals who have spent many nights away from home attending monthly board meetings, County Commission, Rural Development, and DENR meetings; along with thousands of volunteer hours of service, the quality drinking water that 220 users will be receiving shortly would not have been possible. How do rural water systems get started? With grassroots people willing to get involved both passionately and financially and to provide support and positive direction to a dedicated board of directors.



*Bear Butte Valley Water's pipe arriving by the truckload.*



*Bear Butte Valley Ground breaking - June 24, 2015*

## OFFICERS:

.....  
**Neal Rowett**, President  
**Bruce Weyrich**, Secretary/Treasurer  
**Ralph Greslin**, Vice President

## DIRECTORS:

.....  
**Don Chord**  
**Rich Grosch**  
**Clair Rowett**  
**Ed Blair**

## STAFF:

.....  
**Dennis Kinslow**, Manager

## STATISTICS:

.....  
**Hookups:** 220  
**Miles of Pipeline:** 150  
**Water Source:** wells  
**Counties Served:** Meade

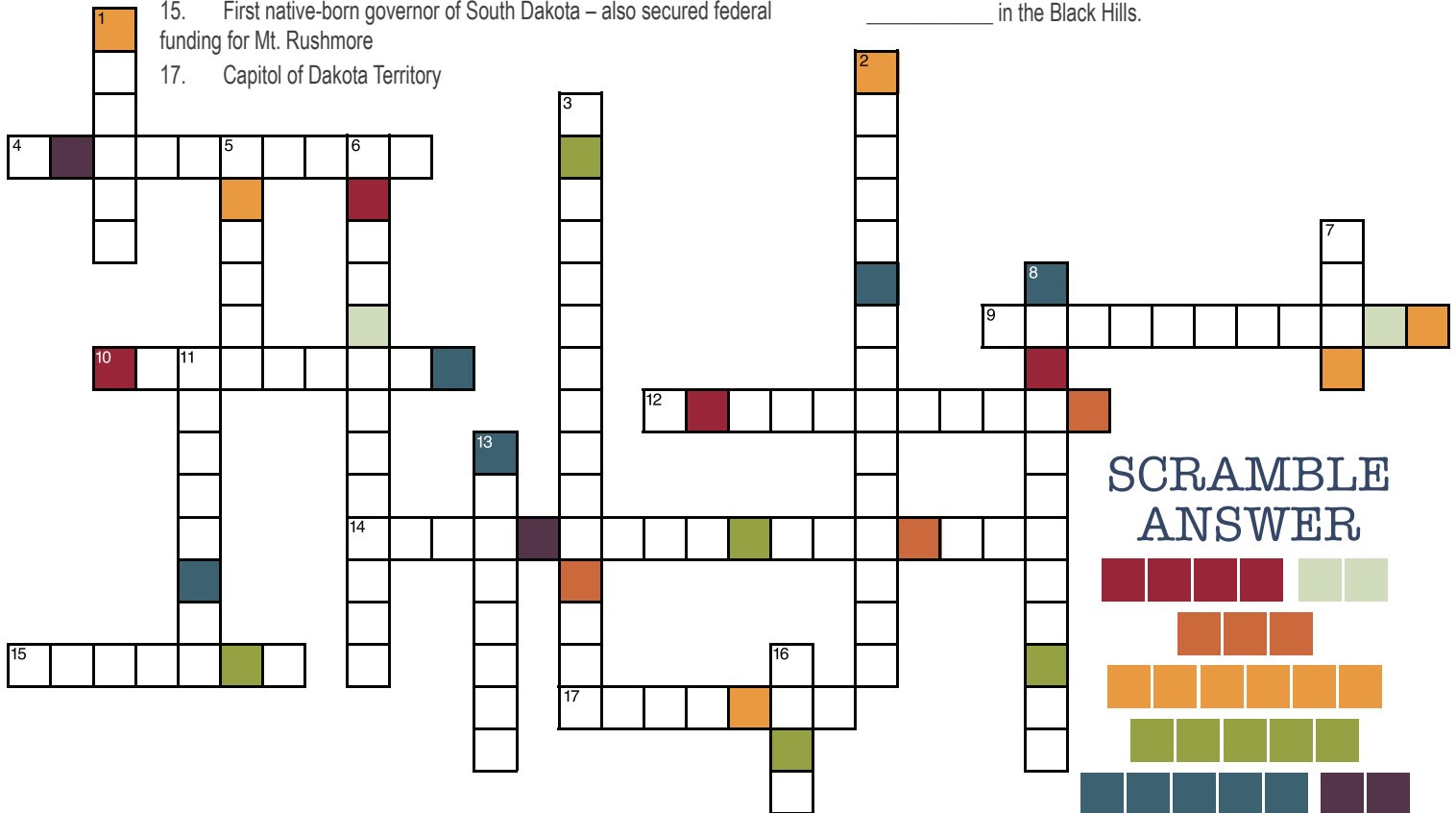
# RURAL WATER & Crossword & Word Scramble Contest

## SD History

\$100 Grand Prize

### ACROSS

- The state's largest city was established in 1856 (2 words)
- This 1869 treaty granted the western half of South Dakota to the Sioux Nation (2 words)
- Miners pulled more than 41 million ounces of gold out of this mine over a 120 year period - the largest mine in the western hemisphere
- The last of the battles between the US and Sioux Indians occurred in 1890 where more than 250 Lakota perished (2 words)
- The United States acquired South Dakota (and a couple of other states) from France through the \_\_\_\_\_ (2 words)
- First native-born governor of South Dakota – also secured federal funding for Mt. Rushmore
- Capitol of Dakota Territory



### DOWN

- This howling mammal is also South Dakota's state animal
- South Dakota was inhabited by \_\_\_\_\_ for thousands of years before European settlers arrived (2 words)
- Back in 1889 SD and ND were grouped together as \_\_\_\_\_ (2 words)
- Pa Ingalls played this (SD Historical Instrument)
- These explorers made their way across SD in 1804 to map out land for President Thomas Jefferson (3 words)
- Congress passed the Pick-Sloan Plan in 1944 resulting in the construction of four \_\_\_\_\_ along the Missouri River
- In the late 1800's, these people obtained 160 acres of land from the government as long as they built a house and lived there for 5 years
- First governor of South Dakota – a Republican from Watertown
- The arrival of this provided jobs and brought people and freight into the state
- Settlement of South Dakota truly began after the discovery of \_\_\_\_\_ in the Black Hills.

### SCRAMBLE ANSWER



### RULES

Use the colored squares in the puzzle to solve the word scramble above. Call your Rural Water System (See Page 2 for contact information) or enter online at [www.sdarws.com/crossword.html](http://www.sdarws.com/crossword.html) with the correct phrase by October 10th, 2015 to be entered into the \$100 drawing.

Online Entries - go to: [www.sdarws.com/crossword.html](http://www.sdarws.com/crossword.html)

Only one entry allowed per address/household. You must be a member of a participating rural water system to be eligible for the prize. Your information will only be used to notify the winner, and will not be shared or sold.

Congratulations to Dianna Neuharth who had the correct phrase of "RESPONSIBILITY IS THE PRICE OF FREEDOM" for July 2015.

# Rural Water Across South Dakota

## SD Political Leaders and Farmers Question New Federal Rule on Water

*By Stephen Lee  
Reprinted with Permission from the Pierre Capitol Journal*

South Dakota farmers and political leaders are raising questions about how new federal regulations on water might hurt state interests and business.

South Dakota's attorney general said recently he's joined attorneys general in 30 other states in asking federal officials to delay the new Clean Water Act rules that he says would harm the state's control over its waters and land.

In a news release, Attorney General Marty Jackley said the new rule is set to become effective Aug. 28, defining "Waters of the United States (WOTUS)," under the Clean Water Act. He and 30 other state attorneys general are asking the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to delay the rule for nine months to allow a host of legal challenges to it.

"I'm concerned that the EPA is overstepping its Congressional authority and that our state will be losing considerable decision-making control over our waters and land use," Jackley said.

Meanwhile, Doug Sombke, director of the South Dakota Farmer's Union (SDFU), said farm leaders' attempts to help EPA forge the necessary new rules haven't worked out well so far.

"I was among the National Farmers Union's delegation that met with EPA out in D.C. back this winter about this topic," Sombke said recently. "At the time we were assured they were trying to do everything they could to address our concerns. We felt they needed to make some changes and we tried to show them exactly what they needed to do."

EPA officials later attended the National Farmers Union convention, "and assured us those changes were coming," Sombke said. "Well, as everyone can see by looking at the rule, they didn't go as far as we thought they would, especially for us in the prairie pothole region."

Jackley said the new rule is being challenged in at least 10

complaints filed by 72 plaintiffs in federal court in eight districts.

Jackley joined 11 states in suing in federal court in North Dakota seeking to have the rule vacated and barring the EPA and the Army Corps from enforcing it. The lawsuit claims the EPA's new definition of "WOTUS" violates provisions of the Clean Water Act, the National Environmental Policy and the U.S. Constitution.

Jackley and other opponents of the new rule say EPA is taking the opportunity of the high court order to better define WOTUS as a chance to greatly expand federal control of waterways and land.

EPA itself, however, says the new rule only will apply "if a water source is going to be polluted or destroyed."

The new rule will not protect any types of water that have not historically been covered by the Clean Water Act, interfere with property rights nor will it "regulate most ditches," EPA says on its website.

"The final rule specifically recognizes the vital role that U.S. agriculture serves in providing food, fuel, and fiber at home and around the world," EPA says. "Activities like planting, harvesting, and moving livestock have long been exempt from Clean Water Act regulation, and the Clean Water Rule doesn't change that. The Clean Water Rule provides greater clarity and certainty to farmers and does not add economic burden on agriculture."

Sombke, who represents 14,000 SDFU members in the state, said he understands EPA must, because of a U.S. Supreme Court order, better define what WOTUS means.

"Just throwing this thing out won't work," he said. "Even if Jackley and the others are successful, it still doesn't address the core issue, of following the court order. We will just have to go back and take another stab at it. We have to find some common ground."

# Events Calendar

## SEPTEMBER

### 29 – Hydrant & Flushing Workshop Rapid Valley SD/WS – Rapid City

This workshop will provide attendees knowledge on operation and maintenance of fire hydrants as well as flushing and disinfection practices. The workshop runs from 8:30am - 4:00pm MT.

### 30 – Hydrant & Flushing Workshop Oacoma Community Center

This workshop will provide attendees knowledge on operation and maintenance of fire hydrants as well as flushing and disinfection practices. The workshop runs from 8:30am - 4:00pm CT.

## OCTOBER

### 1 – Hydrant & Flushing Workshop WEB Water Shop – Aberdeen

This workshop will provide attendees knowledge on operation and maintenance of fire hydrants as well as flushing and disinfection practices. The workshop runs from 8:30am - 4:00pm CT.

### 20-22 – Wastewater Collection/Water Distribution Rapid City Ramkota

Day 1 will be Wastewater Collection, Day 2 Water Distribution, and Day 3 will cover topics related to both. Days 1&2: 8:00am - 4:00pm; Days 3: 8:00am - 11:30am MT.

## NOVEMBER

### 17-19 – Basic Water Treatment\* Sioux Falls Water Purification Plant

Topics covered include: South Dakota Drinking Water Regulations, disinfection, fluoridation, groundwater and wells, pumping, hardness, cross connections, pH, filtration, turbidity and mathematics. Days 1&2: 8:00am - 4:00pm; Days 3: 8:00am - 11:30am CT

### 18-19 – Leadership Seminar Pierre Ramkota

This seminar is geared towards Rural Water System Directors and Board Members and includes informational sessions on water rates, asset management, sustainability, financing, and director and manager panels. The cost to attend Leadership is \$125, and includes a meal at the President's Reception on the evening of November 18th. See page 2 for more information.

## DECEMBER

### 1 – Sustainable Management of Rural & Small Systems Rapid City Ramkota

This workshop will help utilities address a full range of challenges and improve the management of their operations and infrastructure. Class runs from 8:30am - 4:00pm MT.

### 8-10 – Basic Wastewater Treatment\* Sioux Falls Water Reclamation Facility

Topics covered include: natural biological processes in lagoons, water level controls, summaries of troubleshooting procedures, control of vegetation and odors, correction for low dissolved oxygen, primary treatment, trickling filters and RBCs. Days 1&2: 8:00am - 4:00pm; Days 3: 8:00am - 11:30am CT.

## JANUARY

### 12-14 – Annual Technical Conference Pierre Ramkota

Topics covered include: South Dakota Drinking Water Regulations, disinfection, fluoridation, groundwater and wells, pumping, hardness, cross connections, pH, filtration, turbidity and mathematics. Days 1&2: 8:00am - 4:00pm; Days 3: 8:00am - 11:30am MT.

### 26-28 – Basic Water Treatment\* Spearfish Holiday Inn

Topics covered include: South Dakota Drinking Water Regulations, disinfection, fluoridation, groundwater and wells, pumping, hardness, cross connections, pH, filtration, turbidity and mathematics. Days 1&2: 8:00am - 4:00pm; Days 3: 8:00am - 11:30am MT.

Save time...  
**Register ONLINE!**

Visit [www.sdarws.com](http://www.sdarws.com)  
or go directly to:  
[go.activecalendar.com/sdarws](http://go.activecalendar.com/sdarws)

*\*Denotes Exam. Visit [denr.sd.gov/des/dw/exam.aspx](http://denr.sd.gov/des/dw/exam.aspx) to register for the exam.*

*Course agendas, maps and registration are all available online at [www.sdarws.com](http://www.sdarws.com). All classes are free unless otherwise noted. For more info on these and other events, visit [www.sdarws.com](http://www.sdarws.com) or call 605-556-7219.*



# SDARWS MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Dennis N. Davis, Executive Director  
South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems

Recently, we have been asked to explain where member's SDARWS dues dollar go. The first thing that comes to mind is lobbying – but it goes a lot further than that. Below are some highlights of what SDARWS does for our membership.

**Lobbying** – South Dakota Rural Water is the only water and wastewater association monitoring legislation in both Pierre and Washington, DC. We register three lobbyists each year during the state Legislative Session. The Association monitors all bills affecting municipalities, rural water and wastewater systems.

**Classroom Training** – SDARWS hosts over 60 state certified training sessions throughout South Dakota each year – training water and wastewater operation specialists and governing officials on regulatory information, management, financial stability, operation and maintenance of their systems, board and council development, and more.

**Hands-on Training** – We provide hands-on training for leak detection, cross connection testing and surveying, wastewater, GIS and GPS mapping, etc.

**Technical Assistance** – SDARWS provides on-site assistance in virtually every area of utility operations, maintenance and management. We have a variety of tools and equipment available to assist our systems with any issue that may arise. From our leak detection trailers to our sewer camera, we are a one stop shop when it comes to water and wastewater assistance.

**Annual Technical Conference** – The state's largest water/wastewater conference provides water and wastewater educational presentations for board members, managers, and water operations specialists from all corners of South Dakota, and features an exhibit hall with the latest and greatest tools and services to meet your utility's needs.

**Safety Training** – Our safety trainer conducts 168 safety training classes per year – approved to meet state requirements and provide workers with a safe working environment.

**Source Water Protection Plans** – SDARWS has a source water protection specialist on staff to help systems develop and implement plans to protect the quality of drinking water.

**Emergency Response Assistance** – SDARWS works hand in hand with SDWARN (South Dakota Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network), and provides assistance and equipment during emergency situations.

**Loan Programs** – Designed to meet the financial needs of our membership, low-cost loans are available for short-term repair costs, small capital projects, or pre-development costs associated with larger projects.

**Publications** – SDARWS strives to keep our membership informed of training classes, events, legislation and newsworthy items affecting our industry through our bi-monthly *ServiceLine Magazine*, *Ripples Legislative eNewsletter*, and our award winning *SD Rural Water Monthly eNews*.

**Educational Outreach** – SDARWS participates in both the Big Sioux Water Festival and the Sioux Empire Water Festival. We also host a yearly public water carnival to educate local children on the conservation and protection of water.

**Membership Directory** – Contains contact information for regional and municipal utilities, government agency contacts, and industry-related businesses in the state and upper Midwest.

**Website Design** – SDARWS will work directly with your utility to design an affordable website that fits your needs.

**Website** – Our newly re-designed website is a one-stop-shop for all things SDARWS. Find up-to-date contact information for SDARWS board members and staff, use the interactive rural water system map to find contact information for each system, keep up to date on major SDARWS events such as the ATC and Golf Tournament, register for training classes, read our publications online, find and place job openings, Stay up to date with SDARWS's legislative activities, find resources to help with sustainable management, and read up on studies produced by the Regional Water System Research Consortium – and more!

We conduct more water and wastewater training than any other organization in South Dakota. Our staff conducts technical assistance on-site to help operators, finance officers, and boards/councils understand what it takes to run a truly great utility.

SDARWS has on staff, two training specialists, four circuit riders, a source water protection specialist, wastewater specialist, communications & marketing coordinator, office manager, and an executive director. These 11 dedicated, highly trained, and competent individuals are committed to lending assistance to South Dakota rural water systems, municipalities, and small community systems with the goal to improve water treatment, delivery and overall water quality for the people of South Dakota. Our mission is to provide the highest quality services that meet the needs of and supports the collective efforts of our water and wastewater membership. We strive every day to do what we do well and provide the services that help our membership to do their jobs well. Protecting the health and safety of those drinking water from public water systems is a pretty important thing to do well.



**SOUTH DAKOTA RURAL WATER**

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Madison, SD 57042

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# Water Matters



## Testing Your Well



Until fairly recently, most rural homes, farms and ranches in South Dakota depended on individual wells for water. In some cases, the quality and/or quantity of what came out of the well was not great, but it was

at least better than the alternative – no water at all. The growth and expansion of regional water systems (*insert your system name here!*) has provided plentiful, high quality water for consumption by people and livestock, replacing the sometimes sketchy wells.

In some cases, the old well(s) were completely decommissioned and sealed (hopefully in full compliance with state law ([denr.sd.gov/des/wr/abandonedwell.aspx](http://denr.sd.gov/des/wr/abandonedwell.aspx))). In other cases, the wells were simply disconnected and abandoned. However, a large number of these otherwise functioning wells remain active, with use largely restricted to lawn and garden watering and other non-consumptive uses.

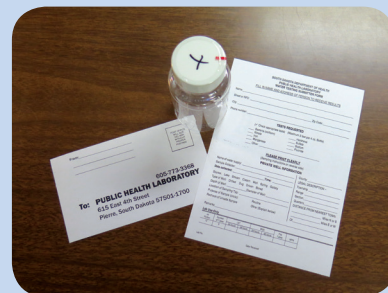
### Why check the well water?

Just because you no longer use the old well all the time, it is important to check the quality of the water occasionally. On a hot day, it is tempting to take a quick drink of the cold water coming out of the garden hose. At the same time, running through the spray of lawn sprinklers is irresistible to small (and not so small) children. If the well is still functional, chances are it will be used.



### What should I check for?

Bacteria and nitrate are the most common things to look for. Bacteria in the well suggests that the integrity of the well has been compromised. Most bacteria are harmless, but some can cause serious illness. Shallow wells are most susceptible to nitrate contamination that leaches into the ground water from excess nutrients and fertilizers. Nitrates interfere with oxygen intake, particularly for very young children and those with compromised immune systems.



### How do I check the water?

This is the easy part. The Public Health Laboratory at the South Dakota Department of Health has a program for just this situation. They provide sample bottles which include complete instructions for collecting and submitting water samples for testing. Fee information for the various tests is included. Bottles can be requested by calling (605) 773-3368, or by completing a form on-line at [doh.sd.gov/lab/environmental/privatew.aspx](http://doh.sd.gov/lab/environmental/privatew.aspx). Sample bottles and instructions are also available from South Dakota State University Extension offices.



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