Micronesia Water and Wastewater Operator Training

Accomplishments and Roadblocks

Skeet Arasmith
Purpose of Program

- Protect Public Health
- Improve management, supervision and operations skills
History

- Results from success at ASPA
- Funded by DOI-OMIP
- First activity was fact finding visits in March of 1997
• First training July 1998
Organization

• Based on Model Utility
• Funding management - ASPA
• Program design & management – ACR
• Training - ACR, PCC (Takemura Erungel, Eugene Uehura), Steve Richmond, Tim Scheidt
The Utilities

- ASPA
- Majuro Water and Sewer Co.
- Kosrae State
- Pohnpei Utilities Corporation
- Chuuk Public Utility Corporation
- Commonwealth Utilities Corp.
- Yap State Public Service Corp.
- Republic of Palau
Utility Facilities

• Small groundwater systems
• Large groundwater systems - Saipan and ASPA (8 MGD)
• Surface water plants small to large - Palau 5 MGD
To Our Registered Guest

This is to advise you that our tap water is not recommended for human consumption.

Thank you

Management
Accomplishments

• Since July 1998 - 90 sessions of 1 day to six weeks

• Wide variety of accomplishments including:
  – Improvements in water quality in Yap, Palau, Chuuk, Majuro, and Kosrae
  – Reduction in cost of chemicals at Yap
• Accomplishments continued
  – Replacement of pumps
  – Rebuilt chlorinators
  – Rebuilt fire hydrants
  – Improved data collection
  – PM scheduling in 5 locations
  – Overall improvement in skills and operation
What works?

- Hands-on training
- Repeat of key skills training X 4
- Focus on skills
- Follow-up
- Management Support and focus
Skill Based Certification

Well Sites, Operation and Inspection

What is in the Skill Package?
1. The major components of a well
2. The types of pumps used in municipal wells
3. The major components of a well pumping and piping system and how they function
4. How to inspect the operation of a well site
5. How to gather well site data

Prerequisites
1. Electrical Safety skill package
2. Electrical Measurements skill package
3. Completion of the Pump Efficiency Testing skill package
4. Pumps and Pumping workshop
5. Introduction to Small Water Systems Course
Roadblocks

- Management not focused
- Technology not appropriate
- Lack of tools and spare parts
- Lack of overall work planning
- Funding
  - Wages $2.00 to $6.00 per hour
- Sources not protected
• Lack of regulatory oversight
  – Focus on certification of operators
    • This is part of the solution not THE solution

• Staff Skills
  – English as a second language
  – Lack of basic science background
  – Poor problem solving skills
  – Lack of appreciation for relationship between drinking water and public health
Conclusion

- Staff in most utilities is capable of performing the job.
- Management's focus is the key.
- Need to see themselves as being in the water and wastewater business. Not just in a job.
Now What?
Or, Continue Moving Ahead

- 66 weeks of training and technical assistance to be provided in the next year
- Need management to focus on water and wastewater
- Assistance in focusing on public health issues related to water
What can you do?

- Buddy System
- PEACESAT
- Vendors - develop relationship
Contacts

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Micronesia Water & Wastewater Training Program

Click on Highlighted area below for more information on that area.
DO NOT DRINK THE WATER

請勿生飲
生水ので飲むことはできません