
From: Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ)
Sent: Wednesday, July 03, 2013 5:04 PM
To: DEQ-ODWMA-All
Subject: Happy 4th!

All –

I realize it's not Friday, but it sure does feel like a Friday!

It's been a busy month or so...

Our Well Construction Program has been meeting with stakeholders to discuss updates to Part 127. While sometimes the meetings feel like two steps forward and one step back (or is it two steps back and one step forward?); it's important that we are finally engaging in these long overdue discussions.

In May, SMT participated in a customer service retreat. Follow-up from that meeting is on-going in Lansing and in all of our district offices. I have had two "conversation" meetings so far, and the feedback from staff has been very positive. I encourage everyone to take the opportunity to attend and participate. Thank you to everyone that has already participated. I really appreciate the input you have provided.

The Leadership Academy graduated its recent class in June. Congratulations to Mike Bolf, Steve Busch and Kris Donaldson for successfully completing the DEQ's Leadership Academy program.

Efforts continue by the our On-site Wastewater staff to draft legislation that would address our need for a statewide sanitary code. We will be working on this over the summer.

On the security homefront, Bob Babcock has participated in numerous tabletop exercises with drinking water and wastewater systems in 2013. As of 6/11/13, Patriot Services Inc., had performed under contract with the MDEQ ODWMA 31 tabletop exercises (TTX's) - 27 drinking water and 4 wastewater systems. The intent of the tabletop exercise (TTX) is for the community to increase its understanding of the importance and the impact of the public drinking water and wastewater systems on the entire community and to support planning and capitalization of improvement projects for those systems to improve their resilience to all hazards. In general, the drinking water and wastewater personnel are encouraged by the support of the partners in the community during the TTX. The community partners coalesce on the fact that the drinking water/wastewater system is a very valuable resource that is underappreciated.

Last Friday, Steve Busch and I attended the Karegnondi Water Authority groundbreaking ceremony. This was a well-attended event located at the site where the water system intake will be built, near Port Huron. This was a celebration kickoff for the project. And they served us lunch too!

And last but certainly not least, much time has been consumed lately by planning for our moves. Last weekend, Revolving Loan staff and Operator Certification and Training staff were moved from 3S to their temporary swing space on 2N. While no move of that magnitude can go without glitches, for the most part it went pretty smoothly. **Big, Big** thanks to everyone that helped make this move as painless as possible!

With that, all of Lansing ODWMA is in the midst of file cleaning, recycling, sorting and general housecleaning. Our move to 4S is now scheduled for the weekend of August 9th. There is much work yet to be accomplished before our move to our final destination.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy July 4th!

Liane

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