

DEQ's...MISSION ORGANIZATION

By Jim Heyen

The DEQ must be watching some of the same TV programs my wife watches on HG and that is not such a bad thing. By now, each community should have received a 3-ring binder from The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. This binder contains all the information a community would need for their wastewater facility permit information and DMRs. I have received several calls about this 3-ring binder (mainly the CD), so I thought I would walk you through it by tabs.

- 1) Permit – As the operator you should familiarize yourself on the content of this section. Please pay close attention to the parameters you need to sample and when you need to sample them. If you have received a new permit your limits and your sample requirements may have changed.
- 2) Fact Sheets -This information is basically how your parameters were derived. Some of the content of the fact sheet is hard to understand. The DEQ permit writers use guidance from EPA, along with various information, specific to each individual plant to figure limits.
- 3) Signatory Authorization Forms (SAF) – This form is to be used to communicate changes in address and personnel for you city or village to DEQ. For instance, if the mayor (Cognizant official) changes, you will need complete a SAF, have the Cognizant official sign it and send to DEQ noting the changes.
- 4) Non-Compliance Forms – The forms are used as it states, if the community is out of compliance on a parameter, you have sampled, you must complete a Non-Compliance form and send to DEQ. It looks very similar to a DMR. Please remember you still must verbally notify DEQ, in the event of non-compliance within 24 hours. I would suggest that if DEQ does not answer, leave a message and log the time you called.
- 5) DMRs - A CD is included in the next tab. This contains files of your DMRs through your permit cycle. To print your DMRs, you must have a computer that has “Adobe Acrobat” because the files are in **pdf**. form. The file names are separated in quarters (i.e. 01-08 would include January, February, and March).
- 6) The rest of the tabs are separated into quarters and years, creating a place for completed DMRs. Please note when sending your DMRs, only one copy with original signature needs to be mailed to DEQ and make one copy to be placed in your 3-ring binder.

I believe this binder will save time and space. I know that many of you already have an organized way of filing/storing your reports. This binder just creates a unified statewide effort for DEQ to make reference to a permit manual and records. This way if you get a visit from DEQ you can just pull out your white binder and everything will be there.

As always, you can give me a call at (402) 443-5216 to help you with this booklet, be it explaining the permit, help downloading the CD, or whatever it might be.