

GO WITH THE FLOW

Training Tomorrow's Water Professionals Today

April 2022 Volume 25, Number 1

What He Does Matters

A Conversation with James Gibson

James Gibson has served the water industry at PWC for 30 years now and has enjoyed it, but now he is ready to retire and did so on April 1st of this year. One thing that James has liked about his job might come as a surprise: hurricanes. James says he knows that is kind of weird but "when a hurricane comes, you have to be on your A-game, so it's enjoyable." He says his area has had quite a few hurricanes, with at least four big ones. James recalls one hurricane that came through three or four years ago and the level of the river almost got up to the second level of their raw water intake. which is home to their electrical panels. "We were probably 16 or 17 inches away from having a big problem."

James says the best part of his job has been knowing that what he does matters. He knows that he (and everyone in the

water industry) takes the health of the citizens into their hands, and James is fine with that. He likes the idea of being needed. James commented, "People ask me, 'You work on Christmas? You work on Thanksgiving?' I say to them, 'Well, if you want your toilets to flush, I have to work."

James didn't originally think of becoming a water plant operator. He worked unrelated jobs previously, including a rubber company and a plastics company. He was working at the rubber company when it closed, so then he got a job delivering bread, "but it was just way too many hours." It was at that point that James applied for a meter reader job listing all his jobs on the application, including a janitor job that he still does at his church, and has been for 35 years. PWC was in need of a janitor and when they saw that listed on James' application, he was hired.

James did not remain employed as a janitor for very long. He says he quickly took the initiative to learn how to operate the water plant by following the operators around and asking them questions. James says with a laugh, "in fact, the operators were kind of ill with me, because I asked so

The purpose of GO WITH THE FLOW is to keep you, the operator, informed of some of the training opportunities that are available for your certification needs (new and renewal). Events may be scheduled by: NCWOA, Public Water Supply Section, State Laboratory of Public Health, and other sources. This newsletter may also contain information on new regulations, news from the Certification Board, and important need -to-know resource contacts.

Check out our website!

www.ncwoa.com

If you would like to nominate an operator for a spotlight article please contact Heather Cagle at heather@ncwoa.com.

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many questions, slowing them down." Six months after taking the janitors' position, an operator position came open and James got the job.

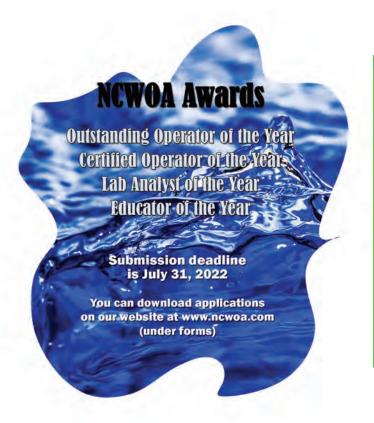
Out of the thirty years James has worked, James says he has probably worked twenty of them on night shift and he prefers that, due to him being "kind of a hermit." He works a 12-hour shift, from 6:30 PM to 6:30 AM. Along the way, James has obtained A-Surface, C-Distribution, and C-Well water certifications, as well as becoming a Certified Journeyman in water treatment.

Even though James enjoys his job, circumstances provided him with a reason to retire that he couldn't pass up. During 2020, due to Covid, PWC pulled campers up to the water plant and paid him to be there 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for about a month. James says that extra pay boosted his retirement pay calculation up enough that he couldn't pass up the opportunity to retire. Otherwise, he would have kept working.

Although James has retired, he still has plenty to keep him busy. James says he lives across the street from his elderly parents, so he's not going to move to find a part-time water plant position. His parents have three acres of grass that James plans to keep up,

plus his own yard. James has a son and a daughter and two grandkids. Between family time and mowing lawns, James thinks his retired life will be pretty full. But the free time he does have will be spent on James' favorite hobby: detailing cars (Corvettes, Mustangs, etc.). James owns a 2003 Anniversary Edition Corvette ("I got divorced and got a Corvette") and he is a member of the local Corvette club, which does a lot of charity events.

Congratulations on your retirement, James! You have earned it.





Welcome Victor Quick!

NCWOA has a new Education Specialist, from an old friend and long-time NCWOA teacher and member. Victor Quick recently accepted the position and is now beginning to work with Administrator, Heather Cagle and NCWOA's other Education Specialist, Mike Richardson.

Victor has a long history with NCWOA and has been an invaluable help with schools. Victor was the Southeast Section Chair from 1994 – 1996 and the NCWOA President from 2005 – 2007. He also served on the Board of Examiners for many years. He served on the Schools Committee, which was tasked with setting up the schools, choosing the caterer and meals, etc. Victor is a life member of NCWOA, and in 2013, he received the Educator of the Year award.

Victor will be a great asset to NCWOA due to his vast experience with the schools and teaching. He taught for twenty years at both NCWOA schools. Victor says that he started teaching math in 1995, when Buddy Edmiston was teaching it, and Victor continued teaching math until he retired in 2015. Additionally, Victor taught wastewater classes at Alamance Community College, as well as Physical / Chemical school in Raleigh, and one-day AWWA math seminars.

Victor's work in the drinking water industry started back in May 1982, after he graduated from Campbell University. He was planning on getting married in August, so he needed a job. Just by chance, he ran into the Utilities Director of Harnett County on the street. Victor told him he needed a job and the director said, "You want a job as a water plant operator?" and Victor said, "Yeah!" During his career, Victor worked for Harnett County, the City of Dunn, Hydro Management (for Southern Pines' water plant), and for the City of Graham. Victor's drinking water certifications include A-Surface, C-Well, A-Distribution, and Cross Connection. Interestingly, Victor's Cross Connection certificate number is 9, and Victor recalls that was because he was one of twelve students who took the first Cross Connection exam, which was voluntary at that time. The reason his certificate number was 9 was because the certificate numbers were assigned alphabetically. On the wastewater side, Victor holds a Grade IV, a Grade III Collections Systems, a Physical / Chemical, and a Land Application.

Victor is looking forward to being an Education Specialist for several reasons. He thinks that being an **Educator will** be a great way to get back involved with NCWOA. He loves networking with people and he is looking forward to the return of in-person



training, so that he can meet new people. This includes section meetings, as well as the schools. In addition to networking, Victor says he, Mike, and Heather are already planning to work on some projects, such as specialized training, which is a good way for municipalities to get contact hours for their employees.

As previously mentioned, Victor married in 1982. After he retired from the City of Graham, he lived on the Outer Banks for a while, but eventually "got tired of hurricanes," so in 2019, he and his wife moved to Maggie Valley. Some people have a bucket list of things they plan to do after they retire: Victor claims he is living his bucket list. Victor's main hobby is hiking, and the many trails in his area provide him places to do that, along with beautiful views. Victor's back yard gets visits from turkey, elks, bears, and other wildlife. He has one daughter with one grandson, and they live one driveway down from him. Victor also has one son who lives in Honolulu and graduated from the NC School of the Arts in filmmaking. Victor has visited there several times and has toured the area.

With his decades of experience and knowledge, Victor is a great asset for NCWOA. When you see him at a section meeting or a school, feel free to come over to him, introduce yourself, and welcome him!

Salisbury Water Plant Upgrades

A Conversation with Jeff Parker

Jeff Parker, Water Plant Supervisor for the City of Salisbury, has been with the City of Salisbury for 24 years and has been the Operator in Responsible Charge (ORC) for four years. Jeff says, "I grew up in the city of Salisbury." He obtained an environmental science degree from Catawba College but claims that he didn't know anything about water treatment and didn't know what he wanted to do with his life. The plant manager at that time, Barbara Sifford, asked Jeff if he would like to work for the City of Salisbury, and Jeff said he would check it out. Jeff actually interviewed for a wastewater position, but was told that there was a water treatment operator position open. Jeff asked Ms. Sifford, "Which one is closer to my house? That's the one I'll take. Since the water plant was closer to his house, he took the water operator position. Jeff holds A-Surface, C-Well, and C-Distribution water certifications.

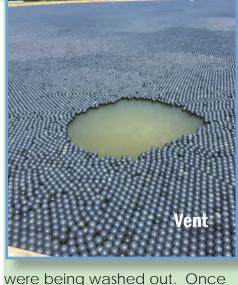
Jeff describes how the plant upgrades have been done in stages over the years. The first section of the plant was put in service in 1950. Each section of the plant was built in 4MGD





increments: the second section was put in service in 1964 and the third section in the 1971. In September, 2004, an Actiflo system was put in place at the water plant, due to space constraints. Jeff states, "the plant is "land locked. We have residents on one side of us and we have the railroad tracks on the other side. We couldn't expand anymore." The plant's prior capacity was 12 MGD and Actiflo boosted that up to 24 MGD. At the time the Actiflo system was put in place, an in-house bleach production system was also installed. It produces sodium hypochlorite at a 0.8% strength, which keeps it under the hazardous materials threshold.

The next upgrade for the plant was the bypass, which is basically a pipeline from the Actiflo to the filters. The bypass project was done because of algae issues as well as the deteriorating state of their sedimentation basins. Jeff explains that the water coming off of the Actiflo is so clear that they had major algae blooms in the sedimentation basins. They were having to take sedimentation basins offline to wash them, because the basins were getting green, especially in the hot, summer months. Since the basins were mainly passageway for the water to the filters, only three basins were needed to supply the filters with water while the rest of basins remained empty for 15 years and before that, they were underwater all of the time, except when they



the basins were emptied and exposed to the sunlight, deterioration of concrete increased. To keep the basins, they would have to completely rehab them, and they also didn't have any baffles in them. Jeff wanted a complete water turnover in each basin, so they started looking at options. They partnered with Labella, who recommended the bypass. It took a while for the State to agree, but once it was approved, the bypass was put in place. Jeff says, "It's been working great, so far," although they had to install a new valve at the center of the plant, to flush out one side of the filter flume at a time. That's because the plant doesn't have sedimentation basins, so the only place for the water to settle is in the filter flume, if the Actiflo doesn't take it out.

There have been a few more upgrades. The staff has a new

asset management system, which is a maintenance system that keeps track of failures, parts, and helps to be predictive on equipment (how long it's been in service, when stuff needs to be done). It automatically generates work orders, which then go to the designated person(s). This keeps things from being "lost in the cracks" and makes everyone more accountable. Another benefit is that it helps to justify costs, such as if a pump needs to be replaced.

The Salisbury plant staff used to haul away their sludge until they considered the fact that it was costing over \$100,000 a year to transport to the wastewater plant to run through their belt-

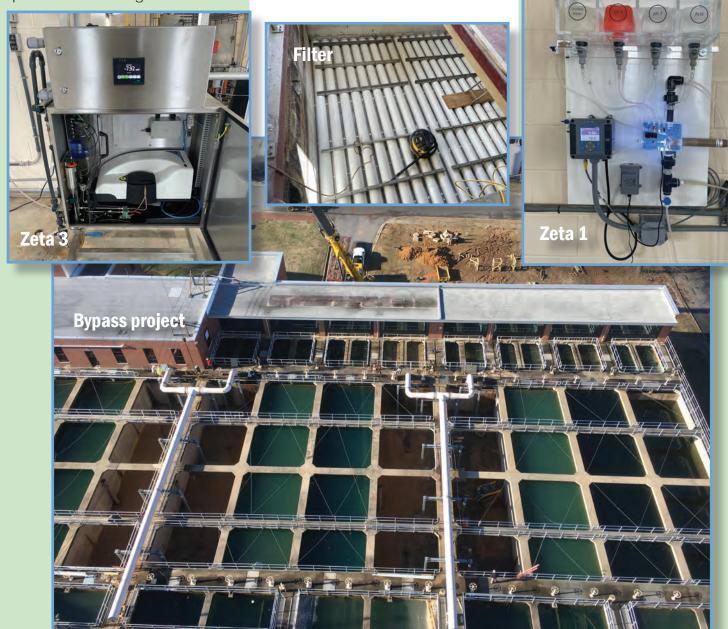
press. So they installed a centrifuge system, which is expected to pay for itself in 5 years. The sludge cake it produces is used for cover at the landfill.

The plant just added a new filter system, using air scour. Also, a month ago, their plant became the first system to fully automate the feed system and pre pH adjustment, through a Zeta potential and pH analyzer. Their coagulant previously used was PAX (polyaluminum chloride). Now it is ACH aluminum chlorohydrate, which uses a lot less chemicals than previously, and provides for longer filter runs. Just from switching to ACH, the plant is getting 110-120 filter run hours,

whereas previously they were only getting 50 - 60 hours.

The staff at the water plant is also practically new. Jeff says he "pretty much (has) a brand new crew." The most senior operator has 4yrs at Salisbury and another with 3yrs experience, while the rest are 1yr or less with Salisbury. They had a lot of retirees and people moving on for other reasons. Jeff noted that getting qualified operators has been challenging due to competitive wages in the industry.

All of these plant upgrades have provided cost savings and continued, excellent water quality for the City of Salisbury.



NCWOA Upcoming Workshops & Training Events

(tentative schedule and could be subject to change)

All NCWOA seminars listed on pages 6 are for 6.0 contact hours and are pre-approved by the NCWTFOCB for treatment and distribution operators. Some of the seminars will also qualify for 6.0 wastewater contact hours. Individuals that attend an entire seminar will receive a Certificate of Attendance for 6.0 contact hours. Please see each individual seminar agenda or description for details. Seminar agendas and locations are tentative and may be subject to change.

June Certification School A,B, C Surface and C Well

June 13-17, 2022 Hickory Metro Convention Center Hickory, NC

6 Hour Training Day - June 15

Topics: TBD

more information and registration coming soon

Fall Certification School A,B,C Surface and Well

September 26-30

McKimmon Center Raleigh, NC

Advanced Day & Exhibits - September 28

more information coming in July

Continuing Education

We are currently working on our training calendar for 2022 and more information will be coming soon. Virtual and in-person training will be scheduled.

If you are interested in specialized training (let us come to you with specific requested topics) please contact us at 252-764-2094.

NCWOA Upcoming Workshops & Training Events

For more information, please visit our website at www.ncwoa.com

NCWOA SEMINAR REGISTRATION FORM Deadline for entry is receipt at least 4 business days before a seminar. Space is limited - First Paid, First Accepted Please Print or Type ____Nickname (For Tag)_____ NAME (First, MI, Last): ___ SOCIAL SECURITY # (last 4 digits): XXX-XX-______EMPLOYER: _____ _____COUNTY: ______STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ _____Ext: ______ FAX: ____ EMAIL ADDRESS: NC WATER TREATMENT CERTIFICATE # (OPERATOR ID #): ______ NCWOA MEMBER # : _____ NC WATER TREATMENT CERTIFICATE TYPE: __AS __BS __CS __AW __BW __CW __DW __AD __BD __CD __DD __CC/BF ___None NC WASTEWATER CERTIFICATION # (OPERATOR ID #): ______, ____ NCWOA MEMBER PRICE IS \$65.00 (Must put your INDIVIDUAL NCWOA membership number on the line above to qualify) NON-MEMBER PRICE IS \$125.00 (2022 NCWOA membership included in this price.) CLASS/SCHOOL REGISTRATION & INFORMATION COMING SOON Please make checks payable to "NCWOA" or "North Carolina Waterworks Operators Association." We do NOT accept Purchase Orders. Credit Card payments may be mailed, faxed, or scanned but NOT called in. A confirmation letter/receipt and map will be mailed to each attendee once full payment is received. **REFUNDS:** We will issue a refund (minus a \$25 administrative fee), if the refund is requested, in writing, at least 7 business days prior to the event. Refunds will be made in the same manner as payment. Substitutions may be made. Please inform us, as soon as possible, of substitutions so that the appropriate certificates of attendance may be generated. PLEASE SEND APPLICATION AND PAYMENT TO: Heather Cagle, NCWOA PO Box 5466 High Point, NC 27262 CREDIT CARD PAYMENT Phone: 252-764-2094 ext. 1 Fax: 252-764-2095 Credit Card Type: ____ Visa ____ MC ___ AmEx ___ Discover Email: heather@ncwoa.com Name on Credit Card: _____ Credit Card Payment: Credit Card Number: ___ Cannot be Processed Exp Date: Month _____ Year ____ Security Code from back of Card ___ Over the Phone Cardholder's Signature: _____ If cardholder is other than attendee, what email address should the CC receipt be sent to? ____ To ensure that you receive the emailed receipt, please add heather@ncwoa.com to your email address book. NCWOA USE:

NCWOA 2022 Sectional Training

(tentative schedule and could be subject to change)

All sectional training is open to anyone regardless of your particular section. Training agendas and dates are tentative and may be subject to change.

Virtual and in-person training will be planned.

Western Sectional Training

May 26 - Broad River Water Authority August 16 October 18 - Town of Weaverville

Questions/RSVP to Brendan Kelley at (828) 232-4574 or <u>BKelley@ashevillenc.gov</u>

North Piedmont Sectional Training

June 2 - OWASA - Safety & Emergency Preparedness August 4 - Trinity Manufacturing October 6

Questions/RSVP to Melanie Clark at (336) 627-1009 ext 101 or mclark@edennc.us

South Piedmont Sectional Training

June 30- City of Kannapolis August 25 - City of Statesville October 20 - Virtual

Questions/RSVP to Tena Mullis at (704) 920-5163 or mullistm@concordnc.gov

Northeast Sectional Training

May 3 - Dare County August 9 October 11

Questions/RSVP to Dail Booth at <u>Dail.Booth@cravencountync.gov</u>

Southeast Sectional Training

April 28 - City of Raleigh - DE Benton WTP July 13 - DATE CHANGE October 12 - DATE CHANGE

Questions/RSVP to Robin Miller at robin.miller@faypwc.com

Virtual Training Requirements

Participants must have broadband internet access, computer audio with microphone (or the ability to dial in by phone) and a web camera. We must be able to see the participant at all times during the sessions.

Must be an active member to receive credit hours.

We Appreciate Our Corporate Sponsors!

























Interested in sponsorship? Multiple Opportunities Available

Please contact:

Allen Daniels, Public Image Committee (252) 230-8424 Email: allen@waterguardinc.com Heather Cagle, NCWOA Administrator (252) 764-2094 ext. 1 Email: heather@ncwoa.com

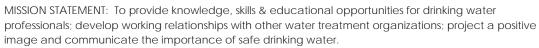
or check our website at www.ncwoa.com



Congratulations Jason Green 2021 Tom Flowers Award Southeast Section

In recognition of outstanding service and dedication to the waterworks industry and to the organization. This award represents our heartfelt appreciation for your loyalty and dedication.

North Carolina Waterworks Operators Association MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION





Membership Application ANNUAL DUES ARE \$50.00 FOR 2022

First Name:		Middle Initial:	Last Name: _				
Nickname:	Social Securi	ty # (last 4 digits): xxx-	xx If Rer	newal, what is your	NCWOA Member #:		
YOUR Individual O	perator Certification #: (Issue	d by NCWTFOCB)					
Certificate(s) Held	:						
A-Surface	B-Surface C-Surf	ace A-Well	B-Well C-W	/ell D-Well			
A-Dist	B-Dist C-Dist D	-Dist Cross-Conr	nection				
		Was	tewater #'s				
None Yet	You are not an Operat	or & do not plan to be	come Certified.				
PLEASE SELECT Y	OUR PREFERRED ADDRESS (This is where confirm	ations & member	rship info will be s	ent.)		
Home Ad	ddress:			· 	<i>,</i> 		
City:		State	Zip	County:			
Employer	Name:						
MAILING	Address:						
City:		State	Zip	County:			
Work Phone	Ext:	Fax					
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	nips are based upon a calenc ber, and membership expirati		cards will be mailec	d with receipt. Thes	se cards will contain your name,		
	ke checks payable to "NCW rd payments may be mailed,			ators Association." \	We do NOT accept Purchase		
CREDIT CARD PA	AYMENT			PPLICATION AND P. , NCWOA Administ			
Credit Card Type: Visa MC AmEx Discover Name on Credit Card:			PO Box 5466 High Point, NC	PO Box 5466 High Point, NC 27262			
				Phone: 252-764-2094 ext. 1 Fax: 252-764-2095			
Credit Card Numb	per:		Email: heather				
Exp Date: Month _	Year Security Co	ode from back of Carc	i		Credit Card Payment Cannot be Processed		
Cardholder's Signa	ature:				Over the Phone		
If cardholder is oth	ner than attendee, what ema	il address should the C	C receipt be sent to	0?			
To ensure that you	ı receive the emailed receipt	, please add heather@	ncwoa.com to you	ur email address bo	ook.		
NCWOA USE:	Amount:	CK#	F S	Processed:			

Committee Members

2022-2023 Executive Committee

President

Sam Molinas **Broad River Water Authority** Phone: (828) 286-0731 Email: smolinas@ncbrwa.com

First Vice-President

Steve Pope

Piedmont Triad Regional Water Authority

Phone: (336) 382-2373 Email: spope@ptrwa.org

Second-Vice President

Chad Flannagan Greenville Utilities Phone: (252) 551-1563 Email: flannacm@guc.com

Secretary

Michelle Clements The East Group

Phone: (252) 758-3746 x 131

Email: michelle.clements@eastgroup.com

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Leslie Carreiro

City of Asheville - North Fork WTP

Phone: (828) 271-6105

Email: Icarreiro@ashevillenc.gov

Past President

Ken Loflin

Email: kloflin95@gmail.com

Chair - Board of Examiners

Pat Irwin Dare County

Phone: (252) 475-5603 Email: pat.irwin@darenc.com

Chair - Public Image

Allen Daniels Water Guard, Inc. Phone: (252) 230-8424

Email: allen@waterguardinc.com

Chair - Nomination Committee

Jason Green

Fayetteville Public Works Phone: (910) 223-4710

Email: jason.green@faypwc.com

Chair - Western Section

Brendan Kelley City of Asheville Phone: (828) 232-4574

Email: BKelley@ashevillenc.gov

Chair - North Piedmont Section

Melanie Clark

City of Eden Phone: (336) 627-1009 ext 101

Email: mclark@edennc.us Chair - South Piedmont Section

Tena Mullis City of Concord

Phone: (704) 920-5163 Email: mullistm@concordnc.gov

Chair - Southeast Section

Vacant

Chair - Northeast Section

Dail Booth

Craven County Water Phone: (252) 636-6615

Email: dail.booth@cravencountync.gov

Distribution Officer

Julius Patrick Greenville Utilities Phone: (252) 551-1561 Email: patricje@guc.com

2022-2023 Committees

Finance Committee

Board Director: Ken Loflin

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Professional Development Committees

Board Director: Steve Pope

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Public Image Committees

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lan Stroud (Chair) Chad Flannagan Julius Patrick Tena Mullis Melanie Clark Mike Hughes Dail Booth Brendan Kelley Gabe Sasser Dave Banick Sam Molinas Ken Loflin

Operator of the Year Award

Ken Loflin (Chair) PWS Representative - Joey White Jonathan Himsworth

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Nominating

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Rules

Mack Edmisten (Chair) Chris Smith Jay Van Hoose

Heather Cagle, Administrator N.C. Waterworks Operators Association PO Box 5466 High Point, NC 27262 www.ncwoa.com

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Important Phone Numbers & Websites

Main Phone # for Certification Board	919-707-9040	https://deq.nc.gov/about/ divisions/water-resources/ operator-certification/drinking- water-operator-certification/dv operator-certification-wtfocb
Bob Midgette, PWS Section Chief	919-707-9088	
Linda Raynor, Compliance Services Branch	919-707-9095	
Jay Frick, Operations Branch	919-707-9102	
Rebecca Sadosky – Protection & Enforcement Branch	919-707-9096	
Bethany Goodwin, PWS – Consumer Confidence Reports	919-707-9079	
Public Water Supply Offices:		www.deh.enr.state.nc.us/pws
Central Office	919-707-9100	
Asheville	828-296-4500	
Mooresville	704-663-1699	
Winston-Salem	336-776-9800	
Raleigh	919-791-4200	
Fayetteville	910-433-3300	
Washington	252-946-6481	
Wilmington	910-796-7215	
NC State Laboratory of Public Health	919-733-7308	
SDWA Hotline	800-426-4791	
EPA SDWA Website		www.epa.gov/safewater
EPA Microbial & DBP Data from Drinking Water Systems Website		www.epa.gov/enviro/html/icr
NC Waterworks Operators Association (NCWOA)	252-764-2094	www.ncwoa.com email: heather@ncwoa.com
NC Rural Water Association	336-731-6963	www.ncrwa.com
NC AWWA-WEA	919-784-9030	www.ncsafewater.org