

## **H<sub>2</sub>O'C Engineering News #5 - November 2004**

### **How Gross is your Alpha?**

At the April 2004, Missouri Section, AWWA Annual Conference in Columbia, your correspondents presented an *Engineering Evaluation of the Control of Radionuclides in Missouri Public Water Supply Systems*. Prompted by finalization of the radionuclides regulations, this paper summarized the results of two recent water system evaluations:

*Case Study 1* included an analysis of BAT options for the control of radionuclides (radium and gross alpha emitters) in a Missouri groundwater supply.

*Case Study 2* reported the results of an assessment of the performance of a treatment system specifically installed for the removal of radionuclides. Performance data and the effects of system modifications were illustrated.

### **Computer Microscopes**

What did water utilities do with their computer microscopes? It appears that not all of the 120 microscopes distributed as part of our ILMA/ ISAWWA training program are simply gathering dust. We were gratified to learn that one northern Illinois utility uses their portable computerscope along with a laptop computer to respond to consumer complaints. Apparently, they show concerned consumers what is in their water.

Another utility uses their computerscope for screening their lake water algal content. They have now taken the next step and purchased an epifluorescence microscope to observe the composition of particles in their influent and effluent in greater detail.

Do you have an application for your computer microscope that you would like to share? We would appreciate hearing from you and learning how we can tap your practical experience to prepare a guidance manual for the use of these basic microscopes in source and finished water quality management.

### **Update of Emergency Response Plans**

Finally, you can get to know us better by hiring us to update your emergency response plan for your system before domestic terrorists, such as USEPA or MDNR, strike. We are generally available '7/24' (7 hours per day / 24 days per month) at **877-22-WATER**.

### **Time to Kill?**

Want to read our previous newsletters? Point your browser toward [www.h2oc.com](http://www.h2oc.com) and hope for the best.

- John and Tom  
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