

***Not Enforcement, Reinforcement  
Caution! You're about to enter a No-  
Swim Zone ☺***



## New Wastewater Operators Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1, March 2011

**Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:**

**My email victims list is now 195 strong and growing weekly. Last month it was 180. Getting better, but 3 came back as undeliverable. ☺**

**Monthly, I'll share some great ideas I see or hear of, at plants around Eastern and Central Washington, and elsewhere. If you have an idea you'd like to share, let me know.**

**Woohoo! Starting a second year of ramblings.**

**Equipment to give away (they'll correct me if it's actually for sale):**

**The City of Palouse has a relatively new belt filter press, so they don't need their slightly used biosolids bagging system anymore (I believe it's a DRAIMAD® system). Don Myott (Wastewater Treatment Operator) says there are about 200 bags available for it too. Check their city website at <http://www.visitpalouse.com/> for contact info.**

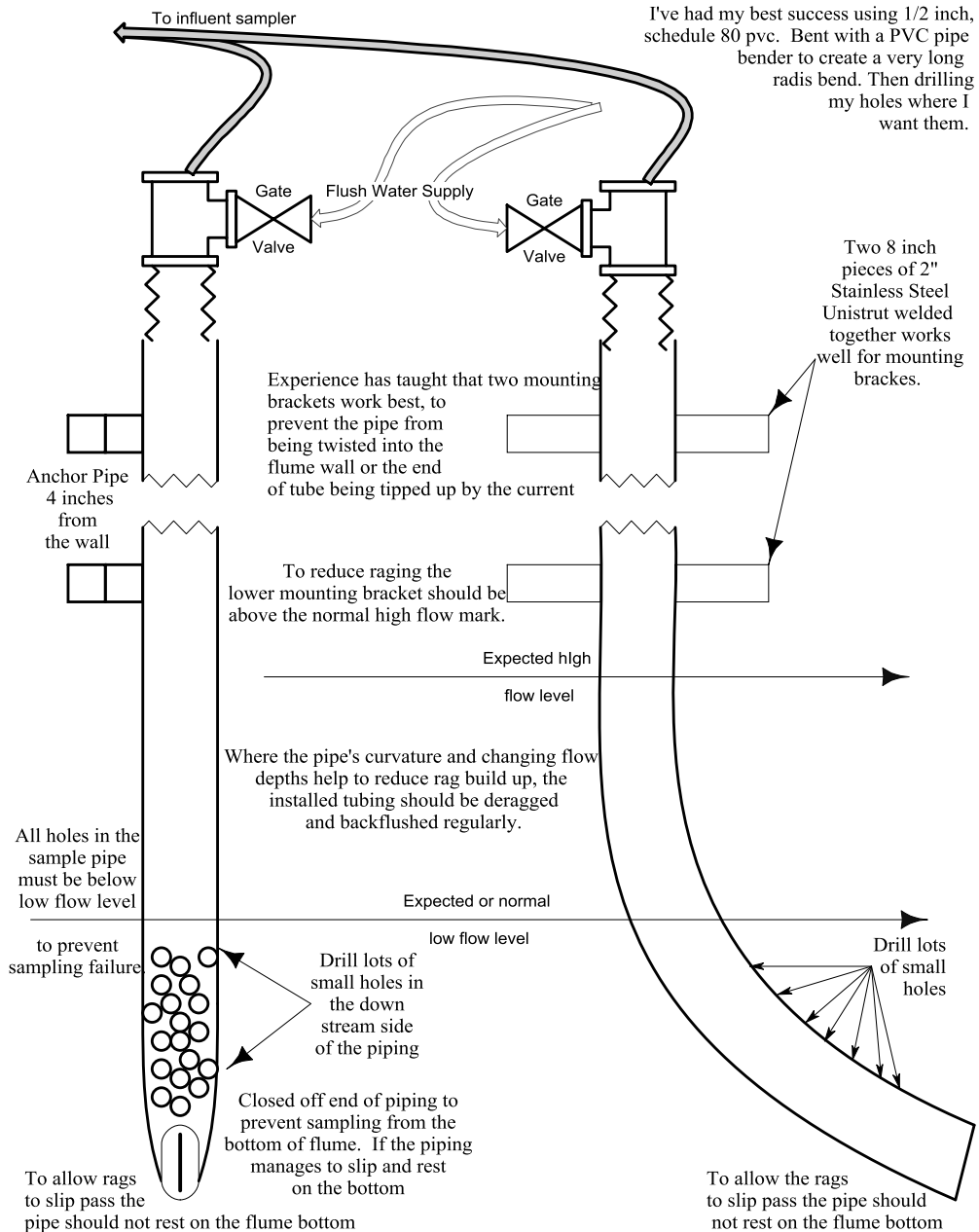


**Some operators like these, some don't. You decide. ☺**



**Cool idea of the month, March 2011:**

We travel to the City of Pullman's Wastewater Treatment Plant for Supervisor Cliff Lough's influent sampler intake assembly. They were having trouble with inconsistent solids and BOD results due to ragging and dragging in the "dirt". Cliff sent this diagram to me for sharing at my request. Notice they've added a water flush valve to it to clean the inside of the PVC. This doesn't eliminate the need to occasionally clean the actual sampler tubing, but it helps. A big dam Saaalute! to Cliff and his staff for this idea.



**Special Announcement!**

Jackie Keele of the Moses Lake J.R. Simplot Plant says:

*“Since the March issue is late, would you have space to mention our Earth Day Celebration? It will be April 30<sup>th</sup> this year...a week after the actual Earth Day, but we didn’t want a conflict with the Easter holiday. We’re focusing on Water Conservation; can’t plant any more trees, but may do seed cups for the kids. Have lots of activity booklets and the seed-imbedded little papers for handouts to the youngsters, but nothing major for adults. Instead of BBQ, this year it will be hamburgers, hot dogs, nachos and the infamous and always yummy Simplot French Fries.”*

You bet, Jackie! Hey People! Free Food! And Bertha is cool too! 😊

**Join us for  
EARTH DAY  
April 30, 2011**

**Moses Lake Simplot Digester ("Bertha")  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

**Bertha is at 2649 "O" Road NE; go out Wheeler Rd, turn right onto "O",  
and left at the balloons at our driveway.**

Here’s a location map for ya (Bertha at the green pin at right). Thanks, Google Earth™!



My wife and I are gonna try to make it. Thanks Jackie!

**This month's Tech Tip:**

There are tons of web sites with great information for wastewater treatment plant operators "out there". I was searching for "calculating sludge age" last December and found the Mountain Empire Community College in Big Stone Gap, VA. I emailed Rosa-lee Cooke (Water/Wastewater Instructor/Advisor) for permission to use the information on their pages. Rosa-lee wrote back:

*Thank you for the comments about our program. We try to start with the basics, for those who are new to the field, and then we increase the knowledge as the student progresses through our program. We are also currently working on a section of the website that is exam preparation for both water and wastewater operators. You can list any links you like, as long as MECC gets credit for the information. The information is free and available for anyone who wants to view the material. The only thing they can't access are the quizzes and assignments. This program is continuous enrollment, which means someone can register for our classes at any time. We have had students from almost every state taking our courses. Hopefully the information you provide the operators will be beneficial. Again, thanks for your interest in our program!*

The link: <http://water.mecc.edu/subject.htm>

Their logo:



On the lower right of the page, related topics are listed for water and wastewater treatment, each topic being a link to more links (many more links). These are very good for new and experienced operators alike. If you're studying for one or more certification exams, you should check this out. Great for doing a review for personal reasons too.

Also check the links on the left side of the page. Each course link leads you to valid course material.

Thank you, Rosa-lee for permission to view the outstanding information on your site. Saaaalute!

Related Topics
Math
Reservoirs, Rivers and Lakes
Water Plant
Storm Sewer
Distribution Lines
Sewer Lines
Sewage Treatment
Laboratory Equipment
Electricity

For those who might whine that there are colleges closer to us which provide water and wastewater training, like Green River Community College and Linn-Benton Community College, I'd tell them to check out MECC's link. They post course material online for public view. This is a great resource for us.

**Banks Lake on a windy day, 3-31-2011. This is just south of the million dollar cut on SR-155. Rainbow trout live in there (and a number of other species). 😊**



**Do you ever feel like this? : <http://www.wimp.com/japanesemob/> (video—thanks for the link, Connie) —this is funny!**

**My apologies if it offends anyone, considering what Japan is going through now.**

**My sincere condolences to the people of Japan. What a heartbreaking trio of tragedies for them and the world.**

**Hey! Keep up the good work. See you next time.**

**All the best,  
Darrel Fleischman**

**P.S. If you want off this list for any reason, just let me know. And thanks for any feedback—I appreciate you and your opinions.**

**P.P.S. All previous newsletters are available on request, via email.**