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renee@sustainis.org

Or call 250-472-4327

Key Benefits of SIS-sponsored Liability Insurance:

- ❑ High policy limit: \$5 Million for the basic policy
- ❑ Volunteers are automatically covered
- ❑ Broad Form Fire Fighting expenses
- ❑ No Failure to Supply exclusion
- ❑ No Health Hazard exclusion

Acce\$\$ to Funding for System Improvements

By Jean-Pierre Joly

Does your water system infrastructure need to be upgraded? Do you need to implement a treatment system? Would you like to remotely monitor and control components of your water system? Perhaps your answer is: **"Yes, but we have a challenge in getting the money to do it!"**

This is understandable. Many smaller water suppliers do not have the same convenient access to funding as do their municipal counterparts. And in some cases community water suppliers do not have a reserve fund which can be used for upgrading. In other cases the water rates charged by some systems may not have kept up with their infrastructure needs.

In response, the Sustainable Infrastructure Society (SIS) is developing an Access to Funding Program (AFP) which will soon be offered to our Registered Users. We are working with prospective Industry Partners to develop a program which will enable water suppliers to borrow funds from BC credit unions. The security for the loan may typically be provided through the revenue stream. This is good news for small systems!

As with most lending programs, applicants will be required to provide supporting information such as income statements, balance sheets, and resumes of directors. Development of a concise asset management plan and projections of revenue and expense may also be involved.

If you are interested in this program, please contact us. As with our other SIS programs the more water systems that are involved, the greater the likelihood that the program will be convenient and affordable for all.

Certified Operators Assisting Water Suppliers

By Jean-Pierre Joly

In our last Newsletter we introduced our Operator Assistance Program (Fall 2007 – *Certified Operator has Wrench will Travel!*) which is under development. This program will provide the services of qualified operators under contract to community water suppliers. We now know more about the needs of our Registered Users and what they currently pay for operator services. We are grateful to those Registered Users who responded to our survey and provided us with valuable information.

Please note that this SIS program is not intended to replace the services of existing operators. In many cases it will enhance the valuable work of existing staff. The Program can also provide relief for cases where the local operator is ill or on vacation.

The program is designed to offer maximum flexibility while maintaining affordable rates. The monthly cost will vary depending on the age and complexity of the system, the number of connections, and the specific tasks to be undertaken.

If you are a community water supplier interested in this program, then please contact us. We also want to hear from experienced operators who wish to participate by supplying their services to water systems through this SIS program.

For More Information:

www.SustainIS.org

Official website of the Sustainable Infrastructure Society. Visit this site to learn more about the Sustainable Infrastructure Society, its mandate, projects, and goals.

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GreenBC.org is affiliated with the Sustainable Infrastructure Society (SIS), and provides an online directory of suppliers and consultants. Managers of water supply organizations and other industry members frequently use the directory when they are seeking products and services.

www.GreenBC.org

Add your company to our online database now!

Accidents and sickness happen every day!

By Vernon Rogers

Some accidents or periods of sickness may only result in a few days away from work. A more serious incident may leave you or a member of your staff unable to work for months or even years, causing severe financial hardship.

Many community water suppliers have employees who are concerned about protecting their lifestyle in the event of an accident. These employees provide reliable and conscientious service; often they do a responsible job for very limited material rewards. One way of showing appreciation is by providing a benefits package. This can provide staff with greater peace of mind and reinforce their commitment to the water supply organization.

The Sustainable Infrastructure Society is working with Industry Partners to develop a benefits package for the staff of community water supply organizations. The Benefits package may include coverage for loss of income due to injury or illness, accidental death and dismemberment, travel medical coverage, critical illness coverage, and health and dental benefits. The exact coverage will depend on the needs of community water suppliers. In the near future we will invite our Registered Users to indicate the kinds of coverage they would like to see in this Benefits package for staff. We hope you will respond.

Watch this space! In 2006 we introduced the liability insurance program for community water suppliers. In 2008 we hope to introduce an affordable staff Benefits package.

Pardon Us for Crowing!

100% of 2006 Liability Policy Holders Renew in 2007

By Renee O'Leary

SIS began the Liability Insurance Program in 2006 in response to the needs of smaller water systems. We know that the program is an excellent solution because ALL of our Registered Users who were enrolled in the program have renewed their policies in 2007. As of January 2008 over 80 systems now obtain their insurance through the SIS program.

It is easy to find out what the program could offer you. Simply log on to the SIS website at: www.SustainIS.Org. Click on the Liability Insurance Program link. If you are a Registered User the contact information on the application form will be automatically completed, so you do not have to type in your address and phone numbers. You then answer a few questions, and subsequently you will be contacted by an Industry Partner to briefly review your application.

Getting a competitive quote from time to time is good business practice. Why not log in and find out what the SIS Liability Insurance Program can offer you?

Planning for Your Water System

The SIS web site has a new section: [Planning for Community Water Suppliers](#). This section outlines ten plans that community water suppliers should have in place. These range from an Asset Management Plan to a Water Quality Protection Plan.

Discover how you can increase the safety of your supplies and improve the viability of your system. Go to www.SustainIS.Org and click on [Community Water Supplies](#) and select [Planning](#). If you have not visited our website recently, come and see what is available for you.

If you need help in the preparation of any of these plans, please contact us!

Call 250-472-4327 or email: renee@SustainIS.org