Contents

List of Figures, v
List of Tables, vii
Preface, ix
Acknowledgments, xi
Dedication, xiii

Chapter 1  Introduction ................................................. 1
  Definitions, 1
  History, 2
  Potential Drivers for Dual Distribution Systems, 3
  Sources of Nonpotable Water, 5
  Potential Uses for Nonpotable Water, 5
  Nonpotable-Water Reuse Legislation, 6
  References, 8

Chapter 2  Water Reuse Regulations and Guidelines ................. 9
  Existing State Regulations, 10
  Treatment, Quality, and Monitoring Equipment, 13
  References, 28

Chapter 3  Planning ....................................................... 31
  General Planning Concepts, 31
  Reclaimed-Water Supply, 34
  Reclaimed-Water System Types, 42
  Development of Distribution System Options, 44
  Implementation, 45
  Conclusions, 46
  References, 47

Chapter 4  Engineering Design — Treatment .......................... 49
  Sources, 49
  Wastewater, 49
  Supply Variations, 50
  Treatment for Reclaimed Water, 52
  References, 55

Chapter 5  Engineering Design — Distribution ......................... 57
  Demand Management, 57
  System Hydraulic Modeling, 58
  Design Components, 59
  Storage, 62
  Safeguards, 66
  References, 72
Chapter 6  Management ......................................................... 73
  Introduction, 73
  Management Philosophy, 73
  Protecting Public Health, 74
  System Policies and Procedures, 77
  Developing the Nonpotable Infrastructure, 79
  Understanding Customer Needs and Requirements, 82
  Establishing a Viable Customer Base, 85
  Service Connections, 85
  System Operations and Maintenance, 87
  Reference, 89

Chapter 7  Financial/Economic Issues ................................. 91
  Overview, 91
  Economic Factors, 91
  Institutional Issues, 97
  References, 98

Index, 99

List of AWWA Manuals, 103
Figures

Figure 1-1  El Tovar Lodge in Grand Canyon Village, Ariz. 2
Figure 1-2  Crop irrigation with reclaimed water 3
Figure 1-3  Irrigation with reclaimed water at a North Carolina golf course 6
Figure 1-4  Firefighter using reclaimed water 6
Figure 3-1  Centralized reclamation facility 34
Figure 3-2  Decentralized (satellite) reclamation facility 35
Figure 3-3  Cedar Bay Power Plant (Jacksonville, Fla.) is provided reclaimed water for cooling 41
Figure 3-4  Dual distribution system for a new community 44
Figure 4-1  Potable- and nonpotable-water use—monthly historic demand variation, St. Petersburg, Fla. 51
Figure 4-2  Satellite reclamation plant in residential area 54
Figure 5-1  Purple pipes for reclaimed-water distribution system 60
Figure 5-2  Line tap into reclaimed-water line 61
Figure 5-3  Reclaimed-water meter box 63
Figure 5-4  Reclaimed-water valve box 63
Figure 5-5  St. Petersburg, Fla., reclamation plant 65
Figure 5-6  Storage tank for reclaimed water 65
Figure 5-7  Backflow-prevention device between reclaimed water and alternative source of nonpotable water 67
Figure 5-8  Neighborhood sign noting use of reclaimed water 68
Figure 5-9  Notice of use of reclaimed water by facility 69
Figure 5-10  Typical urban utility pipe separations 70
Figure 6-1  Cemetery watered with reclaimed water 84
Figure 6-2  A baseball field maintained with reclaimed water 84
Figure 6-3  Xeriscape watered with reclaimed water at a high school 84
Figure 7-1  Water reuse marketing mix 94
Figure 7-2  Creating a water reuse market 94
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# Tables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Table 2-1</td>
<td>Uses of reclaimed water</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 2-2</td>
<td>Summary of state reuse regulations and guidelines for nonpotable reuse applications</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 2-3</td>
<td>Number of states with regulations or guidelines for each type of nonpotable-water reuse</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 2-4</td>
<td>Examples of State Water Reuse Criteria for Selected Nonpotable Applications</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 2-5</td>
<td>USEPA suggested guidelines for nonpotable reuse of municipal wastewater</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3-1</td>
<td>Typical survey form to ascertain interest in water reuse</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3-2</td>
<td>Urban water demand categories</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3-3</td>
<td>Urban water demands as a percentage of average daily use</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3-5</td>
<td>Potential reuse demands</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 5-1</td>
<td>Projected reuse demands for Raleigh, N.C., reclaimed-water system</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 5-2</td>
<td>Utility separation regulations and standards from various states</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 6-1</td>
<td>Attributes and management requirements for typical reclaimed-water applications</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 6-2</td>
<td>Guidelines for workers’ safety</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preface

This publication is the second revision of the original AWWA Manual M24, *Dual Water Systems*, published in 1983. The title has been changed to *Planning for the Distribution of Reclaimed Water* to better represent the content of the manual. The manual provides information on the planning and design of dual distribution systems for properly treated reclaimed water (nonpotable water) for applications that do not require potable-quality water.

The distribution of reclaimed water through the use of dual water distribution systems, one for potable water and the other for nonpotable water, is becoming an accepted practice. The main reasons for this are diminishing supplies of high-quality water resources, rapidly escalating costs for developing new sources or for treating poor-quality water to potable-water standards, and the increasing costs involved in discharging wastewater to the environment.

When faced with the task of developing additional water sources, community water utility managers and design engineers are increasingly evaluating the potential for distributing reclaimed water to serve their community’s needs. Developing a reclaimed-water distribution system may be less costly and less wasteful than existing practices that use potable water for purposes that do not require high-quality water.

Properly treated and distributed nonpotable water, as defined herein, can safely be used for irrigation, industrial applications, and a wide range of other nonpotable urban purposes, including toilet flushing in high-rise commercial and residential buildings. These practices conserve limited high-quality water for drinking, cooking, and other uses requiring potable water.

Although several states have established regulations for the distribution and use of nonpotable water, national standards (although there are guidelines) have not been established. The AWWA Water Reuse Committee, which prepared this manual, provides this information for water systems wishing to distribute reclaimed water. Water utilities should consult state and local regulatory agencies before designing a nonpotable water distribution system. State and local regulations may impose requirements differing from the recommendations in this manual. These requirements must be followed to ensure system compliance.