



2019 National Drinking Water Week Award

The **Commitment to Excellence** award is presented to the City of Spokane Water Department staff and Dan Kegley, Director, in recognition of their hard work and dedication in providing safe and reliable drinking water.

Elimination of all Remaining Lead Service Lines. Ed Parry, Eastern Regional Engineer with the Department of Health, Spokane Water Department serves about 230,000 customers and, in 2016, launched a \$3 million dollar effort to complete ongoing work by removing 480 plus remaining lead service lines. This was done at no cost to homeowners, even for portions of lead service lines located on private property. The project included an effective public information component.

In summer 2018, the water department announced completion of the project well ahead of their schedule. The project was completed during a period in which the water department was faced with the largest capital program in the city's history. Overcoming logistical challenges, using effective public information strategies, and delivering ahead of schedule is reflective of the outstanding dedication and hard work of the water department staff.

Good Neighbor. Kevin Anderson, Public Works director of the City of Airway Heights. In May 2017, the City of Airway Heights was informed their primary wells were contaminated with

PFOS/PFOA. The city began a several week process of flushing contaminated water from the distribution system. At that point, there was insufficient water for peak demands, a significant crisis. Dan Kegley, in the spirit of helping out a neighbor, suggested that City of Spokane could install a temporary intertie to supplement Airway Heights' water supply. Within hours he organized a crew to begin work on the temporary connection. His crews worked many hours of overtime during several days getting the connection operational.

During that same time, while Airway Heights handed out bottled water to residents, we worked to get tanker trucks available delivering water to interested businesses. To assist with the operation, Dan and his crews coordinated a fill station from one of their nearby hydrants for tanker trucks to fill from. Disinfection, meter installation, coordination with Department of Health, and whatever it took, Dan and his crews saw this contamination event as an opportunity to help out a neighboring water system. They worked with us throughout the crisis to get whatever we needed.

Congratulations from all of us at the Office of Drinking Water!

May 6, 2019

