

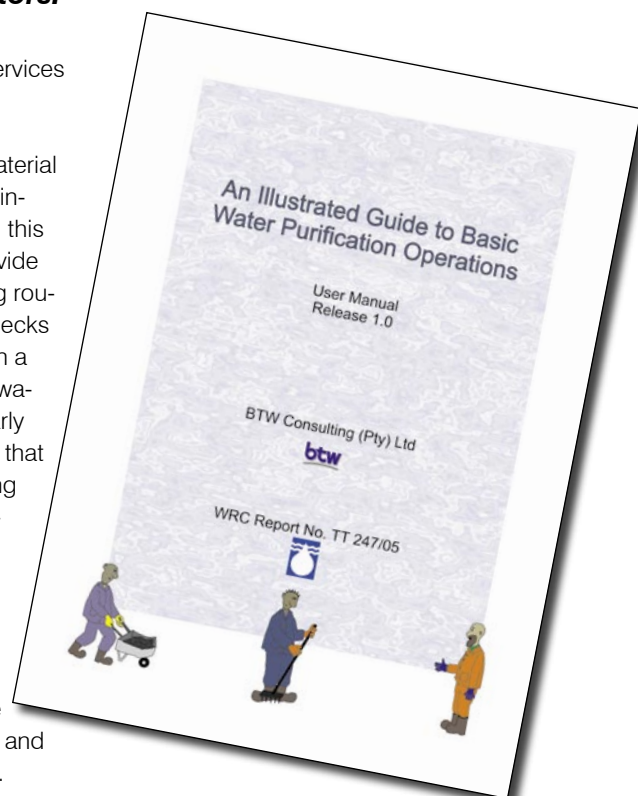
Cartoons Teach Water Plant Operators

Lack of available skills, especially in rural areas, has often been blamed for poor quality of drinking water. In an effort to improve skills levels, the Water Research Commission (WRC) has published a new basic training manual to assist water treatment plant operators.

The manual, *An Illustrated Guide to Basic Water Purification Operations*, is aimed mainly at entry-level water treatment plant operators, particularly those operating small and geographically isolated plants. "The people responsible for operating water treatment plants play an important and determining role in ensuring that the quality of our daily water supply conforms to the required standards," notes WRC CEO Rivka Kfir. "In this regard skills development and training of water treatment plant operators is a vital component of a consistent and effective service – especially in small water treatment facilities based

in rural areas where support services are not often readily available.

A dearth of suitable training material especially for rural operator training prompted the WRC to fund this project. The guide aims to provide persons involved in conducting routine maintenance tasks and checks on water purification works with a better understanding of basic water purification activities. It clearly emphasises the important role that these operators play in ensuring that safe drinking water is supplied to all communities. It is intended for use by water care operators and attendants, water care managers and educators.



23

An example of a page in the manual.

Chapters are divided clearly according to the water purification process, from abstraction, chemical dosing and flocculation to disinfection, sludge treatment beds and storage. In addition, glossaries are provided explaining basic water treatment terms in different languages, including isiZulu, isiXhosa, Venda, Sepedi and Setswana.

Particular attention has been given to the needs of operators who have limited literacy skills. It has been developed in an illustrated colour format, with wide use of cartoons, to increase understanding of the underlying fundamental concepts to basic water purification works.

An electronic slide presentation on CD is also available for training purposes.

- To order *An Illustrated Guide to Basic Water Purification Operations (TT 247/05)* contact Rina Winter or Judas Sindana at WRC Publications at Tel: (012) 330-0340 or E-mail: publications@wrc.org.za