



PO Box 1750 - Glenrock, WY 82637  
Web Site: [www.warws.com](http://www.warws.com) & Email: [warws@warws.com](mailto:warws@warws.com)  
307-436-8636

**Press Release**  
**April 21, 2009**

## Wyoming drinking water judged among best in the Country

(Washington, D.C.) – Wyoming's drinking water entry placed in the top 10 today at the 10th Annual Great American Water Taste Test. The taste test is held each year on Capitol Hill in conjunction with the National Rural Water Association's Annual Rally in Washington, D.C.

NRWA represents nearly 27,000 rural and small utilities so you can see it is a tremendous accomplishment for Wyoming's entry. They competed against the top water systems from 48 state rural water associations.

Erin Martin and Anciel Twitchell, Plant Superintendent and Chief Operator for Shoshone Utility Organization in Fort Washakie brought their state winning sample to Washington, D.C. They entered the water taste test after winning the state competition at the Wyoming Association of Rural Water System's Annual Conference. Wyoming's entry made the semi finals and just missed making the final five.

The entry from Alabama won the national title this year followed by Kentucky and Michigan. Colorado and North Dakota rounded out the top five. Wyoming's entries have finished in the top 10 for the last 4 years with the Town of Afton placing in the top five in 2005.

This year's judges were Jim Maras, from Rural Development, USDA; Melanie Rinehart, Legislative Director for The Honorable Earl Pomeroy of North Dakota and Rocky Owens, VP for Sales for Engineered Storage Products an NRWA Prime Sponsor. Each judge evaluated glasses of water from the state finalists measuring them on clarity, bouquet and taste.

Every spring, the National Rural Water Association sponsors the Rural Water Rally and Great American Taste Test on Capitol Hill to give utility and state officials an opportunity to visit one-on-one with their Congressional representatives and discuss key water and wastewater issues. Wyoming's entrants met with Senator Enzi, Senator Barrasso and Representative Lummis to discuss water quality and quantity issues facing all Wyoming rural systems.