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Water Utility Council of the
PA-Section, American Water
Works Association (PA-AWWA)



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

From Gmerek Government Relations, Inc.

212 Locust Street ♦ Suite 300 ♦ Harrisburg, PA 17101 ♦ Phone: 717-234-8525 ♦ Cell: 717-574-3963 ♦ Fax:
717-234-8812 ♦ Erik A. Ross, Senior Lobbyist ♦ www.ggrgov.com

Harrisburg, PA

eross@ggrgov.com

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*PA- Section, American Water Works Association
National Association of Water Companies
Water Works Operators' Association of Pennsylvania*

Pennsylvania Continues to Reduce Water Pollution in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

On March 24, 2014, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced that efforts to reduce pollution in Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Watershed continue to yield progress. The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) today released its annual Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model progress run results for 2013. These numbers represent the estimated amounts of phosphorous, nitrogen and sediment conveyed to the Chesapeake Bay.

"Pennsylvania's hard work in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed has continued to decrease water pollution," DEP Secretary Chris Abruzzo said. "I believe we can achieve even greater results by partnering with stakeholders, helping them develop plans unique to their watershed needs, and engaging local property owners to do their part. The bay watershed is a vital resource, not only to Pennsylvania, but to all watershed states, and it is our job to protect it for generations to come."

Pennsylvania has continued to successfully reduce nutrient and sediment loading into the bay watershed. DEP efforts include updating nitrogen and phosphorous limits in permits for wastewater treatment plants, issuing municipal stormwater system permits with nutrient planning requirements, fostering a successful nutrient credit trading program that incentivizes best management practices (BMPs) and conducting 10,842 farm visits in the bay watershed from July 2011 through December 2013.

The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model analyzes three main pollutants: phosphorous, nitrogen and sediment. According to the model results released today, Pennsylvania has exceeded the Watershed Model Milestone for phosphorous reductions by approximately 5.1 percent. Although continued reductions have been achieved, the results also indicate that the state narrowly missed 2013 milestones for nitrogen by 1.8 percent and sediment by 4.8 percent.

Also according to the results, Pennsylvania has continued to see a downward trend for all three pollutants. Since 1985, the watershed model indicates that Pennsylvania has reduced phosphorous loadings by 25 percent, nitrogen by 10 percent and sediment by 15 percent, while

experiencing significant growth in the Chesapeake Basin.

This trend is supported by data like the long-term monitoring conducted by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, which indicates positive, downward trends in phosphorous, nitrogen and sediment at Pennsylvania monitoring stations in the bay watershed.

Pennsylvania's 40,000 farmers and 1,200 municipalities in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed have continued to voluntarily install BMPs such as riparian buffers, green infrastructure and cover crops. However, many of these voluntary BMPs can be difficult to track and are sometimes not taken into account when examining Pennsylvania's efforts to reduce pollution in the bay watershed. DEP continues to work to improve data collection for BMPs, particularly in the rural and urban sectors, so that these important voluntary efforts are accounted for when submitting progress data to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Local initiatives, like the York County Coalition for Clean Waters and the Conewago Creek Initiative in Lancaster County, have also played a big role in pollution reduction in the bay watershed. For example, the York County Coalition for Clean Waters prepared a watershed implementation plan that targets pollutant-reducing BMPs to help municipalities and other stakeholders determine how to efficiently reduce pollutants. The Conewago Creek Initiative has helped create 21 residential stormwater management plans and install 60 acres of forested riparian buffers, 183 acres of cover crops and 4,700 feet of stream bank restoration.

Similar local watershed projects have been made possible by funding from the Marcellus Legacy Fund and Growing Greener Grants. Signed by Governor Tom Corbett, Act 13 of 2012 provided a natural gas impact fee which funds the Marcellus Legacy Fund and provided the first infusion of new money into the Growing Greener Grant Program in over a decade.

Milestones are pollution reduction goals based on EPA-mandated 2017 and 2025 targets for the Chesapeake Bay. Every two years, states in the bay watershed reevaluate to meet their milestones to

help ensure continued progress in reducing pollution in the Chesapeake Bay.

For more information, or to view the milestones visit www.dep.state.pa.us, keyword "Chesapeake Bay Program," or call 717-772-4785.

Source: DEP Press Release, 3/24/2014

Water Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

The Water Resources Advisory Committee (Committee) will meet on April 11, 2014. The meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. in Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA.

Questions concerning the meeting of the Committee can be directed to Sean Gimbel, (717) 783-4693, sgimbel@pa.gov. The agenda and meeting materials for the April 11, 2014, meeting will be available through the Public Participation Center on the Department of Environmental Protection's (Department) web site at www.dep.state.pa.us (DEP Keywords: "Public Participation, Participate").

Persons in need of accommodations as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 should contact the Department at (717) 783-4693 or through the Pennsylvania AT&T Relay Service at (800) 654-5984 (TDD) to discuss how the Department may accommodate their needs.

Source: [PA Bulletin, 3/29/2014](#)

EPA and Army Corps of Engineers Clarify Protection for Nation's Streams and Wetlands

On March 25, 2014, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) jointly released a proposed rule to clarify protection under the Clean Water Act for streams and wetlands that

form the foundation of the nation's water resources. The proposed rule will benefit businesses by increasing efficiency in determining coverage of the Clean Water Act. The agencies are launching a robust outreach effort over the next 90 days, holding discussions around the country and gathering input needed to shape a final rule.

Determining Clean Water Act protection for streams and wetlands became confusing and complex following Supreme Court decisions in 2001 and 2006. For nearly a decade, members of Congress, state and local officials, industry, agriculture, environmental groups, and the public asked for a rulemaking to provide clarity.

The proposed rule clarifies protection for streams and wetlands. The proposed definitions of waters will apply to all Clean Water Act programs. It does not protect any new types of waters that have not historically been covered under the Clean Water Act and is consistent with the Supreme Court's more narrow reading of Clean Water Act jurisdiction.

"We are clarifying protection for the upstream waters that are absolutely vital to downstream communities," said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. "Clean water is essential to every single American, from families who rely on safe places to swim and healthy fish to eat, to farmers who need abundant and reliable sources of water to grow their crops, to hunters and fishermen who depend on healthy waters for recreation and their work, and to businesses that need a steady supply of water for operations."

"America's waters and wetlands are valuable resources that must be protected today and for future generations," said Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) Jo-Ellen Darcy. "Today's rulemaking will better protect our aquatic resources, by strengthening the consistency, predictability, and transparency of our jurisdictional determinations. The rule's clarifications will result in a better public service nationwide."

The health of rivers, lakes, bays, and coastal waters depend on the streams and wetlands where they begin. Streams and wetlands provide many benefits to communities – they trap floodwaters,

recharge groundwater supplies, remove pollution, and provide habitat for fish and wildlife. They are also economic drivers because of their role in fishing, hunting, agriculture, recreation, energy, and manufacturing.

About 60 percent of stream miles in the U.S only flow seasonally or after rain, but have a considerable impact on the downstream waters. And approximately 117 million people – one in three Americans – get drinking water from public systems that rely in part on these streams. These are important waterways for which EPA and the Army Corps is clarifying protection.

Specifically, the proposed rule clarifies that under the Clean Water Act and based on the science:

- Most seasonal and rain dependent streams are protected.
- Wetlands near rivers and streams are protected.
- Other types of waters may have more uncertain connections with downstream water and protection will be evaluated through a case specific analysis of whether the connection is or is not protecting similarly situated waters in certain geographic areas or adding to the categories of waters protected without case specific analysis.

The proposed rule preserves the Clean Water Act exemptions and exclusions for agriculture.

Additionally, EPA and the Army Corps have coordinated with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to develop an interpretive rule to ensure that 53 specific conservation practices that protect or improve water quality will not be subject to Section 404 dredged or fill permitting requirements. The agencies will work together to implement these new exemptions and periodically review, and update USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service conservation practice standards and activities that would qualify under the exemption. Any agriculture activity that does not result in the discharge of a pollutant to waters of the U.S. still does not require a permit.

The proposed rule also helps states and tribes – according to a study by the Environmental Law

Institute, 36 states have legal limitations on their ability to fully protect waters that aren't covered by the Clean Water Act.

The proposed rule is supported by the latest peer-reviewed science, including a draft scientific assessment by EPA, which presents a review and synthesis of more than 1,000 pieces of scientific literature. The rule will not be finalized until the final version of this scientific assessment is complete.

Forty years ago, two-thirds of America's lakes, rivers and coastal waters were unsafe for fishing and swimming. Because of the Clean Water Act, that number has been cut in half. However, one-third of the nation's waters still do not meet standards.

The proposed rule will be open for public comment for 90 days from publication in the Federal Register. The interpretive rule for agricultural activities is effective immediately.

More information: www.epa.gov/uswaters

Watch Administrator McCarthy's overview: <http://youtu.be/ow-n8zZuDYc>

Watch Deputy Chief of Staff Arvin Ganesan's explanation: http://youtu.be/fOUESH_JmA0

Source: EPA Press Release, 3/25/2014

Water and Energy Nexus in Disasters Webinar Series: Coordination between Electric and Water Utilities

EPA will be hosting its second of four webinars focusing on the nexus between water and energy usage during disasters on April 2, 2014 from 1 to 2pm EST. The webinar will feature two speakers from electric utilities and one speaker from a water utility who will share their experiences and recommendations for increasing coordination and communication between the two

types of utilities. They will also share their lessons learned from significant storm events that impacted their utilities, including Superstorm Sandy. Register [here](#).

Source: EPA Water Headlines, 3/25/2014

Testimony of EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy before Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on Proposed FY 2015 Budget

On March 26, 2014, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy testified before the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works at a hearing to discuss EPA's proposed FY 2015 budget.

Administrator McCarthy's remarks:

Chairman Boxer, Ranking Member Vitter, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you to discuss the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed FY 2015 budget. I'm joined by the Agency's Acting Chief Financial Officer, Maryann Froehlich.

EPA's budget request of \$7.890 billion for the 2015 fiscal year starting October 1, 2014 reflects our ongoing efforts to meet the challenges facing the agency today and into the future. Despite these challenges, we remain dedicated to protecting public health and the environment, and we know we must target staff and resources and find new ways to fulfill our mission. We will focus those resources in a way that will allow EPA to be more effective and efficient.

The FY 2015 budget reflects a strategic approach to our budget planning process, looking toward the future rather than continuing to simply react to tough budget choices with cuts across the Agency. The

FY 2015 budget request does this in the following ways:

- It reflects EPA's incorporation of new technologies and new regulatory and non-regulatory approaches that can help us maintain our efficiency and effectiveness.

- It strengthens EPA's partnership with public health and environmental protection partners in states, tribes and local communities with a focus on aligning our resources, avoiding duplication, and identifying and closing any gaps in the broader environmental enterprise system.

- It invests our funds and leverages funds of our partners where it makes the most sense and gets the biggest bang for the buck.

Following the framework of priorities laid out in the FY 2014 - 2018 Strategic Plan and working within our budget, we are committed to ensuring the staff we have in program areas and regions make the most sense and will have the most impact.

EPA has already taken steps toward proactive management of our operating budget. Through the VERA/VSIP process, we have begun to accelerate attrition within EPA both at headquarters and the regions toward a ceiling of 15,000 nonrefundable FTE's.

Our FY 2015 budget relies on a reduced workforce focused on programs, policies, and regulations that matter most to public health and the environment. This is not simply about cutting the workforce to save costs. We are reshaping the workforce and our work to meet current and future challenges. Doing this includes making key investments.

It makes long-term fiscal sense to invest the cost savings achieved -- through a smaller workforce and improved use of technology -
- to work smarter and more effectively. This approach will keep EPA strong, focused on science and the law, and transparent in

addressing environmental challenges and the results we have achieved.

This budget will provide the support we need to move forward by targeting real progress in priority areas: communities, climate change and air quality, toxics and chemical safety, and clean water. Building on current work on the ground in our communities, we are asking for \$7.5 million and 64 staff in FY 2015 to work toward efforts that will make a difference in people's everyday lives and in their communities. Those efforts include providing green infrastructure technical assistance for up to 100 communities that will promote cost-effective approaches to water management.

This budget request furthers our environmental justice efforts. The protections provided by our national environmental laws must be accessible to everyone. We will do more to partner with states, tribes, and local governments and other federal agencies to better coordinate and leverage resources supporting community efforts.

Addressing the threat from a changing **climate** is one of the greatest challenges of this and future generations. The request for climate change and air quality is \$1.03 billion-over \$41 million more than fiscal year 2014. And it designates \$199.5 million specifically for climate change work.

Building on existing efforts and base budget resources, the Agency has added \$10 million and dedicates 24 FTE's in FY 2015 to support the President's climate action plan. **\$2 million is designated for technical assistance for adaptation planning for water utilities at greatest risk from storm surges.** Research and development efforts will focus on support tools for at-risk communities and tribes in preparing for the impacts of climate change.

The Agency will focus resources on the development of common sense and

achievable greenhouse gas standards for power plants-the single largest source of carbon pollution. The President's budget provides support for the states to help them meet their obligations under Section 111 of the Clean Air Act with regard to cutting carbon emissions.

This request also supports the President's interagency methane strategy and the President's recently announced directive to **EPA to develop phase 2 fuel efficiency and greenhouse gas standards for heavy-duty vehicles**. EPA also will be implementing a range of activities in support of the President's call to cut energy waste in homes, businesses, and factories.

Chemicals and toxic substances are prevalent in our everyday lives. The EPA budget requests almost \$673 million to support work to reduce the risk and increase the safety of chemicals and prevent pollution for all Americans and especially children.

We are requesting \$23 million and 24 FTE in FY 2015 to support activities under the President's executive order on chemical safety, as well as Agency efforts on chemical prioritization, air toxics, radon, and **volatile organic compounds in drinking water**. \$5 million in resources for air toxics work will enhance our capabilities to design effective regulations and continue developing the national air toxics assessment.

The nation's **water resources** are the lifeblood of our communities. The FY 2015 budget recognizes the long-term benefits of healthy aquatic systems for all aspects of our daily lives.

The Agency is directing \$8 million and 10 FTE to advance **clean water**. Resources are also proposed for the **municipal separate storm sewer systems program** for technical support to communities that must develop effective stormwater permits for the first time.

We are requesting \$1.775 billion for the **clean water and drinking water state revolving funds**. Although this is a more than a \$580 million decrease over FY 2014 levels, federal capitalization of the SRFs totals over \$22 billion since FY 2009, if you include the FY 2015 request. The FY 2015 budget seeks to ensure that federal dollars provided through the fund lead to the design, construction, and support of sustainable water infrastructure.

The EPA is looking toward future ways to better serve the American people by employing technology where it can be used more effectively. E-Enterprise is a major joint initiative between EPA and states to modernize our business practices and to increase responsiveness. This effort holds the promise of increased effectiveness and savings for businesses as well as government. The agency is expanding efforts in the second year of the multi-year E-Enterprise business model including focusing people and resources to accelerate development of the E-Manifest system and associated rule-making work. For example, the benefits of implementing the E-Manifest system include annual savings estimated at \$75 million for over 160,000 waste handlers. Transitioning from a paper-based system saves time and effort for every person who used to handle that paper.

In addition, EPA is making changes to long-standing business practices such as contracts, grants management, and the regulation development process. One important area of emphasis is improving freedom of information act (FOIA) and records management.

In FY 2015, the Agency is requesting over \$1.33 billion to continue to apply the most effective response approaches for cleanups under RCRA, Superfund, Leaking Underground Storage Tank, and other authorities. This strategy will help ensure land is returned to beneficial use in the most effective way. \$1.16 billion is requested for Superfund which includes a \$43.4 million

increase for remedial work and an increase of \$9.2 million for emergency response and removal.

In this budget, we hold firm our priority support for state and tribal partners, the primary implementers and front line of environmental programs. Funding for state and tribal assistance grants - or STAG - is once again the largest percentage of the EPA's budget request and prioritizes funding for state categorical grants.

The FY 2015 budget includes a total of \$1.13 billion in categorical grants - a net \$76 million increase over FY 2014.

- Within that total is over \$96 million for tribal general assistance program grants - a \$31 million increase over FY 2014.
- We also included an \$18 million increase for pollution control (Section 106),
- There is a \$16 million increase for environmental information grants.
- There is a \$15 million increase for state and local air quality management in our request.

Science is the foundation of our work at the EPA. And science is supported by the President's request of \$537.3 million. In FY 2015, the EPA is focusing research on the most critical issues facing the Agency.

These include efforts to: advance chemical prioritization and predictive toxicology, help communities make sustainable decisions regarding environmental protection and resilience, and inform regional and community level strategies for the use of green infrastructure and other innovative alternative practices.

The EPA continues to focus on reducing its physical footprint and achieving greater energy efficiency. Since 2006, the EPA has released approximately 428 thousand square feet of space nationwide, resulting in a

cumulative annual rent avoidance of over \$14.6 million.

The EPA continues to eliminate programs that have served their purpose, accomplished their mission, or are duplicative. The FY 2015 budget eliminates a number of such programs totaling nearly \$56 million. These include beaches protection categorical grants, state indoor radon grants, and diesel emissions reductions assistance grants.

Recognizing the importance of the two-year budget agreement congress reached in December, which the President's budget adheres to, levels are not sufficient to expand opportunity to all Americans or to drive the growth our economy needs.

For that reason, across the federal government, the budget also includes a separate, fully paid for \$56 billion opportunity, growth, and security initiative. This initiative-split evenly between defense and non-defense funding-shows how additional discretionary investments in FY 2015 can spur economic progress, promote opportunity, and strengthen national security.

- Within the initiative is \$1 billion for a climate resilience fund, through which the budget will invest in research and unlock data to better understand and prepare for impacts of a changing climate. These investments will also fund breakthrough technologies and resilient infrastructure.
- Within the climate resilience fund, EPA will support a nation better prepared for the impacts of climate change-with \$10 million for protecting and enhancing coastal wetlands, and \$5 million to support urban forest enhancement and protection.

We have made some very difficult choices in this budget. But we need to look realistically at challenges we face in the

future and make sure we have the best tools and people in the right places to make the most difference. Our final FY 2015 budget reflects a balanced approach to accomplishing this.

Thank you for the opportunity to touch upon some of the highlights of EPA's FY 2015 budget request in my testimony today. I look forward to answering your questions.

Source: EPA Press Release, 3/26/2014

DEP Awards \$350,000 Grant for Construction of Drinking Water System in Lancaster County

On March 26, 2014, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced the award of a \$350,000 grant to Leacock Township, Lancaster County, to assist with the construction of a new public water system.

DEP proposed to build a new public water system due to extensive groundwater contamination under a large portion of the Village of Intercourse, located within Leacock Township, and because property owners in the area rely on private wells. Once the system is constructed, Leacock Township will assume ownership.

"DEP and Leacock Township Supervisors worked hand-in-hand to determine what type of drinking water system would best remedy the groundwater issues in the area," DEP South-central Regional Director Lynn Langer said. "All Pennsylvanians have the right to clean drinking water, and this grant will help Leacock Township to protect the public and visitors from the contamination."

Specifically, the grant will reimburse the township for any costs associated with purchasing land for wellhead protection and water tank storage, as well as engineering and legal review for the water line alignment under properties.

DEP and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency conducted extensive rounds of residential well water sampling in the township from 2004 to 2008. The samples revealed the groundwater was contaminated with trichloroethylene, a chemical commonly used as a solvent to degrease metal. DEP did not determine a responsible party for the contamination but responded by providing bottled water or treatment systems to residents with contaminated wells.

The construction of the new public water system, scheduled to begin in January 2015, will eliminate the need to provide these services, although homeowners may choose to keep their water treatment system.

Aside from the grant, DEP will spend approximately \$18 million from the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund to construct the system. Leacock Township will spend approximately \$3 million to extend the water system beyond the contamination plume to the entire Village of Intercourse.

The Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act, Act 108 of 1988, authorizes DEP to provide grants from the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund for purposes such as the replacement of public and private water supplies to protect public health from contamination.

For more information, call 717-705-4832 or visit www.dep.state.pa.us and click "Regional Resources, South-central Region" and then "Community Information."

Source: DEP Press Release, 3/26/2014

PUC Reminds Customers: Electric, Natural Gas Service Can Be Terminated April 1 Regardless of Income

On March 27, 2014, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) reminded consumers who are behind on their electric and natural gas bills that their service may be terminated as of April 1, regardless of income.

“The severe winter cold has meant we are all using our heating systems more, which means higher energy bills,” said PUC Chairman Robert F. Powelson. “Many across Pennsylvania are struggling to pay their bills. Past-due electric and natural gas bills can lead to termination as of April 1 no matter what your financial situation. If consumers receive a termination notice, do not ignore it. Taking the steps to avoid termination means customers also avoid reconnection fees and security deposits, which can add up and make service reconnection expensive.”

The PUC urges customers who receive a termination notice to call the utility immediately. Resources are available to help consumers maintain service. If consumers are not satisfied with the utility response, they are encouraged to call the PUC at 1-800-692-7380.

Prior to termination, the utility company will provide two notices and give consumers the opportunity to contact it to make arrangements to avoid termination. If service is shut off, the company will leave notice telling consumers what to do to have service restored. Payment to restore service will depend on the consumer’s household income and payment history. Consumers may be required to pay a security deposit equal to two average monthly bills, reconnection fee or the full balance of the bill.

Additional information about the law that applies to the termination and reconnection of utility service can be found on the PUC website.

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission balances the needs of consumers and utilities; ensures safe and reliable utility service at reasonable rates; protects the public interest; educates consumers to make independent and informed utility choices; furthers economic development; and fosters new technologies and competitive markets in an environmentally sound manner.

For recent news releases and video of select Commission proceedings or more information about the PUC, visit our website at www.puc.pa.gov . Follow the PUC on Twitter – @PA_PUC for all

things utility. “Like” PAPowerSwitch on Facebook for easy access to information on electric shopping.

Source: PUC Press Release, 3/27/2014

Daley seeks two-week Reprieve on Gas, Electric Shutoffs

On March 27, 2014, state Rep. Peter J. Daley II, Democratic chairman of the House Consumer Affairs Committee, urged gas and electric utilities and the state Public Utility Commission to grant a two-week reprieve on service shutoffs that can begin Tuesday, April 1, regardless of income.

“The severe winter and the well-documented problems with skyrocketing electric bills for ratepayers covered by variable-rate plans are more than enough reasons for a grace period,” said Daley, D-Fayette/Washington. “The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program – LIHEAP -- was extended by two weeks, and I think a similar reprieve for ratepayers is warranted.”

Daley said that beginning April 1, past-due electric and natural gas bills can lead to terminations regardless of financial situations. From Dec. 1 through March 31, utilities may not terminate service for certain low-income ratepayers without the PUC’s approval.

In a letter to the PUC and the Energy Association of Pennsylvania, whose members deliver energy to more than 8.3 million residential, commercial and industrial customers, Daley requested that all shutoffs be delayed until April 14.

“Natural and unnatural forces this winter have put many ratepayers in a terrible financial bind, even posing ‘heat or eat’ dilemmas for too many in Pennsylvania,” Daley wrote. “A two-week moratorium on shutoffs would be a responsible and appreciated response.”

Daley said that the PUC mentioned higher utility bills from winter conditions in its release today warning about the April 1 shutoff rules.

“We know conditions were abysmal, so let’s take a small step toward easing the pain,” Daley said. “No legislation need be enacted to bring about this reprieve, just some business compassion.”

Source: Rep. Peter Daley Press Release, 3/27/2014

Senate Committee to Consider Stormwater BMP, Local Recreation Fee Bills

The Senate Local Government Committee is scheduled to consider [Senate Bill 1255](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware) authorizing municipal authorities to establish programs that allow property owners to reduce their stormwater rates and changes by implementing best management practices on April 1.

Also scheduled to be considered is [House Bill 1052](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) further authorizing use of local recreation fees.

The meeting will be held in Room 8E-A East Wing of the Capitol Building starting at 10:00 a.m.

Sen. John Eichelberger (R-Blair) serves as Majority Chair and Sen. Rob Teplitz (D-Dauphin) serves as Minority Chair.

Source: PA Environmental Digest, 3/31/2014

Carol Collier Joins Academy of Natural Sciences as Senior Watershed Policy Advisor

The [Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University](#) in Philadelphia Tuesday announced Carol R. Collier, an experienced leader in regional watershed management and planning, has joined the Academy as its Senior Advisor for Watershed Management and Policy. Collier recently retired as Executive Director of the Delaware River Basin Commission, a position she held for more than 15 years.

At the Academy, Collier will hold an active leadership role supporting the work of the [Patrick Center for Environmental Research](#) in monitoring and improving the health of watersheds in the Delaware River Basin.

She will act as the principal liaison for outreach and program development to partners and high level contacts in government, business, non-governmental organizations and funding organizations. A major focus for Collier is her role in the Academy’s watershed protection research. “Bringing Carol to the Academy reaffirms our role as a center for thought and action around water science and management,” said Academy President and CEO George W. Gephart, Jr. “We look forward to the new relationships and resources that will develop as she facilitates the many interactions of our watershed team with organizations and government agencies.”

The Academy has a history of more than 70 years of national leadership in using science to inform the protection of environmental quality in both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. The Academy’s watershed research uses field and laboratory studies to analyze and simulate the functioning of marine and freshwater aquatic systems, integrating mapping with hydrological, biogeochemical, ecological and other methods of measurement and analysis at multiple spatial scales.

“I hope that through my role at the Academy, I can help the basin community understand the need to plan for sustainable future water resources and work with them so their communities are more resilient to change,” said Collier. “There are many overlapping challenges to the Delaware River Basin that need to be addressed. These include population changes, increased water use, and the potential for natural gas development in the headwaters. On top of these issues there is the need to ensure adequate instream flows for aquatic communities and account for impacts of climate change—more intense storms, potential summer droughts and sea level rise. Planning for these impacts is best done at the basin scale, but implementation of solutions will likely occur at the watershed and local government levels.”

Collier brings to her role decades of leadership experience in environmental protection and planning. As executive director of the DRBC from August 1998 to March 2014, Collier led the four-state and federal commission providing a unified approach to water resource management without regard to political boundaries.

During her years of leadership at DRBC, the commission expanded coverage of Special Protection Waters regulations; led efforts to address PCB pollution in the tidal Delaware River and Bay; completed the Water Resources Plan for the Delaware River Basin in 2004, that provides a 30-year framework of goals guiding governmental and non-governmental stakeholders whose actions affect water resources in the basin; and achieved numerous other improvements in water conservation and watershed protection.

Collier previously served as executive director of Pennsylvania's 21st Century Environment Commission and as regional director of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Southeast Region. Prior to PADEP, she served 19 years with BCM Environmental Engineers, Inc., ultimately in the role of vice president of environmental planning, science and risk.

Collier is a professional planner licensed in the state of New Jersey, a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and a certified senior ecologist. She is a member of the boards of the American Water Resources Association (of which she was president last year) and the U.S. Water Alliance and is a recent past chair of the Board for the [Pinchot Institute for Conservation](#).

"I am very excited to be joining the Academy of Natural Sciences team," said Collier. "My mentor and the reason I chose the path of water resources management was Dr. Ruth Patrick, a lead researcher at the Academy and for whom the Patrick Center is named. During graduate school at University of Pennsylvania, I spent most of my time at the Academy, so this will be going back to my roots. The Academy has an incredible team of aquatic researchers and I am humbled to be joining the team."

Ruth Patrick Memorial Symposium

Collier will be a presenter at the free [Ruth Patrick Memorial Symposium](#) at the Academy on April 22.

Source: PA Environmental Digest, 3/31/2014

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This newsletter provides general information, not legal advice as to any specific matter. It should not be used as a substitute for appropriate legal advice.