
WUC

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



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

From Milliron & Goodman Government Relations, LLC.

200 North 3rd Street ♦ Suite 1500 ♦ Harrisburg, PA 17101 ♦ Phone: 717-232-5322 ♦ Cell: 717-574-3963 ♦
Erik A. Ross, Associate ♦ www.millirongoodman.com

Harrisburg, PA

Erik@millirongoodman.com

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Revenue Department Releases August 2016 Collections

Pennsylvania collected \$2 billion in General Fund revenue in August, which was \$73.4 million, or 3.5 percent, less than anticipated, Secretary of Revenue Eileen McNulty reported today. Fiscal year-to-date General Fund collections total \$4 billion, which is \$73.6 million, or 1.8 percent, below estimate.

Sales tax receipts totaled \$790.8 million for August, \$51.9 million below estimate. Year-to-date sales tax collections total \$1.7 billion, which is \$51.9 million, or 3 percent, less than anticipated.

Personal income tax (PIT) revenue in August was \$893.7 million, \$18.2 million below estimate. This brings year-to-date PIT collections to \$1.7 billion, which is \$18.3 million, or 1.1 percent, below estimate.

August **corporation tax revenue** of \$44.8 million was \$11.9 million below estimate. Year-to-date corporation tax collections total \$111.2 million, which is \$12 million, or 9.7 percent, below estimate.

Inheritance tax revenue for the month was \$81.8 million, \$5.9 million above estimate, bringing the year-to-date total to \$158.8 million, which is \$5.8 million, or 3.8 percent, above estimate.

Realty transfer tax revenue was \$45.3 million for August, \$8.9 million below estimate, bringing the fiscal-year total to \$77.8 million, which is \$9 million, or 10.4 percent, less than anticipated.

Other General Fund tax revenue, including cigarette, malt beverage, liquor and table games taxes, totaled \$139.4 million for the month, \$700,000 above estimate and bringing the year-to-date total to \$244.9 million, which is \$700,000, or 0.3 percent, above estimate.

Non-tax revenue totaled \$19.6 million for the month, \$11 million above estimate, bringing the year-to-date total to \$58 million, which is \$11 million, or 23.5 percent, above estimate.

In addition to the **General Fund collections**, the **Motor License Fund** received \$236.1 million for the month, \$1.8 million below estimate. Fiscal year-to-date collections for the fund – which include the commonly known gas and diesel taxes, as well as other license, fine and fee revenues – total \$447.4 million, which is \$1.9 million, or 0.4 percent, below estimate.

Source: Department of Revenue Press Release,
9/2/2016

State Agencies Urge Pennsylvanians to Prepare for Emergencies during National Preparedness Month

State officials will be reminding citizens throughout September to prepare for emergencies as part of National Preparedness Month, a nationwide month-long effort to encourage households, businesses and communities to prepare and plan for emergencies.

This year's NPM theme is "Don't Wait. Communicate. Make Your Emergency Plan Today." People can learn more by following the hashtag #NatlPrep on Facebook and Twitter.

"With families being more mobile and involved in multiple activities, it's very likely that an emergency could happen when everyone isn't together," said Richard D. Flinn Jr, director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. "Having a family emergency plan ensures that everyone knows who they should contact to report that they're safe and where they will meet in case they can't get back home."

Flinn said that simple steps can be taken now to prepare a family, school, workplace or community for any type of incident that would disrupt the day-to-day routine. Citizens are encouraged to visit www.ReadyPA.org to find sample checklists, contact lists and other preparedness tools to take advantage of before an emergency occurs.

"Once you've created a plan, it's important to practice it just as you would practice a fire drill at work or at school," said Flinn. "Another important step is to build a basic emergency kit so you have enough food, water, medicine and other essential supplies to sustain your family including your pets without any outside assistance for at least three days."

In particular, people should think about loved ones who may have special needs that could inhibit their ability to help themselves.

"The best defense during an emergency is knowing what to do," said Secretary of Health Dr. Karen Murphy. "This is especially important for those who may need more help during emergencies, like children, older Pennsylvanians, and individuals with access and functional needs."

Those who take medicine or use a medical treatment every day should also be sure to have enough on hand to last for at least one week, as well as keep a list of prescriptions, including the name of the medicine, dosage and any other directions.

Insurance Commissioner Teresa Miller said Pennsylvanians should review their homeowners policy and understand what will be covered and steps that you need to take to file claims if their property is damaged. The National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) recommends that homeowners insure their property at replacement value rather than actual cash value to help cover costs should extensive repairs or a full replacement be deemed necessary. You should also keep an inventory and photos of your personal belongings so you have a detailed record if any are damaged after a storm.

If you rent your home or apartment, the property owner's policy that covers the rental unit may not cover your personal belongings. It is important that you obtain a renters insurance policy to protect your belongings in the event of storm damage.

"Planning ahead and understanding what you'll need to know if your property is damaged can ease the recovery process," said Commissioner Miller. "It is important that you know what is covered by your homeowners or renters insurance and whether you should consider additional coverage like flood insurance."

Miller said damage from flooding is not covered by a homeowners insurance policy. In addition, renters insurance does not cover property damage from weather-related floods. Flood insurance must be obtained separately and is available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency

(FEMA)'s National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and through some private insurers.

For more information on homeowners and flood insurance, visit www.insurance.pa.gov or contact the department at 1-877-881-6388.

For free preparedness resources such as a checklist, personal preparedness plans and instructional videos, visit www.ReadyPA.org. Follow @ReadyPA on Twitter and like facebook.com/BeReadyPA for additional helpful tips and information.

Source: Governor Wolf's Press Office, 9/6/2016

DEP Announces New Regional Director for Northwestern Pa.

DEP recently appointed Jim Miller as Regional Director to oversee the Northwest Regional Office located in Meadville. The Northwest Region encompasses the counties of Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer Venango, and Warren and has satellite offices in both New Caste and Warren.

"I am pleased to promote Jim Miller as Regional Director of operations in the Northwest," DEP Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell said. "His experience and transparent management style make him the best person to carry out the mission of the Department as Regional Director."

Most recently, Miller worked as Assistant Regional Director at DEP's North Central Region in Williamsport. Miller's career at DEP has spanned 26 years including 20 years spent in the Waste Management Program. "My family and I look forward to moving to the Northwest Region and working with the DEP staff to help protect our natural resources," said Miller.

Read [more](#).

Source: DEP News, 9/1/2016

Commonwealth Court Upholds DEP's Authority to Consider Impacts to Public Resources When Permitting Wells

Commonwealth Court today ruled 5-2 that DEP may consider impacts to public resources such as parks, forests, natural landmarks and public drinking water supplies as part of its well permit application process.

The court struck down a petition by the Pennsylvania Independent Oil & Gas Association (PIOGA) to prevent DEP from considering such impacts.

"Today's ruling is important for DEP's permitting of oil and gas wells across Pennsylvania," DEP Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell said. "It unconditionally confirms that the department has legal authority under Act 13 (the 2012 Oil and Gas Act) to consider the impact that a proposed well site will have on public and natural resources. This decision will assist DEP in its work to ensure responsible development of natural resources in Pennsylvania."

The full text of the decision is available on Commonwealth Court's [website](#).

Source: DEP News, 9/1/2016

EPA Releases Risk-Based Climate Change Adaptation Workbook

By Nicole Tachiki, Climate Change ORISE Fellow in EPA's Office of Water

At a conference on climate change adaptation, I found myself eating lunch next to the Planning Administrator of a Maryland county. She told me that her office does not have budget or staff dedicated to thinking about the impacts of climate change, so she registered for

the conference to learn how to incorporate climate adaptation into her work. Although her position as the county's planning administrator does not include a sustainability portfolio, she recognized the need to consider climate change in county plans and wanted to learn more about it.

Climate change will have an impact on communities, particularly those that are already vulnerable to coastal storms, drought, and sea level rise. Like in the Southwest, drought will only exacerbate water shortages and increase the likelihood of future wildfires. Low-income communities that lack adequate resources to prepare and adapt to the inevitable impacts of climate change are especially at risk.

Because of experiences like this, I am very proud of the work that has gone into EPA's risk-based vulnerability assessment workbook entitled "[Being Prepared for Climate Change: A Workbook for Developing Risk-Based Adaptation Plans](#)." The workbook is a step-by-step guide to conducting a risk-based vulnerability assessment and then writing an adaptation action plan. Communities can follow the workbook steps to identify their potential climate change risks and how to consider adaptation options.

Read [more](#).

Source: Water Headlines from EPA, 8/30/2016

SCI Pittsburgh Treating Water for Legionella

Following recent testing at SCI Pittsburgh, officials discovered higher than acceptable levels of Legionella within the water cooling tower and in the medical building.

“The Department of Corrections has been confronted with this issue at various prisons over the past years,” said Corrections Secretary John Wetzel. “We take this matter seriously and are being proactive in our response to the water test results.”

Eradication of the Legionella is under way.

As a proactive measure, prison officials have restricted employees and inmates from drinking water and will provide bottled water for drinking.

While water testing has always been conducted at the prison, such tests have been increased in frequency and water treatment will continue as testing indicates.

The DOC is working closely with the PA Department of Health and following their guidance.

Legionella is not spread person-to-person, so isolation and quarantine are not necessary.

Source: Department of Corrections Press Release, 9/1/2016

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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.