
WUC

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



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

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

PUC Marks ‘Safe Digging Month’; Encourages Safe Practices by Homeowners, Businesses & Contractors

In conjunction with National Safe Digging Month, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) today reminded homeowners, businesses and contractors of the importance of dialing 8-1-1 before digging to help ensure the safety of their excavation projects.

“The arrival of warmer spring weather often marks an increase in construction and home renovation across the state, making this a prime time to highlight the importance of safe digging practices,” noted Commissioner John F. Coleman Jr. during the Commission’s Public Meeting today. “Every year, there are approximately 6,000 hits on our underground infrastructure across the state, and each one of these poses a risk to contractors, utility workers and bystanders, along with the possibility of service interruptions, environmental damage and costly repairs to damaged lines.”

State law requires contractors and residents to contact the [PA One Call System](#) system at least three business days prior to excavation – triggering

alerts to all utilities within an intended digging area and prompting them to mark where their facilities are located. Pennsylvanians can dial 8-1-1 to connect with the One Call system, while non-Pennsylvania residents can dial 1-800-242-1776.

“We urge everyone involved in excavation projects – whether it’s a small backyard improvement project or a large construction site – to ensure that utilities are marked before any digging begins,” Commissioner Coleman added. “A single call to 8-1-1 can go a long way toward preventing a potential tragedy or avoiding costly delays or repairs to underground utility lines.”

Governor Wolf and leaders from numerous counties across Pennsylvania have proclaimed April to be [Pennsylvania One Call System Safe Digging Month](#), underscoring the invaluable nature of this service.

The Commission continues to encourage members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly to take action on legislation intended to enhance safety efforts – removing exemptions from the current law that allow some underground lines to go unmarked, and to transfer enforcement authority to the PUC as part of a comprehensive effort to cut the number of incidents by 50 percent by the year 2020.

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” Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission on Facebook for easy access to information on utility issues.

Source: PUC Press Release, 4/20/2017

Governor Wolf Announces \$39 Million Investment in Water Infrastructure Projects in Nine Counties

On April 19, 2017, Governor Tom Wolf announced the investment of \$39 million for 12 drinking water, wastewater, storm water, and non-point source projects across nine counties through the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST).

"Today marked another special day for the PENNVEST program and for the citizens of Pennsylvania. By approving almost \$40 million in funding for clean water projects across the commonwealth, the PENNVEST Board continued its commitment to improve the quality of our rivers and streams, the health of our families and the economic prosperity of our state", said Governor Wolf. "Together we will further the achievement of these goals and make Pennsylvania an even more desirable place to live and work for this and future generations."

Of the \$39 million, \$18.2 million is allocated for low-interest loans and \$20.8 million is awarded through grants.

The funding comes from a combination of state funds approved by voters, federal grants to PENNVEST from the Environmental Protection Agency and recycled loan repayments from previous PENNVEST funding awards. Funds for the projects are disbursed after bills for work are paid and receipts are submitted to PENNVEST.

For more information, visit <http://www.pennvest.pa.gov> or call 717-783-6798.

A list of project summaries follows.

PENNVEST Drinking Water Projects

Chester County

- **Elverson Water Company, Inc.** received a \$2,134,525 loan to improve its distribution system by replacing over half a mile of transmission pipes, installing 80 new service connections and other facilities, as well as completing the company's distribution system by installing over a thousand feet of new transmission pipes.

Jefferson County

- **Eldred Township Municipal Authority** received a \$283,541 loan and a \$546,549 grant to construct a new 96 thousand gallon water storage tank in order to provide a safe and dependable source of drinking water to the authority's customers.

Monroe County

- **Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc.** received a \$673,674 loan and a \$1,673,945 grant in order to complete the rehabilitation of the existing Sun Valley drinking water system by constructing a new water storage tank, installing a new well pump and a variety of other facilities, as well as almost two miles of new water distribution lines. The existing system is in need of significant repair and is subject to leaks and periodic water outages.

Northampton County

- **Easton Suburban Water Authority** received a \$3,401,900 loan to make a variety of improvements to its drinking water system, including the installation of new control valves, hydrants and service laterals, as well as

replacing a mile and a half of water distribution lines. The authority's system is leaking and not able to provide sufficient pressure during times of peak demand, or for firefighting.

PENNVEST Wastewater Projects

Delaware County

- **Yeadon Borough** received a \$9,593,398 loan to replace more than two miles of sewage collection lines that are cracked and subject to inflows during wet weather, as well as to replace the lateral lines running to 217 homes in the borough's system.

Erie County

- **Greene Township** received a \$2,144,642 loan and a \$7,255,358 grant to complete the final phase of a four-phase project that will provide wastewater collection service to areas of the township where malfunctioning on-lot septic systems are contaminating local drinking water wells and leaching untreated sewage into surface waters.

Non-point Source Water Quality Improvement Projects

Chester County

- **Chester County Conservation District and Elmer Kaufman** received a \$408,039 grant to install a variety of manure control facilities, including a concrete waste storage structure, gutters and downspouts, four catch basins and new pipes, as well as planting 900 feet of new grass waterways, in order to reduce nutrient run-off into Two Log Run during wet weather.

Lancaster County

- **Chester County Conservation District and Daniel Esh** received a \$350,467 grant to install a variety of manure control facilities, including more than 1,000 square feet of paved and curbed barnyard as well as 14,400 square feet of reinforced gravel animal trail, in order to reduce nutrient run-off into a tributary of the East Branch of Octoraro Creek during wet weather.
- **Chester County Conservation District and Fiddle Creek Dairy** received a \$245,494 grant to install a roofed manure stacking structure, a

watering facility, underground outlets, as well as animal trails and walkways that will serve to reduce nutrient run-off into a tributary of Big Beaver Creek during wet weather.

- **Chester County Conservation District and David Stoltzfus** received a \$347,055 grant to make a variety of improvements to manure handling facilities as well as installing reinforced gravel animal walkways, a stream crossing and streambank fencing, all of which will reduce nutrient run-off into Muddy Run during wet weather.

Philadelphia County

- **The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary** was approved to receive \$7,934,000 in funding to construct a freshwater mussel hatchery that will produce hundreds of thousands of mussels annually, which will be used to restore mussel beds in both the Susquehanna and Delaware estuaries. These mussels will, in turn, contribute to the improvement of water quality in both the Chesapeake Bay and the Delaware Estuary by filtering out nutrients, particularly nitrogen, that run off the land in these and into hundreds of streams in both watersheds.

Westmoreland County

- **Unity Township** received a \$2,050,000 grant to make a variety of improvements to its storm water control systems, which will include the installation of more than a mile and a half of new storm water pipes. The existing facilities are deteriorated and allow flooding of private property as well as contamination of local streams during heavy rainfall.

Source: Governor's Press Office, 4/19/2017

**Registration Open for the
2017 Delaware River
Sojourn: JUNE 17-23;
Scholarships & Discounts
Available, Volunteer River**

Cleanup Scheduled for June 16

Interested paddlers are invited to register for the 23rd Annual Delaware River Sojourn taking place June 17-23.

The Delaware River Sojourn combines the experiences of guided paddling excursions with interpretive programs, camping, and camaraderie. Participants may sign up for the entire seven-day trip or for the day(s) of their choice; all skill levels are welcome.

"This year's theme, Flowing Together, highlights the river's tributary watersheds that make up the Delaware River Basin, as well as the individuals who come together to protect it," said Mark Zakutansky, Director of Conservation Policy Engagement for the Appalachian Mountain Club and chair of the sojourn steering committee.

Over 55 miles of the main stem Delaware River will be paddled in 2017, split into daily trips ranging from six to 13 miles. The sojourn will also paddle a section of the Lehigh River, the Delaware's second largest tributary, on June 21.

In brief, the sojourn will include the following stretches:

- Saturday, June 17: Zane Grey Museum, Lackawaxen, Pa. to Corwin Farm, N.Y.
- Sunday, June 18: Staircase Rapids Access, N.Y. to Matamoras, Pa.
- Monday, June 19: **Dingmans Ferry, Pa. to Bushkill, Pa.**
- Tuesday, June 20: Bushkill to Worthington State Forest, N.J.
- Wednesday, June 21 (Lehigh River): **Rt. 33 Access, Pa. to Hugh Moore Park, Easton, Pa.**
- Thursday, June 22: **Martins Creek Access, Pa. to Scott Park, Easton, Pa.**
- Friday, June 23: Scott Park to Riegelsville, N.J.

"The sojourn is a wonderful way to discover the Delaware River and experience first-hand the unique character and diversity of its different sections," said Delaware River Basin Commission

(DRBC) Executive Director Steve Tambini. "DRBC has been working for more than 55 years to manage this shared water resource. We encourage the public to participate in this family-friendly paddling and learning adventure."

Registration fees in 2017 are \$80 per day for adults and \$50 per day for children (ages 15 and under). There is an additional one-time insurance fee of \$5 per person for this American Canoe Association (ACA)-sanctioned event, except for current ACA members.

Registration fees cover the guided river trip, single or tandem kayak rental (with paddle and life jacket), shuttle transportation, educational programs, most meals, a souvenir T-shirt, and optional overnight camping sites. Participants may bring their own river-worthy boat, but please note that neither aluminum nor wooden canoes are recommended.

Sojourn expenses are subsidized by donations and grants. The regional supermarket cooperative ShopRite has sponsored the Delaware River Sojourn annually since 2013. The sojourn also receives grant funding from the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers and the Lower Delaware National Wild and Scenic Rivers Program. These funds help keep costs as low as possible for participants and support the sojourn's Youth Paddle and First-Time Paddler programs.

The sojourn's Youth Paddle Program funds full scholarships for a limited number of student groups and their leaders. There are still scholarships available; interested teachers or scout leaders should visit <http://www.delawareriversojourn.org/index.php/youthprogram> to learn more. The sojourn's First-Time Paddler's Program is another savings opportunity available on a first-come, first-served basis for adult paddlers new to the Delaware River Sojourn.

On Friday, June 16, the day before the paddle trip begins, the sojourn and the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River are hosting a river cleanup from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Volunteers will clean up a five-mile section of the Delaware River starting at the Ten Mile River access in N.Y. and ending at Lackawaxen, Pa.

Volunteers must pre-register through the Delaware River Sojourn website. Canoes and equipment will be provided.

Registration details, itinerary overview, sojourn partners, and sojourn guidelines are available at <http://www.delawareriversojourn.org> . Sojourners can register online using Paypal. Registration-related questions and first-time paddler discount availability inquiries should be directed to DeJay Branch at (646) 205-2724 or <mailto:info@riversojourn.com> .

The non-profit, annual event is organized by a steering committee with representatives from federal, state and local agencies, non-profit organizations, and individual volunteers. The DRBC has proudly served on the steering committee since the sojourn's early years and is represented by Communications Specialist Kate Schmidt.

Source: DRBC Press Release, 4/17/2017

Nutrient Credit Trading Program; Credit Certification

The Department of Environmental Protection provided notice of its intention under the Nutrient Credit Trading Program to approve a mass certification of pollutant reduction activities to generate credits by Significant Sewage point source discharges within the Commonwealth portion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed with annual mass load effluent limitations in a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit.

Full details are available in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, www.dep.pa.gov/npdes-bay , or www.dep.pa.gov/Nutrient_Trading .

Written comments on the proposal should be sent by May 15 at www.ahs.dep.pa.gov/eComment or to Department of Environmental Protection, Rachel Carson State Office Building, PO Box 2063, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063, ecomment@pa.gov .

For further information, contact Nutrient Trading Program, Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Clean Water, PO Box 8774, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8774, RA_EPPANutrientTrad@pa.gov , www.dep.pa.gov/Nutrient_Trading .

Source: PA Bulletin, [4/16/2017](#)

Shale Gas Wastewater Treatment Technology Inventor Chosen Inventor of the Year

The Pittsburgh Intellectual Property Law Association (PIPLA) selected Dr. Shyam V. Dighe, founder and president of AquaSource Technologies Corporation (ATC), as this year's recipient of the Inventor of the Year award. PIPLA will honor Dr. Dighe at its annual awards dinner today in Pittsburgh.

The 34th Inventor of the Year award is awarded to a Pittsburgh-area inventor based upon PIPLA's review of the technical and economic significance of the invention and its specific contributions to society. "Dr. Dighe's contributions in helping make the extraction of natural gas from shale a more environmentally friendly endeavor tipped the scales in his favor for the Committee," according to Carl Ronald, chairperson of the PIPLA committee that selected Dr. Dighe.

Dr. Dighe founded ATC in 2011 and has been designing a treatment system utilizing his patent-protected plasma technology for use in cleaning and commercializing water that is not fit for human consumption. The end products of the treatment system are distilled water and salt with no residue that requires further disposal. This technology is particularly suited to the shale gas industry as a substitute for deep well injection of produced or 'end-of-life' wastewater. ATC is presently conducting demonstration testing of its treatment system on shale gas wastewater at one of the largest wastewater treatment facilities in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

"I have been fortunate to work in the field of high temperature plasma arc technology," says Dr. Dighe. "It is technology capable of producing primordial forces of nature that created life. With plasma technology, you can create substances like diamonds that nature takes millions of years to create while, at the same time, you can also destroy substances like toxic and hazardous chemicals which take a severe toll on nature."

In 1999, Dr. Dighe founded the Westinghouse Plasma Corporation (WPC), which he formed after purchasing the technology from Westinghouse Electric Corp., Pittsburgh. During his 19-year career with Westinghouse, Dr. Dighe was responsible for the management of operations at the Westinghouse Plasma Center located at Waltz Mill site, Madison, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Dighe holds a B. Tech. in chemical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology in Bombay, India; a Ph.D. and M.S. in chemical engineering from Carnegie-Mellon University; and a MBA from the University of Pittsburgh. During 2016, ATC received four U.S. patents and four Canadian patents in the field of plasma technology as applied to the treatment of shale gas wastewater and sea water. Dr. Dighe holds a total of 23 patents. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/shyamdighe/>

Founded in 1916, PIPLA has more than 180 intellectual property lawyers in Western Pennsylvania.

Source: AquaSource Technologies Corporation, 4/19/2017

PUC Approves Electric Safety Regulations

On April 20, 2017, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) gave its final approval to new electric safety standards, advancing efforts to enhance electric safety in Pennsylvania and reduce the number of serious injuries or fatalities that occur each year.

The Commissioners voted 5-0 to adopt the [Final Rulemaking Order](#), which adopts the standards included in the National Electric Safety Code

(NESC) into PUC regulations. The action is intended to clarify the minimum industry standards for electric utilities operating in Pennsylvania, and assist the PUC's Electric Safety Division's efforts to enforce those standards.

Created in 2014, the PUC's [Electric Safety Division](#) works to increase the safety of individuals working around power lines, including utility employees, contractors, construction workers and homeowners. Annually, an average of 24 serious injuries and six deaths occur in Pennsylvania involving individuals working around utility company power lines.

The rulemaking adopted today by the Commission will be submitted for review to the Office of Attorney General, the Governor's Budget Office, designated committees of both houses of the General Assembly and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission. Following those reviews, it will become effective upon publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

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Docket No.: [L-2015-2500632](#)

Source: PUC Press Release, 4/20/2017

SRBC Public Hearing

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission will hold a public hearing on May 11, 2017, from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Pennsylvania State Capitol, Harrisburg to hear testimony on projects.

The Commission will also hear testimony on a request for waiver of 18 CFR 806.3 and 806.4 (relating to definitions; and projects requiring review and approval) by EOG Resources, Inc., as well as proposals to amend its Regulatory Program Fee Schedule and the Comprehensive Plan for the Water Resources of the Susquehanna River Basin.

For further information or to submit comments, contact Jason Oyler, General Counsel, (717) 238-0423, Ext. 1312, fax (717) 238-2436.

Application information is available at www.srbc.net/wrp and http://www.srbc.net/pubinfo/docs/2009-02_Access_to_Records_Policy_20140115.pdf.

Source: PA Bulletin, [4/22/2017](#)

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