
WUC

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



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

From Milliron & Goodman Government Relations, LLC.

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

EQB Proposed Rulemaking: Safe Drinking Water; General Update and Fees

The Environmental Quality Board proposed to amend Chapter 109 (relating to safe drinking water) to incorporate remaining general update provisions, amend existing permit fees and add new annual fees, establish the regulatory basis for issuing general permits, clarify that noncommunity water systems require a permit or approval from the Department of Environmental Protection prior to construction and operation, and address concerns regarding gaps in the monitoring, reporting, and tracking of back-up sources of supply, effective upon publication.

For further information, contact Lisa D. Daniels, Director, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water, PO Box 8467, Rachel Carson State Office Building, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8467, (717) 787-9633; or William Cumings, Assistant Counsel, Bureau of Regulatory Counsel, PO Box 8464, Rachel Carson State Office Building, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8464, (717) 787-7060.

Source: PA Bulletin, [8/26/2017](http://www.pabulletin.com)

DEP Implements Plan to Improve Drinking Water Quality Inspections

DEP requests public feedback on fee package as new Safe Drinking Water staff are hired

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today announced plans to expedite the filling of vacancies and the training of new staff to bolster program resources for the Safe Drinking Water (SDW) program.

"Ensuring that Pennsylvania's drinking water is clean and safe to drink is one of the most important roles that DEP has," said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell. "DEP is using the resources we have at hand as well as the agency's regulatory authority to address the shortfall in inspectors for the Safe Drinking Water program."

DEP has already hired 2 new staff, with 4 additional vacancies currently in the process of being filled. DEP will also open a 30-day comment period on August 26, 2017 to solicit public feedback on a fee package for public water systems that would provide additional resources for the program.

"I'm pleased we are able to take a two-pronged approach at addressing these needs," said McDonnell.

DEP proposed the fee package to the Environmental Quality Board in May 2017. Through the fee package, new annual fees would be instituted for all public water systems based on the number of people they serve. In addition, the one-time permit fees for new water systems or modifications to existing systems would also be increased. The proceeds of the fees, once implemented, are expected to be approximately \$7.5 million per year, and would go to the Safe Drinking Water Program. This would supplement the \$7.7 million from the general fund and \$12 million in funds from the EPA.

The comment period will close on September 25, 2017. Comments may be submitted using DEP's eComment system, accessible at <http://ahs.dep.pa.gov/eComment>.

Written comments may also be submitted by email at eComment@pa.gov or mailed to the Department of Environmental Protection, Policy Office, Rachel Carson State Office Building, P.O. Box 2063, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063. Comments submitted by fax will not be accepted.

Source: DEP Press Release, 8/24/2017

EQB Proposed Rulemaking: Acceptance of Rulemaking Petition for Study

The Environmental Quality Board accepted a rulemaking petition for study relating to Environmental Quality Board policy for processing petitions—statement of policy. The petition requests the amendment of 25 Pa. Code Chapter 109 (relating to safe drinking water) to establish a maximum contaminant level for Perfluoro-octanoic Acid not to exceed six parts per trillion. The Department of Environmental Protection will prepare a report evaluating the petition.

To access the petition, contact Environmental Quality Board, PO Box 8477, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477, (717) 787-4526, <http://www.dep.pa.gov>.

Source: PA Bulletin, [8/26/2017](#)

Rescission of Technical Guidance

The Department of Environmental Protection announce rescission of technical guidance for the review and approval of an existing well water source for use at a public water system. Questions should be addressed to Michael Hess at (717) 772-5679 or michess@pa.gov.

Source: PA Bulletin, [8/26/2017](#)

PUC, PEMA & Governor's Office of Homeland Security Advance Preparations for Large-Scale 'Black Sky' Outage Events with First Transnational Exercise

Leadership and staff from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC), Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and Governor's Office of Homeland Security today joined with government agencies, utilities, emergency responders and other stakeholders around the world in a first-ever transnational exercise to test responses to a large-scale power outage event.

Today's Pennsylvania involvement in [EARTH EX 2017](#) is part of a continuing collaboration of public and private sector leaders to strengthen the state's effort to prepare for "Black Sky" events – defined as extraordinary, wide-reaching events capable of producing power outages that last significantly longer than typical weather or operational outages.

Because of the large-scale nature of Black Sky events, they have the potential to impact not only electricity, but also other critical systems, such as natural gas, water, wastewater treatment, telecommunications and transportation services. These events could be caused by a cyber-attack on the electric grid, severe weather or physical attacks.

“Black Sky events have the potential to disrupt essential services across large areas, impacting the lives of millions of people,” said PUC Chairman Gladys M. Brown. “It is essential that we work collectively to address these threats, because it will require the work of government, private sector and not-for-profit organizations to better safeguard our critical systems, strengthen our response and enhance our ability to recover from Black Sky events.”

“This exercise gives us the opportunity to work with our partners in preparedness, response and recovery to identify ways we can work together more efficiently and effectively in the event of a Black Sky incident,” said PEMA Director Richard D. Flinn, Jr. “Planning exercises like EARTH EX are a critical part of developing an effective, coordinated response to a Black Sky event,” said Marcus L. Brown, director of Pennsylvania’s Office of Homeland Security. “The lessons learned will help all of the participants prepare for, and recover from, a catastrophic disruption of electricity and other essential services.”

Pennsylvania’s first Black Sky exercise – one of the first in the country – was held in June 2016, [hosted by the PUC and Gov. Tom Wolf](#). Since that time, the PUC, PEMA and the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security have continued to integrate Black Sky planning and practice into broader discussions about emergency response planning.

Today’s EARTH EX exercise, developed by the [Electrical Infrastructure Security Council](#) (EIS Council), is the first phase of a nearly year-long series of international exercises intended to develop, test and enhance planning and preparation for Black Sky events. EIS Council hosts national and international collaborations on resilience and whole community restoration and response planning, addressing severe, national and global scale hazards to lifeline infrastructures.

Source: PUC Press Release, 8/23/2017

Climate Change Advisory Committee Rescheduled Meeting

The Climate Change Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 12 has been **rescheduled** to Tuesday, October 24 at 10 a.m. in the Rachel Carson State Office Building, Harrisburg. Agenda and meeting materials are available at www.dep.pa.gov.

Questions should be addressed to Mark Brojakowski, Bureau of Air Quality, Climate Change Section, at mbrojakows@pa.gov or (717) 772-3429.

Source: PA Bulletin, [8/26/2017](#)

Local Govt. Associations All Oppose Manganese Rider on Budget Admin Code Bills

All of Pennsylvania’s local government associations Monday sent a [letter](#) to all members of the House and Senate expressing their opposition to a provision in the Senate-passed Administrative Code bill -- [House Bill 118](#) (Kaufer-R-Luzerne) -- and in [House-amended Senate Bill 446](#) (McGarrigle-R-Delaware) that would remove the requirement to treat manganese discharges from coal mining and other sites and force water users to remove the chemical.

The associations include the PA State Association of Township Supervisors, PA Municipal Authorities Association, PA Boroughs Association, County Commissioners Association of PA, PA Municipal League and the PA State Association of township Commissioners.

[**Note:** The Coal Alliance asked for the manganese amendment to be included in the bills, but with these local government groups now joining a growing list of [environmental organizations](#), the [business community](#), [energy companies](#), and [others](#)

[opposed](#) to major parts of the Senate-passed revenue package and their environmental riders does anyone now support these riders?]

The text of the letter follows:

Administrative Code Bills currently in both the House and Senate include riders that would remove required treatment of manganese at coal mine discharge sites and force more stringent testing and costly removal of manganese at water intake sites.

The Pennsylvania Local Government Conference, made up of the associations listed above, oppose this action.

This particular rider would undo 28 years of environmental protection for Pennsylvania waterways impacted by the consequences of acid mine drainage, and foist additional testing, monitoring and treatment at public water supply operations along these waterways.

For example, a municipal water authority operating a 1 MGD (million gallons/day) water treatment plant, estimated an additional annual cost of \$20,000 just for chemical usage (Potassium Permanganate) to treat manganese.

They also noted that diligent monitoring and sampling is required by operators to ensure removal and prevention of unpleasant taste and odor, discoloration and staining, and potential health impacts from high manganese levels in their drinking water.

We are particularly concerned that environmental operations required of the coal mining industry will be rolled back and that the removal of required manganese treatment at point of discharge is environmentally irresponsible to public health, and fish and aquatic life in receiving streams.

We urge the General Assembly, Governor Wolf and DEP Secretary McDonnell to reconsider the impacts that adoption of this rider would have on the people and environment of Pennsylvania and remove it from the Administrative Code bills.

A copy of the letter is available [online](#).

Source: PA Environmental Digest, 8/28/2017

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