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# WUC

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



## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

### From Gmerek Government Relations, Inc.

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

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### EPA Finalizes Sufficiently Sensitive Test Methods for NPDES Permit Applications and Reporting

**E**PA finalized minor amendments to its Clean Water Act regulations to require "sufficiently sensitive" analytical test methods under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The rulemaking clarifies that NPDES applicants and permittees must use EPA-approved analytical methods capable of detecting and measuring pollutants at or below applicable water quality criteria or permit limits. This final rule is based on Clean Water Act requirements and clarifies existing EPA regulations. The amendments in this rulemaking affect only chemical-specific methods; they do not apply to Whole Effluent Toxicity methods or their use. For more information, go to:  
<http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/npdes/basics/index.cfm>

Source: EPA Water Headlines, 8/26/2014

### Webcast on September 3 on Green Infrastructure and Smart Growth

**J**oin us on September 3 from 1-2:30 p.m. EDT for a webcast on green infrastructure and smart growth. Learn about communities that are successfully leveraging green infrastructure as part of broader planning and community development initiatives. Practitioners will discuss land-use strategies for clean water, including green streets, local code review, and stormwater banking. This webinar is part of the EPA Green Infrastructure Program's 2014 Webcast Series, and qualifies for 1.5 certification maintenance credits from the American Planning Association. Register at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/829823872>

Source: EPA Water Headlines, 8/26/2014

### DEP New Stanton Office Opens

**T**he Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Greensburg and Uniontown district offices will begin operating out of a new location beginning on September 2. The just-

completed building is convenient to the Pennsylvania Turnpike and I-70, located at 131 Broadview Road, New Stanton, PA 15672. The phone number for the office is 724-925-5500.

The New Stanton Office consolidates staff from DEP's Mine Safety, District Mining, Field Operations and Oil and Gas Management Programs. Employees from both offices will be moving in between September 2 and 4.

The 38,000 square foot building is designed to be energy efficient, utilizing many materials with a high recyclable content. The offices feature energy efficient lighting, a highly efficient heating and air-conditioning system controlled by an automated building management system and water saving, low flow toilets and bathroom fixtures.

For more information, visit [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us), or call 412-442-4400

**Source:** DEP Press Release, 8/29/2014

## Sewage Advisory Committee Meeting Cancellation

**T**he Sewage Advisory Committee (Committee) meeting scheduled for September 10, 2014, has been cancelled. The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. in Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA.

Questions concerning the next scheduled meeting of the Committee can be directed to John Diehl at (717) 783-2941 or [jdiehl@pa.gov](mailto:jdiehl@pa.gov). The agenda and meeting materials for the November 5, 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](http://www.dep.state.pa.us) (select "Public Participation").

**Source:** [PA Bulletin, 8/30/2014](#)

## Governor Corbett Announces Opening of Third Round Act 13 Natural Gas Vehicle Grants

**O**n August 29, 2014, Governor Tom Corbett and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced that the third round of Natural Gas Vehicle grants will open on Saturday, Aug. 30 and will provide an estimated \$6 million to help pay for the incremental purchase and conversion costs of heavy-duty natural gas fleet vehicles.

"Pennsylvania continues to move in the right direction by creating opportunities to convert vehicle fleets from imported oil to homegrown, clean-burning, affordable natural gas," Corbett said. "We encourage all who are eligible for this funding to lower their operational costs and lessen our dependency on foreign oil."

Since 2013, \$14 million has been awarded to 44 organizations and companies making the switch to compressed natural gas (CNG), liquefied natural gas (LNG) and bi-fuel vehicles weighing 14,000 pounds or more.

Those eligible to apply include non-profit organizations, local transportation organizations, state owned or state related universities, commonwealth or municipal authorities, for-profit companies and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission.

Requests can be no more than 50 percent of the incremental purchase or retrofit cost per vehicle, with a maximum total of \$25,000 per vehicle.

Grant applications are due by 4 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 14, and will be awarded this winter.

Eligible applicants are encouraged to participate in a related webinar, scheduled for Sept. 22, from 2 to 3 p.m. To register for the webinar and view the updated guidance document and online grant application, visit [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us) and click on the "Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program" button.

## PA Gubernatorial Campaign Update

A new Franklin & Marshall College Poll of Pennsylvania voters found that Democratic candidate Tom Wolf holds a 25 percentage point lead over Governor Tom Corbett, 49% to 24%, with 25% indicating they “don’t know.” The survey reflects interviews with 520 Pennsylvania registered voters conducted by the Center for Opinion Research at Franklin & Marshall College from August 18-25, 2014 and includes a sample error of +/- 4.3 percentage points. Highlights from the poll include:

- A large majority (61%) of Pennsylvania voters believe the state is “off on the wrong track.”
- Education (22%) and taxes (19%) are the issues voters say are most important to them in considering who to support for governor.
- About one in four (24%) voters believes Governor Tom Corbett is doing an “Excellent” or “good” job, which is similar (26%) to the ratings he received in the June 2014, Franklin & Marshall College Poll. Less than half (40%) of Republicans rate his performance as “excellent” or “good.”
- About one in four (26%) voters believes Governor Corbett has performed sufficiently well to deserve re-election.
- Slightly more than eight in ten (83%) voters have seen a commercial for the candidates for governor. Of those who have seen a commercial, 82 percent have seen a commercial for both candidates.
- One in three (34%) registered Pennsylvania voters believe Barack Obama is doing an “excellent” or “good” job as president which is the same as his June rating.

This latest Franklin & Marshall survey shows Democrat Tom Wolf has increased his lead over incumbent Republican Governor Tom Corbett by 3 percentage points since the last Franklin & Marshall Poll was conducted back in June. However, it contradicts the July poll conducted for CBS and the New York Times by the Internet polling firm YouGov, which showed Wolf leading Corbett by 13 percentage points, including respondents who said they were leaning toward one candidate or the other, or only 9 percentage points without the leaners.

Looking ahead, the Corbett and Wolf campaigns have agreed to hold three evening debates between late September and early October in the Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Pittsburgh media markets:

- The first debate will be at the Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce dinner in Hershey on September 22.
- The second debate will be held at the Philadelphia studios of KYW-TV on October 1.
- The final debate is scheduled for October 8 at WTAE-TV in Wilkinsburg, near Pittsburgh.

As you may know, national political experts have consistently listed Governor Corbett as the U.S. governor most likely to be defeated for re-election this November.

We’ll keep you apprised of any developments as the fall campaign traditionally begins after Labor Day.

Source: Gmerek Government Relations, 8/28/2014

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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.*