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GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

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

Gov.-Elect Tom Wolf Names Kathleen McGinty Incoming Chief of Staff

On November 10, 2014, Gov.-elect Tom Wolf announced Kathleen "Katie" McGinty as incoming Chief of Staff in his administration.

McGinty has more than twenty-five years' worth of experience in public service. She has served in many capacities, including at the White House during the Clinton Administration and as Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection Secretary. McGinty has also spent time in the private sector.

"Katie McGinty has broad experience in state and federal government and in the private sector," said Gov.-elect Tom Wolf. "She will be an asset to my administration and to the people of Pennsylvania. In federal and state government, Katie worked with diverse interests to achieve meaningful change in difficult environments. Her experience will help me work with Republicans and Democrats to move Pennsylvania forward."

McGinty will become Chief of Staff following Wolf's inauguration on January 20, 2015. Until then, she will assist Gov.-elect Wolf as he builds his administration.

Since 2008, McGinty has been a leader in the clean energy and environmental engineering space. She has led a global business cleaning up and redeveloping contaminated properties and developing renewable energy, and she has served on the Boards of Directors of publicly traded and privately held corporations.

McGinty began her career in the office of then-Senator Al Gore, where she worked on initiatives to strengthen patent protections, encourage manufacturing, and support science education. McGinty also contributed to the reauthorization of the landmark Clean Air Act.

Following her time in Sen. Gore's office, McGinty served President Bill Clinton as his Deputy Assistant and then as Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality -- the first woman to head the office. In this capacity, McGinty worked with Republicans and Democrats to pass environmental legislation while spearheading a number of initiatives to redevelop brown fields, restore and preserve key ecosystems, and improve environmental protection.

In 2003, McGinty was nominated by Governor Edward G. Rendell to become the first woman to lead the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, where she worked on clean water and mercury reduction initiatives and encouraged job growth in the energy sector, including solar and wind jobs.

Source: Wolf Transition, 11/10/2014

Gov.-Elect Tom Wolf Names Transition Team Leadership

On November 13, 2014, Gov.-elect Tom Wolf announced his Transition Team leadership. John A. Fry, President of Drexel University, will serve as Transition Chair. Serving as Vice-Chairs will be York Mayor Kim Bracey, Community Leader Cindy Shapira, and Jim Brown, Sen. Robert Casey, Jr.'s Chief of Staff. Denise Smyler will serve as legal counsel to the steering committee. Wolf also named the heads of the Budget Deficit and Fiscal Stabilization Task Force that will work to address the looming budget deficit. Mary Soderberg, former secretary of the budget, will serve as Chair and Josh Shapiro, Chairman of the Montgomery County Commission, will serve as Vice Chair.

"I am looking forward to working with a diverse group of leaders to move Pennsylvania forward," said Gov.-elect Tom Wolf. "My Transition Team leadership will help me address the major issues facing our commonwealth, and they will help make Pennsylvania work for middle-class families."

"I'm honored to chair the Transition Steering Committee and work with so many outstanding leaders to help Gov.-elect Wolf serve Pennsylvanians effectively from day one of his administration," said Transition Chair John A. Fry.

John A. Fry - Transition Chair

John A. Fry, Drexel University's 14th president, has served in higher education for his entire professional life, as a consultant, board member, chief operating officer, and chief executive. Fry has positioned Drexel to become the "modern urban university of the future," harnessing both long-

established and still-emerging strengths to serve its students, its neighborhood, its city, and the nation. Drexel is setting a new standard for cooperative education, investing in its research capacity and becoming a major force for economic development. Fry previously was president of Franklin & Marshall College, where his leadership was instrumental in an unprecedented period of academic growth, campus and neighborhood development, and improved finances. As executive vice president of the University of Pennsylvania, he helped develop and implement Penn's "Agenda for Excellence" and built a coalition to address challenges facing the University City neighborhood in West Philadelphia.

Mayor C. Kim Bracey - Transition Vice-Chair

C. Kim Bracey was elected the first African-American Mayor of the City of York on November 3, 2009. As the City's chief executive officer, she is responsible for all aspects of the general management of the City, including its \$98 million budget and the enforcement of all City laws and ordinances. Previously, Bracey was the appointed director of the Department of Community Development for the City of York from June 2003 until January 2009 under Mayor John S. Brenner.

Jim Brown - Transition Vice-Chair

Jim Brown currently serves as Chief of Staff to United States Senator Robert Casey, Jr. Brown served as Chief of Staff to Pennsylvania Governor Robert Casey, Sr. from 1989 to 1994. Brown has also served as Pennsylvania Secretary of General Services and was a partner at the law firm Dilworth Paxson, LLP. Brown was a founding partner of SCP Partners, a family of venture capital funds. He worked on Capitol Hill for five years as Staff Director and General Counsel for the Subcommittee on Oversight of the Committee on Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs in the U.S. House of Representatives (now the Committee on Financial Services).

Cynthia Shapira - Transition Vice-Chair

Cynthia D. Shapira is a community activist at the local, state, and national levels. She serves on the board of the Allegheny County Airport Authority

and chairs the Pennsylvania Center for Women in Politics at Chatham University. She also serves on the boards of Brandeis University, Point Park University, United Way of Allegheny County Pittsburgh Promise, WQED Pittsburgh, Vibrant Pittsburgh, and the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. Shapira is secretary of the Jewish Federations of North America and the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, as well as a commissioner of the Pennsylvania Commission on Women. Previously, Shapira was a management consultant for over twenty years in the non-profit and education sectors. She has an MPA from the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government and a BA from Wellesley College.

Denise Smyler - Counsel to the Transition

Denise Joy Smyler is the founding attorney and owner of the Smyler Firm, which joined with Wadud Ahmad and Joseph Zaffarese to form Ahmad, Zaffarese & Smyler, LLC in September 2013. Denise is a well-respected commercial litigator and public finance attorney who has successfully represented municipalities, corporations, and government entities for over twenty years. Previously, Denise worked as an Assistant District Attorney and as Legal Counsel to the Philadelphia Prison Commissioner before being appointed Chief Legal Counsel to the Philadelphia Police Commissioner.

Mary Soderberg - Budget Deficit and Fiscal Stabilization Task Force Chair

Mary A. Soderberg is the former secretary of the budget appointed by Governor Edward G. Rendell and began serving in the position on July 7, 2008. Prior to her appointment as secretary of the budget, Soderberg had served since August 2005 as executive deputy secretary of the budget and chief financial officer of the commonwealth. Before joining the budget office, Soderberg was vice chancellor for finance and administration of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education for two years. Soderberg also served as the executive director of the House Democratic Appropriations Committee from 1992 to 2003.

Montgomery County Commission Chairman Josh Shapiro - Budget Deficit and Fiscal Stabilization Task Force Vice Chair

Josh Shapiro was elected Montgomery County Commissioner in 2011 and was elected unanimously to Chair the three-member Board on January 3, 2012. As the Commission Chairman, Josh helped lead a dramatic turnaround in Montgomery County by eliminating a large budget deficit, reducing overall debt, and replenishing the County reserve fund. Prior to his election in Montgomery County, Shapiro represented the 153rd Legislative District in the state House for seven years. Before serving in the state legislature, Josh served as a Congressional staffer in Washington, D.C. where at age 25 he became, at the time, the youngest person on Capitol Hill to serve as a Congressional Chief of Staff.

Source: Wolf Transition, 11/13/2014

119 Strong House Republican Majority Chooses 2015-16 Leadership Team

The 119 members of the incoming Pennsylvania House Republican Caucus today elected Rep. Mike Turzai (R-Allegheny County) as their choice for speaker of the House of Representatives and Rep. Dave Reed (R-Indiana County) as majority leader for the 2015-16 legislative session.

The November 12, 2014 caucus election comes eight days after Republicans increased their majority from 111 members going into Election Day to 119 members, retaining control of the state House for the third consecutive session.

Turzai and Reed were elected as part of today's reorganization session of the Republican Caucus. The formal election for speaker will take place in the full House when the 2015-16 session begins on Jan. 6, 2015. Republicans hold a 119-84 majority in the state House.

“Leadership is moving a principled agenda forward, and our caucus has led and been the driving force behind commonsense policies which are bringing positive change to Pennsylvania,” Turzai said. “Being recognized and chosen by my colleagues to be speaker of this historic institution is a high honor and one not taken lightly.”

“With a 119-member majority, the House Republicans are ready to confront the many challenges facing our Commonwealth,” Reed said. “As we have in the past, we will again offer bold and rational solutions to address the issues and problems Pennsylvanians are facing.”

The Republican leadership team includes:

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE DESIGNEE: Rep. Mike Turzai (28th District, Allegheny County) is ending his second term as majority leader. He was first elected to the House in 2001 and previously served as whip during the 2009-2010 legislative session. In 2006, he was elected Republican Policy Committee chairman.

MAJORITY LEADER: Rep. Dave Reed (62nd District, Indiana County) was first elected to the House in 2002. He is currently serving his second term as the Policy Committee chairman. Reed has also served as chairman of the House Republican Campaign Committee since 2009.

WHIP: Rep. Bryan Cutler (100th District, Lancaster County) was elected to the House in 2006. Today’s election marks Cutler’s first time in a leadership position.

APPROPRIATIONS CHAIRMAN: Rep. William Adolph (165th District, Delaware County) was first elected to the House in 1988. Today, he was elected to his third full term as chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

CAUCUS CHAIRMAN: Rep. Sandra Major (111th District, Susquehanna and Wayne counties) was first elected to the House in 1994. She was re-elected to her fifth term as caucus chairman.

POLICY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: Rep. Kerry Benninghoff (171st District, Centre and Mifflin counties) was elected to the House in 1996.

He currently serves as the chairman of the House Finance Committee, chairman of the Cancer Caucus, and chairman of the Rural Health Caucus.

CAUCUS ADMINISTRATOR: Rep. Brian Ellis (11th District, Butler County) was elected to the House in 2004. Today’s election marks his first time in a leadership position.

CAUCUS SECRETARY: Rep. Donna Oberlander (63rd District, Armstrong, Clarion and Forest counties) was elected to the House of Representatives in 2008. Oberlander is currently a deputy whip, chair of the House Gas and Oil Caucus, and chair of the House Diabetes Caucus.

Adolph said, “Pennsylvanians can be assured, working with the Senate and governor, the House Appropriations Committee will keep its focus on effectiveness of state programs and whether they match their intent.”

“House Republicans will continue to work enacting policy aimed at improving the communities and lives of Pennsylvanians,” Reed said.

The elections took place today in the House Republican Caucus Room in the Main Capitol Building. The 22 newly elected Republican members who will begin their terms in January participated in the balloting. Members who are leaving office did not participate in the election.

Source: House Republican Caucus, 11/12/2014

Rep. Dave Reed elected Majority Leader for new House session

On November 12, 2014, Rep. Dave Reed (R-Indiana) was elected by his colleagues in the House Republican Caucus to serve as Majority Leader of the House of Representatives for the upcoming legislative session, which will begin December 1. Reed will be sworn-in as majority leader on January 6.

Reed's election to leader comes eight days after Republicans increased their majority in the House from 111 to 119 members, the largest majority the House has seen since the 1957-58 session. The gains ensure that Republicans will control the House for the third session in a row, with a majority currently standing at 119-86. Reed is among the youngest representatives elected to majority leader in the last 60 years.

"I am looking forward to working with Speaker designee Mike Turzai and the new House leadership team in the upcoming legislative session," Reed said. "In addition, I understand that with the incoming administration of Governor-elect Tom Wolf, the Legislature will need to work across the aisle to create solutions for the major issues facing our state. I eagerly await these challenges and thank my colleagues for their support."

Reed has represented the 62nd Legislative District since 2002. His colleagues elected him in 2010 as chairman of the House Majority Policy Committee. In that position, Reed has led hearings on important issues, including poverty, taxation, energy and welfare reform in an effort to develop responsible and effective legislation to benefit the entire Commonwealth. In addition, Reed has served as chairman of the House Republican Campaign Committee since 2009. On November 4, Reed won reelection for a seventh House term, defeating his challenger by a nearly 2-to-1 margin.

Source: Representative Reed Press Release, 11/12/2014

Senate Republicans Elect Leadership Team for New Session

On November 12, 2014, Senate Republicans elected their leadership team for the 2015-2016 legislative session.

Senator Joe Scarnati (R-25) has been nominated again to serve as President Pro Tempore. The full Senate will vote on Scarnati's nomination when it reconvenes in January. As President Pro Tempore, he will be responsible for

appointing the chairpersons and members of the standing committees of the Senate. He will also play a significant role in legislative negotiations with the Administration and House of Representatives. A native of Brockway in Jefferson County, Scarnati was elected to the Pennsylvania State Senate in 2000. A graduate of the Pennsylvania State University at DuBois, the Senator is a third-generation small business owner and served in local government.

Senator Jake Corman (R-34) will serve as Senate Majority Leader. His duties include overseeing the legislative agenda, developing policies and strategies for the Senate Republican Caucus, chairing the Senate Rules and Executive Nominations Committee and playing a key role in floor debates. He will also have a major role in negotiating issues with the Administration and House of Representatives and in supervising action on the Senate floor. Corman previously served as chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Senator Pat Browne (R-16) will be the new chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, one of the most influential of the standing committees. The committee reviews all legislation for its fiscal impact and plays a crucial role in developing the state budget. Browne is an attorney, a CPA and a member of the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Senator John Gordner (R-27) has been elected Majority Whip. His duties include acting as assistant floor leader, working to gain support for legislation and ensuring that Republican policies and strategies are maintained through the cooperative efforts of the majority caucus.

Senator Bob Mensch (R-24) will serve as Majority Caucus Chairman for the 2015-2016 legislative session. As chairman he will preside over Republican caucus meetings to discuss bills and amendments and to develop caucus strategy.

As the **Senate Majority Caucus Secretary,** **Senator Richard Alloway (R-33)** will oversee all executive nominations submitted to the Senate for confirmation. He will coordinate the review of the background and experience of nominees and ensure that proper documentation is submitted.

Voters across Pennsylvania strengthened the Republican majority in the state Senate on Election Day, returning all incumbent Republicans up for re-election and electing three additional Republicans to the chamber. Senate Republicans hold a 30-20 majority in the State Senate. The new members of the Republican caucus include:

- Tom McGarrigle, 26th Senatorial District (parts of Chester and Delaware counties) - Senator-elect McGarrigle is a small business owner who served as Chairman of Delaware County Council. He played an integral role in projects providing jobs for Delaware County residents, working with state and federal officials to save refinery jobs in the region, and helping make the Philadelphia Union soccer stadium a reality.
- Pat Stefano, 32nd Senatorial District (Fayette and Somerset counties, and parts of Westmoreland County) - Senator-elect Stefano is a third-generation owner and operator of a family printing company. Active in the business community, he served as Vice President of the Fayette County Chamber of Commerce and is a founding member of the county's "Buy Local" Steering Committee.
- Ryan Aument, 36th Senatorial District (Lancaster County) - Senator-elect Aument has served in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives since being elected in 2010, and previously served as a captain in the U.S. Army during Operation Iraqi Freedom. A fiscal conservative, he has also led school reform efforts, working to pass new, stricter teacher evaluations.
- Mario Scavello, 40th Senatorial District (parts of Monroe and Northampton counties) - Senator-elect Scavello was previously elected to six terms in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, where he most recently chaired the House Labor and Industry Committee. In addition to being a champion for school funding reform, the Senator-elect's legislative accomplishments include the enactment of his legislation ensuring that patients with prosthetics and orthotic services are receiving care from properly trained practitioners.

- Camera Bartolotta, 46th Senatorial District (Washington and Greene counties, and parts of Beaver County) - Senator-elect Bartolotta is a small business operator, running the family's Mon Valley oil-change business. She is actively involved with the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association of Washington County, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and Gilda's Club of Western PA.
- Michele Brooks, 50th Senatorial District (Crawford and Mercer counties, and parts of Erie and Warren counties) - Prior to being elected to the state House in 2006, Senator-elect Brooks served as vice chairman of the Mercer County Board of Commissioners. As a House member, her priorities have been reducing crushing taxes on job creators, improving state services for senior citizens, re-prioritizing state government spending and limiting borrowing by the Commonwealth.

Three Senate Republicans will retire at the end of the year. They are Senator Bob Robbins (R-50), Senator Ted Erickson (R-26), and Senator Mike Brubaker (R-36).

Source: Senate Republican Caucus, 11/13/2014

Costa Re-elected Leader; Senate Democratic Leadership Team Chosen

Senate Democratic Leader Sen. Jay Costa (D-Allegheny) was re-elected to lead his caucus in the next legislative session.

Costa will be joined by a leadership team that will assist in devising policy solutions on key issues such as job creation, education investment, tax reform and repairs to the social safety net, he said.

"It is a great honor to be elected by my colleagues to lead our caucus for this session," Costa said. "We have a great many challenges ahead of us but we have a wonderful opportunity to work with the new governor in crafting policy that helps all the citizens of Pennsylvania.

"Senate Democrats have a strong leadership team that will lead an energetic caucus."

Costa, who will begin his third two-year stint as Democratic leader, will be assisted by **Sen. Anthony H. Williams** (D-Philadelphia) who was re-elected Democratic Whip. Democratic Appropriations Chair **Sen. Vincent J. Hughes** (D-Phila.) was also re-elected as Democratic chair of the committee.

"I am honored and appreciative to serve my colleagues in this role and look forward to developing solutions that address key issues and solve problems for Pennsylvanians," Williams said.

Hughes has served as Democratic Chair of the Appropriations Committee since the beginning of the 2011-12 session.

"I am thankful for the support of my colleagues and the faith they have placed in me as Appropriations Committee chairman," Hughes said. "Governor Corbett left us with a dire economic situation in an environment that he created. I look forward to working with Governor-Elect Wolf, our caucus and all members of the senate to address issues facing families."

Costa, Williams and Hughes will be accompanied by a number of Senate Democrats who were either elected to different leadership positions or will join the team for the first time.

Sen. Wayne Fontana (D-Allegheny) was elected caucus chairman succeeding Sen. Richard Kasunic (D-Fayette) who retired at the end of this term.

"In my role as caucus chair, I will have input into how Senate Democrats manage information, provide analysis and respond to key issues," Fontana said. Fontana previously served as Democratic Caucus Administrator.

Senator Lisa Boscola will remain the Senate Democratic Policy Committee chair.

"Our policy committee has been very active in support of Senate Democratic initiatives," Boscola said. "I look forward to working hand in hand with

the administration and my Senate Democratic colleagues in crafting realistic and responsible policy that will impact future generations."

Sens. Larry Farnese (D-Philadelphia), **John Yudichak** (D-Luzerne) and **John Blake** (D-Lackawanna) will become members of leadership for the first time.

Farnese was elected Caucus Secretary and will manage gubernatorial appointments to various boards and agencies.

"It is a great honor to serve our caucus as a member of the leadership team," Farnese said. "I look forward to working with my colleagues and becoming a strong voice in caucus deliberations."

"In my view, there is no reason that we cannot find common ground among disparate positions on critical issues."

Yudichak will become Caucus Administrator, replacing Sen. Wayne Fontana.

"Senate Democrats can play a large role in being advocates for the new governor's policies as we continue to pursue the adoption of many of the proposals that have been crafted by our caucus over the years," Yudichak said. "A united leadership team working in concert with the new administration can change minds and provide a path forward for all citizens."

Blake was appointed by the caucus as Democratic Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

"In the next several years, Pennsylvania will have to manage extremely tight finances and dwindling resources," Blake said. "We can use innovative approaches, new ideas and common sense to move us in a new direction."

The leadership positions are effective Dec. 1.

Source: Senate Democratic Caucus, 11/12/2014

House Democrats select leadership team; Caucus will

partner with new governor on progressive agenda

The returning and newly elected members of the Pennsylvania House Democratic Caucus chose their leadership team for the 2015-16 session on November 12, 2014.

"By working together and staying united for the last four years, House Democrats were able to stop many of the most extreme ideas pushed by the right wing of the Republican Party," said Democratic Leader Frank Dermody.

"We now look forward to working with Governor-elect Tom Wolf to strengthen public schools and universities, improve health care, raise wages for working people, protect the environment and continue to fight for people's basic rights. Our caucus is determined to get the job done and choosing this leadership team is a great start."

The Democratic leadership for 2015-16 comprises:

Democratic Leader Frank Dermody, 33rd District (Allegheny and Westmoreland counties), a representative since 1991.

Democratic Whip Mike Hanna, 76th District (Clinton and Centre counties), a representative since 1991.

Caucus Chairman Dan Frankel, 23rd District (Allegheny County), a representative since 1999.

Caucus Secretary Rosita Youngblood, 198th District (Philadelphia). A representative since 1994, Youngblood joins the leadership team after serving as chairwoman of the Gaming Oversight Committee for four years.

Caucus Administrator Neal Goodman, 123rd District (Schuylkill County), a representative since 2003.

Policy Committee Chairman Mike Sturla, 96th District (Lancaster County), a representative since 1991.

Appropriations Committee Chairman Joe Markosek, 25th District (Allegheny and Westmoreland counties), a representative since 1983.

Casting their first votes as members of the caucus were newly elected Reps. Peter Schweyer of Allentown and Leslie Acosta, Jason Dawkins and Mike Driscoll of Philadelphia.

All legislators will take the oath of office for the new term on Jan. 6, 2015, according to the Pennsylvania Constitution which sets the first Tuesday in January for swearing in.

Source: House Democratic Caucus, 11/12/2014

Announcing Public Meeting and Webinar Tuesday, December 9, 2014, 1:00-5:00 Eastern time

Topic: Preliminary Regulatory Determinations for Contaminants on the Third Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List

Details: As [announced](#) in the Federal Register, the United States Environmental Protection Agency will be hosting a public meeting and webinar on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 to discuss the agency's [preliminary regulatory determinations](#) for select Contaminant Candidate List 3 (CCL 3) contaminants. EPA has made preliminary determinations to regulate strontium in drinking water and to not regulate four other contaminants (dimethoate, 1,3-dinitrobenzene, terbufos, and terbufos sulfone). Other topics of discussion will include the process used for this round of regulatory determinations (i.e., RD 3), the supporting information used, and the status of contaminants not receiving a regulatory determination at this time.

The public meeting will be held at The Cadmus Group, Inc., third floor conference room, located at 1555 Wilson Blvd. Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22209. Participants can also attend online via a webinar link, which will broadcast the meeting discussion and presentations. Persons wishing to attend the

meeting in-person or online via the webinar must register by Tuesday, December 2, 2014 by sending an email to: RD3Webinar@cadmusgroup.com. Please specify in your email whether you wish to attend in-person or online. The number of seats available for the meeting is limited and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

To be placed on the public commenter presentation agenda, please send an email to: RD3Webinar@cadmusgroup.com by December 2, 2014 indicating that you would like to present comments. Any overhead materials (e.g., PowerPoint slides) must also be received by December 2, 2014. Public commenter presentations will be limited to 10 minutes each or less, and only one person should present the statement on behalf of a group or organization. EPA is also accepting public comments via the docket, as explained in the Federal Register notice presenting the [preliminary determinations](#). Public comments presented at the meeting should also be submitted to the docket to get a formal response.

Key Dates:

- Register for in-person or on-line attendance by Tuesday, December 2, 2014.
- Register for the public presenter list by Tuesday, December 2, 2014; any presentation materials must also be received by this date to be included in the overhead/online presentations.
- The meeting will be held Tuesday, December 9, 2014, from 1:00pm to 5:00pm Eastern Time.

Source: EPA, 11/14/2014

DEP: Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee Meeting

The Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee will hold its next meeting on Thursday, December 11, 2014, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Room 206 of the Bureau of Laboratories Building, 2575 Interstate Drive, Harrisburg. The purpose of the meeting is to consider amendments to the accreditation fees and to discuss standardization of data qualifiers. For

additional information, contact Aaren Alger, (717) 346-8212, aaalger@pa.gov.

Source: PA Bulletin, [11/15/2014](#)

SRBC: Commission Meeting

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission will hold its regular business meeting on December 5, 2014, at 9 a.m. in the Lowe House Office Building, House of Delegates, Appropriation Hearing Room (Room #120), 6 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401. For further information contact Jason E. Oyler, Regulatory Counsel, (717) 238-0423, Ext. 1312, fax (717) 238-2436.

Source: PA Bulletin, [11/14/2014](#)

Agriculture Department Asks EPA to Withdraw Proposed Federal Rule for Waterways, Reconsider Using Input from PA, Other States

Pennsylvania's Agriculture Department urged the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to withdraw and revise the proposed Waters of the United States rule, citing the rule's negative impact on rural communities and agribusinesses and on strong state-level management programs.

"This proposed rule is heavy-handed, premature, confusing and overreaching," said Agriculture Secretary George Greig. "The rule is already subject to differing federal staff interpretations, which could delay permitting and undermine strong state-level regulatory programs like those under the Department of Environmental Protection. One size doesn't fit all, and I urge the EPA and ACOE to recognize that the differences in our country's regions make strong, comprehensive state programs – and Pennsylvania already has one – the sensible solution."

Greig sent the department's comments last week to the EPA and ACOE, addressing seven key concerns:

1. The proposed rule was provided for review before the science behind it was finalized by the federal Scientific Advisory Board.
2. It assumes state-level regulatory shortcomings, even though Pennsylvania's program exceeds federal Clean Water Act standards.
3. One size does not fit all, as the proposed rule doesn't account for significant regional climate, geography, geology, hydrogeology, rainfall, and soil differences, potentially undermining Pennsylvania state law protections.
4. As drafted, it creates more confusion than clarification, leaving multiple terms and phrases ambiguous or undefined.
5. The agencies did not adequately consider the proposed rule's adverse impacts on rural communities and small agribusinesses, as the rule would expand federal jurisdiction and cover agriculture activities on previously-unregulated land.
6. Federal authority is potentially limitless and inconsistent with limits set by Congress and recognized by the Supreme Court.
7. The proposed rule would have direct, substantial effects on state programs like soil conservation, nutrient management and pesticide regulation due to more federal oversight and a broader definition of waters.

"By considering our comments, collaborating with other states and holding public hearings, the EPA and ACOE could produce a rule that better meets the needs of our waterways, state governments and rural Americans," said Greig. "I urge them to rethink this rule and work with, not against, agriculture."

For more information on the department's response to the proposed rule, contact Erin Smith at 717-772-4365 or erins@pa.gov.

Source: Governor's Press Office, 11/14/2014

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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.