
WUC

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



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

From Gmerek Government Relations, Inc.

212 Locust Street ♦ Suite 300 ♦ Harrisburg, PA 17101 ♦ Phone: 717-234-8525 ♦ Cell: 717-574-3963 ♦ Fax:
717-234-8812 ♦ Erik A. Ross, Senior Lobbyist ♦ www.ggrgov.com

Harrisburg, PA

eross@ggrgov.com

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

PUC Chairman Powelson Elected NARUC 2nd Vice President

On November 18, 2014, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) Chairman Robert F. Powelson was sworn in as Second Vice President of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC).

"I am honored to be serving in a leadership role within our national organization," said Chairman Powelson. "This is in recognition of Pennsylvania's active participation in utility issues nationally. It speaks to our leadership role in a host of matters such as competitive markets, gas safety and transportation network companies that impact the lives of Pennsylvania residents daily."

Chairman Powelson also serves as the chair of the NARUC Committee on Water and in June of this year was elected President of the Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners (MACRUC).

Chairman Powelson has served on the Pennsylvania PUC since June 2008, when he was first nominated by Gov. Edward G. Rendell to fill

the remainder of an unexpired term. The Senate unanimously confirmed Chairman Powelson to serve as Commissioner in June 2008, and he was re-nominated by Gov. Rendell for a full five-year term on Feb. 12, 2009, once again being unanimously confirmed by the Senate.

In February 2011, Gov. Tom Corbett appointed Powelson PUC Chairman, and his re-nomination for a second five-year term was unanimously confirmed in March 2014. His term will expire April 1, 2019.

Chairman Powelson also served as a member of the Marcellus Shale Advisory Commission and previously served as President of the Chester County Chamber of Business & Industry from 1994 to 2008.

Chairman Powelson holds a Bachelor of Administration degree from St. Joseph's University and a Master of Governmental Administration degree from the University of Pennsylvania, with a concentration in public finance. In 2013, Chairman Powelson was nominated to serve on the Board of Trustees at Drexel University.

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" PAPowerSwitch on Facebook for easy access to information on electric shopping.

Source: PUC Press Release, 11/18/2014

EPA to Assist Water Utilities in Bolstering Climate Resilience and Readiness

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is providing up to \$600,000 in training and technical assistance to help water utilities in more than 20 communities bolster their climate change resilience and readiness.

“Climate change isn’t a distant threat – it is already impacting communities across the country,” said Ken Kopocis, deputy assistant administrator for EPA’s Office of Water. “EPA is helping water utilities plan for and adapt to these challenges to ensure that they can continue to meet their public health and environmental missions no matter what circumstances may arise in the future.”

Drinking water, wastewater and stormwater utilities will participate in a multi-year program to prepare for potential impacts from climate change. Challenges include droughts, more intense and frequent storms, flooding, sea-level rise and changes to water quality. Communities will receive technical assistance in using EPA’s Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool, software that helps users identify assets, threats and adaptation options to help reduce risk from climate change.

Communities receiving assistance from EPA include:

- Auburn, Ala.
- Austin, Texas
- Blair, Neb.
- Bozeman, Mont.
- Faribault, Minn.
- Fredericktown, Mo.
- Haworth, N.J.
- Helena, Mont.
- Henryville, Ind.
- Hillsboro, Kan.
- Houston, Texas
- Manchester-by-the-Sea, Mass.
- Nome, Alaska.
- Norfolk, Va.
- Portsmouth, N.H.
- Redwood Valley, Calif.
- Sandpoint, Idaho
- Seminole Tribe of Florida, Fla.

During each risk assessment, utilities will consider potential future climate change impacts in an effort to build more climate-ready and resilient water services and infrastructure.

Such risk assessments will, for instance, help utilities:

- use adaptation options to better protect critical pump stations from projected precipitation events;
- use conservation measures to prepare for projected reduced snowpack or less-frequent rainfall events; and
- prepare infrastructure for increased salinity to deal with projected sea-level rise.

These examples illustrate the variety of adaptation options utilities can identify and build into planning based on their risk assessments.

More information can be found [here](#):

Source: EPA Press Release, 11/19/2014

State Associations Release Clean Water Act-Safe

Drinking Water Act Collaboration Toolkit

The Toolkit is the result of a multi-year effort by state and EPA water quality managers across clean water and safe drinking water programs. The Toolkit identifies opportunities to reduce pollution in drinking water sources by using Clean Water Act tools, provides examples of on-the-ground implementation, and shows how state clean water programs can leverage the high value that consumers place on public health protection and safe drinking water to increase public support for addressing surface and ground water quality challenges more effectively. The Clean Water Act-Safe Drinking Water Act State/EPA Workgroup plans to distribute the document to EPA and will hold webinars to delve into the Toolkit in detail and promote implementation. Learn more [here](#).

Source: Water Headlines from EPA, 11/20/2014

Gov.-Elect Tom Wolf Names Transition Steering Committee

On November 18, 2014, Governor-elect Tom Wolf named the Steering Committee for his transition team. The steering committee will work with already named leadership on efforts to review state agencies, commissions, departments, and functions.

"As we begin to understand the complexity of the fiscal crisis my administration will face, it is important that my Transition Team move forward," said Governor-elect Tom Wolf. "Today's announcement, which rounds out my steering committee, continues that momentum, and I look forward to working with these individuals to address the steep fiscal and economic challenges ahead."

Neal Bisno

Neal Bisno is President of SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania, the state's largest union of nurses and healthcare workers. He has helped thousands of

healthcare workers improve their lives and has been a strong advocate for access to quality, affordable care for all Pennsylvanians. Neal is an International Vice President of SEIU and a Vice President of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO. He is a Trustee of SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania's Training and Education and Health and Welfare Funds and of the Pennsylvania Employee Benefits Trust Fund; a member of the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council; co-chaired the Pennsylvania Center for Health Careers; and served on Governor Rendell's 2010 Healthcare Reform Implementation Advisory Commission. Neal lives in Pittsburgh with his partner Lisa Frank and their son, Sam.

David Barasch

David Barasch has over 30 years of public service experience, including time as U.S. Attorney in Harrisburg. Barasch was Pennsylvania's Consumer Advocate in the 1980s and was also the lead counsel in cases involving the Three Mile Island nuclear accident. From 1990 to 1993, Barasch served as Special Assistant to Governor Robert P. Casey, Sr. Following his time with Governor Casey, Barasch served as U.S. Attorney until 2001, where he led federal prosecutions and multimillion dollar settlements. Barasch also served as Executive Deputy Secretary under then-Revenue Secretary Tom Wolf. In addition, Barasch has spent time practicing law in the private sector.

Aradhna Oliphant

Aradhna Oliphant is the President and CEO of Leadership Pittsburgh Inc. Prior to joining Leadership Pittsburgh in December 2004, Aradhna served as the Program Officer of The Forbes Funds, a supporting organization of The Pittsburgh Foundation. Aradhna was the Executive Director of The Children's Festival Chorus (CFC) of Pittsburgh from 2000-2003. Before moving to Pittsburgh in 1999, Aradhna led an arts organization in Princeton, New Jersey, and taught as an adjunct professor of management and psychology at both Rider University and the College of New Jersey.

Mark Nordenberg

Mark Nordenberg joined the faculty of the University Pittsburgh's School of Law in 1977,

eventually serving as Dean and Interim Provost of the university. In 1995, he was elected Interim Chancellor by the university's board of trustees, and in 1996, he was elected Chancellor. Nordenberg served as Chancellor for 19 years. During his tenure, the university experienced tremendous growth with both annual applications and overall enrollments increased.

Phyllis Mundy

Phyllis Mundy is currently serving her 12th term as state Representative for the 120th Legislative District in the Pennsylvania General Assembly. Mundy serves as Democratic Chair of the House Finance Committee and co-chairs the House and Senate Early Childhood Education Caucus. She has been honored with numerous awards for her achievements, including the 2014 VOICE for Children Distinguished Career Award and the 2013 Children's Champion Award from the Pennsylvania Early Learning Investment Commission. Mundy is a graduate of Kingston High School and Bloomsburg State College.

Robert Brooks

Since 2010, Robert Brooks has served as the Mayor of Murrysville in Westmoreland County, and he currently holds a position on the Board of Trustees at Franklin & Marshall College. Brooks also sits on the NASDAQ Nominating Committee and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Planning Commission. From 1999 to 2004, Brooks was the Executive Vice President of Wabtec, where he had an extensive career. Brooks has thorough knowledge of the rail and financial industries.

Dr. Julie E. Wollman

Dr. Julie E. Wollman became the 17th President of Edinboro University in June 2012, and has an extensive background in teaching, research, and administration. Wollman was the first woman to be named President of Edinboro University. She came to Edinboro from Wheelock College in Boston, Massachusetts, where she served as Vice President for Academic Affairs. Prior to that position, she served as Vice President for Academic Affairs at Worcester State University and Dean of Education and Human Development at Rhode Island College.

Wollman is also active in her community, where she serves on the Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership Board of Directors, the Hamot Health Foundation Board of Corporators, the United Way Erie Board of Directors, as well as chairs the United Way's Volunteer Engagement Cabinet.

Shanin Specter

Shanin Specter is a partner in the Philadelphia law firm of Kline and Specter, P.C. Specter received a B.A. with honors in Political Science from Haverford College in 1980, a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1984, and an LL.M. with First Honors from Cambridge University in 1984. Mr. Specter has been named one of the nation's best lawyers in addition to being ranked among the Top 10 lawyers in Pennsylvania by various independent attorney rating services. He is a member of the Inner Circle of Advocates, described by The Washington Post as "a select group of 100 of the nation's most celebrated trial lawyers."

Carl G. Cooper

Carl G. Cooper is widely recognized as one of the nation's first management-level Chief Diversity Officers at a major law firm from his time at K&L Gates law firm. After leaving K&L Gates, Cooper launched a Pittsburgh-based diversity consulting firm in 2007. As a diversity consultant, Cooper works with law firms to design and implement an agenda that promotes, achieves, and maintains a diverse workplace. Cooper received his B.S. degree with a major in Business Administration from Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio and completed his law degree at the Howard University School of Law.

Nilda Iris Ruiz

Nilda Iris Ruiz is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Asociación Puertorriqueños en Marcha, Inc. (APM). From October 1999 to March 2005, Ms. Ruiz was the Senior Community Development Director for the East Coast at National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest national constituency-based Hispanic organization. Ruiz also has been honored with a number of distinguished awards, including the Philadelphia Business Journal's 2009 Women of Distinction

Award; Girls Inc. 2008 Strong, Smart and Bold Award; El Sol Latino Newspaper's 2008 Crystal Award; and the 2008 Hispanic Choice Award for Favorite Community Advocate. Ruiz has an undergraduate degree from Temple University and a Masters in Business Administration from Eastern College.

Joseph Meade

Joseph Meade is the Director of Government and External Affairs at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Prior to his current role, Meade served as the museum's Director of Government Relations. Before joining the museum, Meade served as the Director of Government and Public Relations for the School District of Philadelphia; worked for two years as legislative director for the Honorable Philadelphia City Councilwoman Blondel Reynolds Brown; and served as Chairman of The Five Guys Political Action Committee. Meade is a graduate of La Salle College High School, West Chester University, and received his Master of Public Policy and Administration from Widener University.

Source: Wolf Transition, 11/18/2014

PA Unemployment Rate Declines to Six-Year Low 5.4% in October

On November 21, 2014, the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry released its employment situation report for October 2014.

Pennsylvania's unemployment rate declined by three-tenths of a percentage point from September to 5.4 percent -- a six-year low. The commonwealth's rate was four-tenths of a percentage point below the U.S. rate of 5.8 percent. The commonwealth's rate was down by 1.7 percentage points from last October while the national rate declined by 1.4.

Pennsylvania's civilian labor force increased by 15,000 in October. Resident employment was up 32,000 while unemployment was down 15,000.

Total nonfarm jobs were up by 12,600 to 5,802,300, the highest level since August 2008. The gain was mainly due to the private sector, which was up 15,200 to a record high of 5,085,400. Government jobs were down by 2,600. The largest movement in October was an increase of 5,500 jobs in trade, transportation & utilities.

Over the year, total nonfarm jobs in Pennsylvania were up 48,200 (+0.8%). The growth was almost entirely within private industries, with the largest gains in trade, transportation & utilities, other services, and education & health services.

Note: The above data are seasonally adjusted. Seasonally adjusted data provide the most valid month-to-month comparison.

Source: Governor's Press Office, 11/21/2014

PennDOT, State Police Focus on Seat Belt Use, Impaired Driving During 'Operation Safe Holiday'

Keeping the upcoming holiday season free of tragic vehicle crashes is the aim of "Operation Safe Holiday," a joint campaign by Pennsylvania State Police, PennDOT and local law enforcement. The holiday enforcement will focus on nighttime seat belt use and impaired driving.

The operation begins with statewide Click It or Ticket seat-belt enforcement that runs from Nov. 21-Dec. 1. Law enforcement agencies also will conduct sobriety checkpoints, roving patrols and regular traffic safety patrols on Thanksgiving Eve, Nov. 26, and from Dec. 1 through the New Year's holiday to crack down on drivers impaired by drugs or alcohol.

"Thanksgiving remains one of the biggest travel periods of the year, but unfortunately it's also the highest in the number of crashes," PennDOT Secretary Barry J. Schoch said. "PennDOT urges drivers to drive safely and assign a designated

driver when attending functions with family and friends this season.”

According to PennDOT data, the holiday season continues to be the leading time period for traffic crashes. The Thanksgiving holiday period, including the weekends before and after the holiday as well as the day itself, experienced the highest number of crashes and fatalities of any major holiday season last year. A total of 4,683 crashes and 48 fatalities occurred statewide during the Thanksgiving travel period. The Christmas and New Year’s travel periods, including the weekend before Christmas, Christmas, New Years and the weekend after, saw 3,222 crashes and 30 fatalities.

“Vehicle crashes are one of the leading causes of death, with most fatalities being attributed to unbelted motorists,” said State Police Commissioner Frank Noonan. “The holidays are a time to spend with friends and family, but please don't drive impaired and be sure to buckle up.”

Additionally, during the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s holidays last year, 1,072 of the statewide crashes involved a driver impaired by drugs or alcohol, with 35 fatalities in those crashes. In that same period, there were 989 crashes with unbuckled occupants, with 43 fatalities in those crashes.

PennDOT urges travelers to never drive impaired and always buckle up. Drivers should also avoid distractions, rotate drivers if possible and take frequent breaks.

Motorists should allow extra time for travel and expect to encounter traffic delays. As weather and road conditions can worsen quickly at this time of year, motorists should always check the forecast for their entire route and make sure their vehicle is equipped with a winter emergency kit and tires with good traction.

Motorists can check conditions on major roadways by visiting www.511PA.com.511PA, which is free and available 24 hours a day, provides traffic delay warnings, weather forecasts, traffic speed information and access to more than 700 traffic cameras. 511PA is also available through a smartphone application for iPhone and Android

devices, by calling 5-1-1, or by following regional Twitter alerts accessible on the 511PA website.

You can find PennDOT on Twitter at www.twitter.com/PennDOTNews and Facebook at www.facebook.com/PennsylvaniaDepartmentofTransportation.

Source: Governor’s Press Office, 11/20/2014

PennFuture Appeal Settlement Improves DEP Stormwater Management Program

PennFuture and the Department of Environmental Protection on November 19, 2014 filed a Stipulation of Settlement outlining improvements to Pennsylvania's municipal stormwater permitting system.

Stormwater from rain and snow events is a significant cause of water pollution in our streams and rivers. As the precipitation runs down rooftops and over dirty streets and sidewalks, it collects pollutants such as oil, fertilizers, litter, and pet waste, with potentially harmful impacts to drinking water sources.

In areas that drain to the municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) found in many Pennsylvania municipalities that polluted runoff drains directly into our streams and rivers without being treated.

As a result of the settlement, DEP will propose a revised version of Pennsylvania's general permit for small MS4s, known as PAG-13, which will be available for public comment next year.

The revised PAG-13 would improve the environmental protection afforded by DEP's permitting program. It would allow for enhanced public review of municipalities' plans for reducing stormwater pollution, and it would strengthen DEP's processes for reviewing and evaluating permit applications.

DEP will hold workshops for municipal officials next year to help them create effective stormwater management plans and meet their obligations to reduce stormwater pollution.

"This is a great win for all Pennsylvanians who drink from, swim in, live or play near our rivers, streams, and lakes," said Mike Helbing, staff attorney for PennFuture and one of the lead negotiators of the settlement. "We thank DEP for its efforts to improve the stormwater permitting process in a way that will benefit municipalities and lead to cleaner waters for all Pennsylvania citizens."

The settlement was filed with the Environmental Hearing Board as part of a resolution to an appeal filed by PennFuture in July 2013. In its appeal, PennFuture challenged DEP's approval of permit coverage for Upper Gwynedd Township's Small MS4 under PAG-13, Pennsylvania's general permit for Small MS4s. PennFuture sought improvements in both the township's permit application and DEP's MS4 permitting program.

The environmental organization argued that the existing permitting program did not adequately ensure the quality of plans for reducing stormwater pollution, and it did not allow enough opportunity for the public to review or comment on stormwater management plans in their communities.

"PennFuture remains committed to ensuring that Pennsylvanians benefit from effective stormwater management practices that not only reduce pollution but also save money and beautify our communities," said Cindy Dunn, president and CEO of PennFuture. "We will continue to pursue strong stormwater management planning through the public participation process."

For more general information on stormwater management permits, visit DEP's Municipal Stormwater MS4 [webpage](#).

Source: PA Environmental Digest, 12/24/2014

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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.