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Water Utility Council of the
PA-Section, American Water
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GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

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*PA- Section, American Water Works Association
National Association of Water Companies
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DEP Study Reveals Lyme Disease Risk in All 67 Counties of Pennsylvania

For the first time, blacklegged (deer) ticks have now been observed in all 67 counties of Pennsylvania, according to researchers at The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The range expansion took place in just decades, as similar studies conducted in the mid-1960s found no specimens.

DEP's Vector Management Program, in collaboration with the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, published the findings on the risk of tick-borne disease in Pennsylvania in the *Journal of Medical Entomology* on April 14. The study was authored by the DEP Vector Management team of Mike Hutchinson, Maria Strohecker, Andy Kyle, and Matt Helwig and Indiana University of Pennsylvania Professor of Biology Dr. Tom Simmons.

The research found *Ixodes scapularis*, the blacklegged tick, and *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the causative agent of Lyme disease, present in all 67 counties of Pennsylvania. The research also found that in recent years the blacklegged tick has become

imbedded in western Pennsylvania, though the prevalence rate of Lyme disease still remains relatively lower than the rest of the state. The blacklegged tick is the primary carrier of Lyme disease, an infectious disease caused by the bite of an infected tick that can cause fever, fatigue, headache, muscle aches, and joint pain.

“DEP’s Vector Management team’s confirmation of the high risk of Lyme disease in every county of the Commonwealth verifies that every Pennsylvanian, from Philadelphia to Erie, must take precautions to prevent the spread of Lyme disease,” said acting DEP Secretary John Quigley.

“The first line of defense against Lyme disease and any other tick-borne illnesses is avoiding tick infested areas. We know, however, that as the weather becomes nicer many residents spend more time outdoors. We suggest that people wear protective clothing, use insect repellent (i.e. DEET), and do a full body check after spending time outdoors,” said acting Physician General Dr. Rachel Levine.

The study also confirmed the presence of two other human pathogen diseases, Babesiosis and Anaplasmosis, in Pennsylvania blacklegged ticks. The prevalence rates of these two diseases were much lower than Lyme disease.

Pennsylvania has reported the most cases of Lyme disease in the nation for the past five years. All Pennsylvanians are encouraged to take precautions to prevent the spread of tick-borne illnesses.

“Parents should check their children for ticks. Showering within two hours of outdoor exposure may also help prevent transmission. If an individual has been bitten by a tick, we recommend that they remove the tick carefully with a set of fine tipped tweezers. If an individual develops signs and symptoms of Lyme disease after a tick bite, we urge them to seek medical attention. Early diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease may prevent late-stage complications,” Dr. Levine said.

To view a Pennsylvania Department of Health fact sheet on Lyme disease, click [here](#).

To view the study published in the Journal of Medical Entomology, click [here](#).

Source: DEP Press Release, 4/21/2015

Murray Ufberg Appointed to Independent Regulatory Review Commission

Attorney Murray Ufberg has been appointed to the Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission by Governor Tom Wolf. Ufberg is an attorney and partner of the Wilkes Barre-based law firm Rosenn, Jenkins, and Greenwald, LLP where he served as managing partner for over 22 years. He previously served as Commissioner to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (Commission) from 2003 - 2006 as an appointee of Governor Edward G. Rendell. Ufberg has been and continues to be involved in many charitable, religious and civic endeavors.

"I am thrilled with the trust that the Governor has placed in me and I look forward to serving the people of Pennsylvania," Ufberg said. The Commission is responsible for ensuring that agency rulemakings comply with Pennsylvania law, as well as assessing the impact of agency proposals in the

Commonwealth and, as such, plays a critical role in government.

Regarding Ufberg's appointment, the Commission's Chairman John Mizner stated, "The Commission serves a critical role in ensuring that Pennsylvania's regulations are in the public interest. My fellow Commissioners and I look forward to working with Murray to ensure openness and accountability in the regulatory process."

Mr. Ufberg is a graduate of Bucknell University and Duquesne University School of Law. He lives with his wife Margie in Upper Gwynedd, Pennsylvania.

Source: IRRC Press Release, 4/23/2015

Public Water Line Construction Begins near Ivy Industrial Park; Long-term solution for residents impacted by groundwater contamination

On April 21, 2015, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced that construction of an approximately \$20 million public water distribution and supply system began this month to service residents in four Lackawanna County communities affected by groundwater contamination that impacted privately owned water wells. The work is part of a 2011 agreement between DEP and the companies responsible for the contamination: Bostik, Inc. and Sandvik, Inc., both tenants of the Ivy Industrial Park in South Abington and Scott Townships.

The new system will consist of a water supply pumping station and more than 20 miles of main distribution line, which will connect to new water service lines running to approximately 330 properties in Scott, Waverly, South Abington and North Abington townships. Another 70 homes that had the potential to be impacted by the

contamination have already been connected to existing water lines.

“This construction project is a major milestone in getting clean water back to residents affected by this contamination” said Michael Bedrin, Director of DEP’s Northeast Regional Office. “The work is a collaborative effort by Bostik and Sandvik, the local townships, state representatives, EPA, Pennsylvania American Water and the department.”

In 2005, DEP staff discovered that groundwater near the Ivy Industrial Park was contaminated with organic solvents trichloroethylene (or TCE) and tetrachloroethylene (or PCE). DEP subsequently named both facilities as responsible for contaminating groundwater with volatile organic chemicals stemming from industrial operations at both sites.

The construction work will be completed by two local companies: Pioneer Construction of Honesdale, Pennsylvania, and TSE, of Dunmore. The consulting firm Gannett Fleming of Harrisburg will manage day-to-day operations of the project. The work on the project is expected to take about 18 months. The pipeline should be fully operational by late spring 2016, and all properties should be connected to it by the end of the summer in 2016.

Once construction of the water line distribution and supply system is completed, Pennsylvania American Water will begin providing water service to the homeowners.

A project website www.ivyparkwaterline.com has been established for members of the community and those along the route to track progress and stay informed. The website will be updated regularly with the construction schedule. Members of the public may also call the Project Community Information Line at 866-781-8828 with any questions or concerns.

As the project progresses, property owners along the route also will be contacted directly by Gannett Fleming with details and schedules related to the work that affects their particular property.

For more information, call 570-826-2511 or visit www.dep.state.pa.us.

Source: DEP Press Release, 4/21/2015

PA Chamber: House Legislation Protects Parties Involved in Labor Disputes

Removes labor exemptions for harassment, stalking and bomb threats from Crimes Code

The PA Chamber applauded state House lawmakers for passing legislation that would eliminate a loophole in the state’s Crimes Code that prevents law enforcement from intervening in situations involving stalking, harassment and even bomb threats if the perpetrator is a party to a labor dispute. [House Bill 874](#), sponsored by Rep. Ron Marsico, R-Dauphin, passed the House by a vote of 109 to 84.

“This is a commonsense and responsible reform bill,” said PA Chamber President and CEO Gene Barr. “Closing this loophole ensures that aggressive and harassing behaviors are no longer shielded from prosecution simply because they’re linked to a labor dispute. This measure would help ensure that all parties – including unions, workers and employers – are fairly protected against these types of unlawful actions both at the workplace and at home.”

The need for this legislation became glaringly apparent following the 2012 federal indictments and subsequent convictions related to the burning and vandalism of a Quaker church construction site in the Chestnut Hill neighborhood of Philadelphia. The federal indictment depicted numerous incidents of violence and destruction of property, all of which were preceded by harassing behavior. Local law enforcement and prosecutors may have been able to intervene before these cases escalated had these exemptions not been in the Crimes Code.

“While the vast majority of unions do not engage in these intimidating behaviors, there is a dark side to the organized labor movement that has allowed egregious activity, including the situation in Philadelphia, to go unpunished. It’s important that we put safeguards in place to allow law enforcement to intervene and send the message that

these types of actions will not be tolerated,” Barr added.

House Bill 874 will now head to the state Senate for consideration. The PA Chamber looks forward to working with Senate lawmakers to help move this legislation forward in the coming months.

Source: PA Chamber Press Release, 4/21/2015

Governor Wolf Announces \$130.7 Million Investment in Water Infrastructure Projects in 8 Counties

On April 22, 2015, Governor Tom Wolf announced the investment of \$130.7 million for twelve non-point source, drinking water and wastewater projects across eight counties through the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST).

“These projects are vital to improving Pennsylvania’s clean water infrastructure, leading to a healthier and more sustainable environment for all Pennsylvanians,” said Governor Wolf. “These will lead to expanded job growth, which is critical to the future of the commonwealth.”

Of the \$130.7 million, \$107.5 million is allocated for low-interest loans and \$23.1 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 www.pennvest.state.pa.us or call 717-783-6798.

Note: A list of project summaries follows:

PENNVEST Drinking Water Projects

Armstrong County

- Ford City Borough received a \$3,196,800 loan to construct a new 720 thousand gallons per day drinking water treatment plant, install water meters and rehabilitate a finished water storage tank to provide a safe and reliable drinking water supply to system users.

Armstrong and Clarion Counties

- Hawthorn Redbank Redbank Municipal Authority received a \$1,184,254 loan and a \$2,835,596 grant to replace more than eight miles of water distribution lines, water service connections, water meters, fire hydrants and other facilities in order to improve fire safety as well as water service to customers.

Clinton County

- Renovo Borough received a \$386,071 loan and a \$3,679,687 grant to replace two miles of water distribution mains as well as various service lines, fire hydrants and other facilities, as well as rehabilitate an existing finished water storage tank, all of which will improve service to the borough’s customers.

Luzerne County

- Hazelton City Authority received a \$2,210,181 grant to install a two mile water distribution line connecting the authority’s system to an existing unfiltered system in the Village of Stockton. This will allow for the abandonment of the existing system and will provide a reliable and safe source of drinking water for the village residents.

PENNVEST Wastewater Projects

Berks County

- Geigertown Area Joint Authority received a \$1,997,810 loan and a \$3,335,428 grant to construct more than six miles of new sewage collection lines and install other facilities in order to eliminate the use of malfunctioning on-lot septic systems that are contaminating local drinking water wells.

- Reading City received an \$84,586,034 loan to upgrade its sewage treatment plant and related facilities in order to eliminate the threat of wet weather discharges of untreated sewage into the Schuylkill River.

Cambria County

- Johnstown City received a \$1,860,500 loan to construct sanitary sewers and lateral lines to individual homes and make other improvements in order to eliminate wet weather discharges of untreated sewage into the Little Conemaugh and Conemaugh Riverse.
- Johnstown Redevelopment Authority received a \$6,717,000 loan to install almost two miles of sewage collection lines and other facilities that will eliminate wet weather discharges of untreated sewage into the Little Conemaugh and Conemaugh Rivers.
- Westmont Borough received a \$6,380,000 loan to rehabilitate its existing sewage collection system by lining almost nine miles of collection lines as well as upgrading related manholes and lateral inspection ports. The project will eliminate wet weather sewage discharges into Stony Creek.

Clarion County

- Knox Borough received a \$7,891,800 grant to replace the borough's eighty five year-old wastewater treatment plant with a new, larger treatment plant that will eliminate wet weather discharges of raw sewage into Canoe Creek and allow the borough to comply with other regulatory requirements.

Greene County

- Dry Tavern Sewer Authority received a \$741,500 loan and a \$2,710,000 grant to construct more than four miles of sanitary sewer collection lines in order to eliminate the use of wildcat sewers and malfunctioning on-lot septic systems that are discharging raw sewage into Pumpkin Run.

Non-point Source Water Quality Improvement Projects

Mercer County

- Greenville Borough received a \$497,500 loan and a \$497,500 grant to upgrade the borough's deteriorated storm water collection system that gets overloaded during heavy rains, resulting in sinkholes and discharges of sediment into Shenango River.

Source: Governor's Press Office 4/22/2015

SRBC to Hold Public Hearing on Water Project Applications, Request for Application Waiver and Transfer, Proposed Fee Changes Written comments accepted through May 11, 2015

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC; www.srbc.net) will receive public comment at a hearing on Thursday, April 30, 2015. The subjects covered by the hearing include project applications for several water withdrawal and consumptive water use applications; a request by Augusta Water, Inc. for waiver of application and transfer; and proposed fee changes.

The hearing will be held at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey, Grande 1 Room, 604 Station Road (Exit 80 off I-81), Grantville, Pa. The hearing will begin at 7:00 p.m. and end at 9:00 p.m. or when public testimony concludes, whichever comes first.

The list of 25 project applications, request for application waiver and transfer, proposed fee changes and options for submitting comments electronically are all available on SRBC's Public Participation Center at www.srbc.net/pubinfo/publicparticipation.htm.

Persons planning to present oral testimony at the public hearing are encouraged to notify SRBC prior to the hearing of their intent to testify and to indicate the subject of their comment. The notices are to be directed to Mr. Jason Oyler, Regulatory Counsel, Susquehanna River Basin Commission, 4423 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110, Telephone: (717) 238-0423, ext. 1312, Fax: (717) 238-2436. SRBC will also accept written comments until May 11, 2015. Comments may be submitted electronically at www.srbc.net/pubinfo/publicparticipation.htm or mailed or faxed to Mr. Oyler.

The SRBC Commissioners are scheduled to vote on these and other action items at its next business meeting on June 4, 2015, in Baltimore, Maryland.

SRBC's rules of conduct for public hearings include (see full set of rules on the website):

- All persons must sign-in and show photo identification.
- Signage, posters, banners or other display media will be permitted only in designated areas.
- The press is permitted to set up and use video and recording devices in a designated area. The public is permitted to use small, hand-held devices that remain in their possession and are used in a non-disruptive manner.

About the Susquehanna River Basin Commission

The Harrisburg, Pennsylvania-based SRBC is the governing agency established under a 100-year compact signed on Dec. 24, 1970, by the federal government and the states of New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland to protect and wisely manage the water resources of the Susquehanna River Basin. The Susquehanna River starts in Cooperstown, New York, and flows 444 miles to Havre de Grace, Maryland, where the river meets the Chesapeake Bay. For more information on SRBC, visit www.srbc.net or follow us on Twitter: @SRBCnews.

Source: SRBC Press Release, 4/21/2015

PA House Appropriations Chairman Adolph Reacts to IFO Analysis of Gov. Tom Wolf's \$8 Billion in Proposed State Tax Increases

IFO report contradicts governor's claims of net tax reductions for Pennsylvania taxpayers and says all taxpayers pay more

On April 23, 2015, the Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) released its statutorily required Analysis of Revenue Proposals that were included in the governor's proposed FY2015-16 budget. House Appropriations Chairman William F. Adolph Jr. (R-Delaware) offered the following statement in reaction to the report:

“The IFO's report on the governor's proposed tax increases is a telling portrayal of how the governor's massive tax increases will force all Pennsylvania taxpayers to pay more for everything from day care, nursing home care, utilities, newspapers and more, yet fail to deliver on the net tax decreases promised by the governor.

“The report makes a particularly important observation when it says ‘[t]he analysis finds a net tax increase for all groups, including a small net increase for the lowest income group.’ This is significant because it directly contradicts claims made by the governor in his budget speech on March 3 and reiterated again and again during our budget hearings by his top staff.

“The governor told Pennsylvania residents: ‘My budget actually reduces the total tax burden on average middle-class homeowners by 13 percent.’ The IFO's analysis shows taxpayers that when taken as a whole, the governor's proposed budget is a huge tax grab that increases state spending by 16 percent and fails to deliver on the promises of net tax reductions being touted by the governor.

“As we work to get a sustainable budget signed into law by June 30, we owe it to the taxpayers of Pennsylvania to be completely transparent about

how they will be impacted by the issues we address Harrisburg.”

NOTE: The IFO Report can be found [here](#).

Source: Rep. Adolph Press Release, 4/23/2015

Chesapeake Bay Foundation Says Senate Bill 724 Could Derail Clean Water Efforts in Pennsylvania

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) says Pennsylvania [Senate Bill 724](#) threatens to derail current clean water restoration efforts and divert critical funding from proven science-based practices, while favoring proprietary, corporate-backed and costly manure technologies.

CBF is disappointed that Senate Bill 724 was introduced April 14, as a reconstituted version of the flawed and failed Senate Bill 994 from the legislature’s last session. Sen. Elder Vogel (R-Beaver) was the prime sponsor of both bills.

“Although some phrases are different in the latest Senate Bill 724, it is still a fundamentally flawed bill,” said CBF’s Pennsylvania Executive Director Harry Campbell.

Pennsylvania must accelerate progress if it is to have 60 percent of the pollution reduction practices in place by 2017, the first formal deadline. The Commonwealth’s nitrogen and sediment pollution reduction commitments from agriculture and urban polluted runoff are considerably off-track. Pennsylvania appears to be on track to meet its phosphorus reduction goal.

A recent report by the PA Auditor General on the Commonwealth’s efforts to meet its pollution reduction goals for the Chesapeake Bay, urged greater support for the use of low-cost solutions and technologies as alternatives to higher-cost public and infrastructure projects.

CBF agrees with the Auditor General that there is no “silver bullet” for achieving the required

nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment reductions, and CBF does not view Senate Bill 724 as the panacea some are portraying it to be.

“There is a well-defined, scientifically supported, approved, and achievable blueprint for clean water in Pennsylvania,” Campbell added. “Pollution reduction practices like forested buffers, cover crops, and no-till farming are low-cost but highly effective. They address nutrient and sediment pollution, and many reduce flooding, improve trout habitat, and beautify communities.”

Manure treatment technologies do not offer a comprehensive solution for pollution reduction, particularly for nitrogen. Manure is only a portion of the total nutrient pollution entering Pennsylvania streams, rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay. The systems also do not reduce sediment pollution, the leading cause of impairment of 19,000 miles of Commonwealth streams.

Senate Bill 724 does little to help the more than 59,000 farms across Pennsylvania, who must develop and follow plans to manage manure and chemical fertilizers and prevent erosion from farm fields. These practices help farms keep soil and nutrients on the land, and out of waterways.

“Many farmers need support to put best management practices in place and Senate Bill 724 threatens to syphon resources away from farmers,” Campbell added.

The bill would establish an undefined nutrient credit trading program. Such a program allows those meeting a set of baseline requirements to sell pollution reduction “credits” to those needing them, like sewage treatment plants. The PA Department of Environmental Protection and PENNVEST already offer certified nutrient credits through a market-based online exchange and auction.

If the cost structure of Senate Bill 724 parallels that of its predecessor bill, CBF sees its alternative system as neither cost-effective nor affordable. The most recent auction in June 2014, nitrogen credits were sold for \$2.27 per credit. A December 2012 report by the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee estimated the sustainable cost per credit

for technology included in the earlier bill was \$11 per credit.

CBF is calling on the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee to conduct a hearing on Senate Bill 724, so the complexity of the issue and bill's fiscal and regulatory implications can be considered before it is brought to a vote.

Pennsylvania must continue to move forward in its commitment to clean water.

To backtrack on saving the Chesapeake Bay means the Commonwealth will continue to have polluted water, human health risks, and lost jobs. Clean water is a legacy worth leaving future generations.

Source: CBF Press Release, 4/23/2015

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