
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*

Gov. Wolf Announces New Methane Rules to Improve Air Quality, Reduce Industry Loss

Governor Tom Wolf this week announced a nation-leading strategy to reduce emissions of methane, a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change, and has been implicated in health risks. The plan is designed to protect the environment and public health, reduce climate change, and help businesses reduce the waste of a valuable product by reducing methane leaks and emissions from natural gas well sites, processing facilities, compressor stations and along pipelines.

"Pennsylvania is the second-largest producer of natural gas in the nation behind Texas," said Governor Wolf. "We are uniquely positioned to be a national leader in addressing climate change while supporting and ensuring responsible energy development, creating new jobs, and protecting public health and our environment. These are commonsense steps that Pennsylvania can take to protect our air and reduce waste for industry. The best companies understand the business case for

reducing methane leaks, as what doesn't leak into the atmosphere can be used for energy production."

Read [more](#).

Source: DEP News, 1/21/2016

FaceBook Town Hall Features discussion of Climate Change, Energy and the Environment

Earlier this week, DEP Secretary John Quigley and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary Cindy Dunn joined Governor Tom Wolf for a FaceBook Town Hall discussion on a host of environmental issues including the methane reduction strategy, climate change and energy issues.

Secretary Quigley talked about the timeline for the new initiative and how it's a win-win for industry and the environment.

"We are poised now to deliver to our Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee in early February

this combination of revised general permits and regulatory concepts that we will then push through the regulatory process," Quigely said. "So we're looking at the second half of this year having new general permits in place which will give the industry streamlined permitting in exchange for enhanced environmental protections, specifically reduced methane emissions and reduced volatile organic compound emissions."

Click [here](#) to view the FaceBook Town Hall.

Source: DEP News, 1/21/2016

Pa. Unveils Comprehensive Strategy to Improve Water Quality in Pa., and Chesapeake Bay Watershed

After 30 years of work that has prevented millions of pounds of pollutants from reaching Pennsylvania's waterways and the Chesapeake Bay, the commonwealth continues to face immense pressure from the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to improve water quality. In order to meet those obligations, Pennsylvania today unveiled a comprehensive strategy to "reboot" the state's efforts to improve water quality in the commonwealth and the bay.

The new plan, developed jointly by the Pennsylvania departments of Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), and Environmental Protection (DEP), as well as the State Conservation Commission brings new focus to the state's efforts to help protect the Chesapeake Bay while emphasizing the need for balance and resilience. The strategy relies on a mix of technical and financial assistance for farmers, technology, expanded data gathering, improved program coordination and capacity and - only when necessary - stronger enforcement and compliance measures.

Read [more](#).

Source: DEP News, 1/21/2016

Feb. 3 EQB Meeting to be Streamed Live

DEP will provide a live stream of the Feb. 3 Environmental Quality Board meeting as members consider the Final Rulemaking, Environmental Protection Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites for Oil and Gas (25 Pa Code Chapters 78 and 78a).

The amendments to the oil and gas regulations address surface activities at well sites, and center on five core areas. The amendments improve protection of water resources, add public resources considerations, protect public health and safety, address landowner concerns, and enhance transparency and improve data management.

The live stream will begin at 9 a.m. and can be viewed [here](#).

Source: DEP News, 1/21/2016

GO-TIME, PA Department Of Health Release Powerful Health Data Analytics Portal

Governor Wolf's Office of Transformation, Innovation, Management, and Efficiency (GO-TIME) and Secretary of Health Dr. Karen Murphy today announced that the Pennsylvania Department of Health's recently established Division of Health Informatics has released a new online self-service tool to access and analyze public health data.

The initial launch of the Enterprise Data Dissemination Informatics Exchange (EDDIE) features a dozen of the most frequently requested datasets, such as vital records and cancer incidence, that may be accessed through a customized search function.

"Since the launch of GO-TIME, state agencies and employees have committed themselves to making Pennsylvania's government work more efficiently," said Governor Wolf. "I'm thrilled to hear about this next success in maximizing

efficiency, modernizing state government operations, and providing the highest quality services."

"In support of Governor Wolf's goal of creating a 'Government that Works,' we are improving and streamlining our ability to provide useful information to the public," said Secretary Murphy. "Implementing this new data tool keeps Pennsylvania on the cutting edge of information technology and provides the best services possible to commonwealth residents. In addition, having a more robust and modern system, which is easier to maintain and update than our current systems, will save a significant amount of staff hours and will result in a much better experience for the end user."

In the coming weeks, EDDIE will gain additional features like environmental health data and county-level assessments. Geographical visualization capabilities have will also be added to EDDIE, such as mapping and charting functions. By streamlining these functions and datasets, the new portal is not only more efficient and less costly but also raises the visibility of the datasets themselves.

"The Department of Health is dedicated to enhancing the profile of public health data by enabling greater data dissemination and decision-making. We have increased the value of all the data we collect by preparing and sharing it for everyone to use and learn from," said Department of Health Chief Information Officer Patrick Keating. "Our new Division of Health Informatics develops technical solutions like the new EDDIE system that ensure the confidentiality, security, and integrity of health data while maximizing its reach and utility."

Health data users can learn how to use EDDIE by visiting the Department of Health's Web page located at: <http://doh.pa.gov/eddie> .

Source: Governor's Press Office, 1/22/2016

DEP: Small Water Systems Technical Assistance Center Board Meeting Cancellation

The January 28, 2016, meeting of the Small Water Systems Technical Assistance Center Board has been **cancelled**. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 23, 2016, at 9 a.m. in Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg. Questions concerning the cancellation of the January 28, 2016, meeting or the February 23, 2016, meeting may be directed to Dawn Hissner, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water, (717) 772-2189, dhissner@pa.gov . Additionally, the agenda and meeting materials will be available through the Public Participation tab on the Department of Environmental Protection's [website](#).

Source: PA Bulletin, [1/23/2016](#)

Governor Wolf Announces \$78.3 Million Investment in Water Infrastructure Projects in 12 Counties

On January 20, 2016, Governor Tom Wolf announced the investment of \$78.3 million for twelve drinking water, wastewater and non-point source projects across twelve counties through the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST).

"The PENNVEST Board of Directors has once again come to the aid of a number of communities across the Commonwealth where safe and adequate drinking water is needed and where both human and animal waste is contaminating local streams", said Governor Wolf. "These conditions simply cannot be allowed to continue and I applaud the Board's efforts and its initiative in addressing these conditions. Pennsylvania is a safer, healthier and more environmentally pleasing place to live as a result."

Of the \$78.3 million, \$60.3 million is allocated for low-interest loans and \$18.0 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.

A list of project summaries follows.

PENNVEST Drinking Water Projects

Armstrong County

- **Rayburn Township Joint Municipal Authority** received a \$4,968,405 grant to construct almost nine miles of water distribution lines, a water storage tank and a pump station in order to provide safe and adequate drinking water to various areas of the township where residents are currently dependent on contaminated wells for their drinking water.

Indiana County

- **Central Indiana County Water Authority** received a \$3,081,000 loan to construct four miles of water distribution lines, a new pump station and other facilities in order to provide adequate and safe drinking water to sixty households and two dairy farms in Center Township.
- **Indiana County Municipal Services Authority** received a \$3,978,721 loan and a \$4,236,279 grant to construct more than sixteen miles of new water distribution lines, a pump station and other related facilities in order to provide safe drinking water to approximately 300 homes in both Cherry Hill and Armstrong Townships, where residents are currently dependent on contaminated private wells for their drinking water.

Clearfield and Jefferson Counties

- **Sykesville Borough** received an \$85,797 loan and a \$3,584,203 grant to replace almost five miles of old and deteriorated water distribution lines and to make other improvements in order to eliminate leaks, frequent water line breaks

and low water pressure in various parts of the borough's system.

Lycoming County

- **Muncy Borough Municipal Authority** received a \$5,737,650 loan to construct two water storage tanks and other improvements in order to provide adequate storage to meet the daily water demand at the Muncy Industrial Park and also to eliminate unaccounted for water losses and other problems in the authority's distribution system.

Schuylkill County

- **Schuylkill County Municipal Authority** received a \$6.4 million loan to rehabilitate three deteriorating water storage tanks and also replace about 10,000 water meters in order to improve leak detection throughout the authority's distribution system.

PENNVEST Wastewater Projects

Allegheny and Washington Counties

- **Jefferson Hills Borough** received a \$9,524,050 loan to construct more than two miles of sewage collection lines, and to make other improvements to the borough's system in order to reduce basement back-ups and wet weather overflows of raw sewage into tributaries of the Monongahela River.

Blair County

- **Hollidaysburg Sewer Authority** received a \$4,650,000 loan and a \$2,491,500 grant to construct almost six miles of sewage collection lines in order to separate the existing sanitary and storm sewer systems that currently overflow during wet weather and discharge raw sewage into the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River.

Cambria County

- **Johnstown Redevelopment Authority** received an \$18.5 million loan to construct more than a mile of interceptor sewers in the Hornerstown area of the city in order to

eliminate wet weather discharges of raw sewage into Stony Creek River.

- **Southmont Borough** received an \$8,308,574 loan and a \$1,648,426 grant to construct more than six miles of sewage collection lines and make other improvements in order to eliminate the discharge of raw sewage into Cheney Run that occurs during wet weather.

Non-point Source Water Quality Improvement Projects

Armstrong and Clarion Counties

- **Armstrong County Conservation District** received a \$761,400 grant to install a variety of streambank stabilization measures along 3.5 miles of trails where wet weather is eroding the trail surface and surrounding ground, resulting in sediment being carried into Redbank Creek and the Allegheny River.

Lancaster County

- **Chester County Conservation District and Samuel Stolfus** received a \$314,550 grant to construct new manure management and storage facilities and other improvements on a dairy operation where there is uncontrolled manure runoff from the existing cattle lot. Also, there is currently no manure storage capacity, which results in manure spreading during winter and other times of the year when the soil is relatively impervious. All of these conditions currently cause manure and the nutrients it contains to run off into Octoraro Creek and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay.

Source: Governor's Press Office, 1/20/2016

Pennsylvania Unveils Comprehensive Strategy to Improve Water Quality in state and Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Strategy recognizes two key, co-equal goals for success: clean water and viable farms

After 30 years of work that has prevented millions of pounds of pollutants from reaching Pennsylvania's waterways and the Chesapeake Bay, the commonwealth continues to face immense pressure from the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to improve water quality. In order to meet those obligations, Pennsylvania today unveiled a comprehensive strategy to "reboot" the state's efforts to improve water quality in the commonwealth and the bay.

The new plan, developed jointly by the Pennsylvania departments of Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), and Environmental Protection (DEP), as well as the State Conservation Commission brings new focus to the state's efforts to help protect the Chesapeake Bay while emphasizing the need for balance and resilience. The strategy relies on a mix of technical and financial assistance for farmers, technology, expanded data gathering, improved program coordination and capacity and – only when necessary – stronger enforcement and compliance measures.

"This is an important issue to the future of agriculture in Pennsylvania and throughout the watershed, and must be managed to achieve the co-equal goals of having both clean water and viable farms," said Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding. "The agriculture industry is responsible for contributing three-quarters of the total nutrient reductions expected of states by 2025. That's a sizeable sum, and no small task, but we know there are countless farmers who are doing their part. Part of the problem is that Pennsylvania is not getting full credit for the work we are doing. This plan sets out to rectify that, plus give those farmers who need help or encouragement the incentives to assist them. We all have a role here and agriculture stands ready to be part of the solution."

"Pennsylvania has not met the EPA's requirements to reduce water pollution under the requirements of federal court orders and regulations," said DEP Secretary John Quigley. "The Wolf administration is working to focus and

increase resources and technical assistance, reinvigorates partnerships, and creates a culture of compliance in protecting Pennsylvania's water quality, and by virtue of that, the quality of the Chesapeake Bay."

"Of the many best management practices that improve the quality of waters and habitats in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the single best may be the restoration of riparian forest buffers along stream banks to provide critical barriers between polluting landscapes and receiving waterways," DCNR Secretary Cindy Dunn said. "We are renewing our focus on increasing forest buffers in Pennsylvania by developing a comprehensive approach to provide funding, training, and outreach to farmers and landowners."

The new plan is in response to the federal Clean Water Act, court orders and regulations finalized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in December 2010 that impose a total maximum daily load, or TMDL, that require Pennsylvania to reduce annual discharges of nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment entering the bay watershed in order to meet water quality standards by 2025.

The administration's comprehensive strategy centers around six elements:

- Put high-impact, low-cost Best Management Practices (BMPs) on the ground, and quantify undocumented BMPs in watersheds impaired by agriculture or stormwater.
- Improve reporting, record keeping and data systems to provide better and more accessible documentation.
- Address nutrient reduction by meeting EPA's goal of inspecting 10 percent of farms in the watershed, ensuring development and use of manure management and agricultural erosion and sediment control plans, and enforcement for non-compliance.
- Identify legislative, programmatic or regulatory changes to provide the additional tools and resources necessary to meet federal pollution reduction goals by 2025.

- Obtain additional resources for water quality improvement.
- Establish a Chesapeake Bay Office to coordinate the development, implementation and funding of the commonwealth's Chesapeake Bay efforts.

Redding noted the administration has been actively engaging stakeholders as it developed this plan, and it has sought additional resources from the federal government, such as through the United States Department of Agriculture's Regional Conservation Partnership Program. The administration has been engaging with EPA, conservation districts and institutions of higher education, including Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences to discuss the most effective water quality improvement strategies. The administration has also been working with farm organizations to assist in capturing on-the-farm data of best management practices on farms throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Capturing this data is essential to Pennsylvania receiving full credit in the EPA's model, which is used to measure progress toward pollution reduction goals.

DCNR's Bureau of Forestry will lead an effort to work with numerous agencies, partners and landowners to expand forest buffers along waterways in the commonwealth.

Between 1985 and 2013, Pennsylvania has made significant strides, reducing yearly nitrogen loads by more than 11.5 million pounds, phosphorous by 1.46 million pounds, and sediment by nearly 434 million pounds. These reductions – the result of more than \$4 billion being directed toward Chesapeake Bay restoration during that period through loan and grant programs -- equate to a 25 percent reduction in phosphorous, a six percent reduction in nitrogen, and a nearly 15 percent reduction in sediment.

Despite this progress, achievements to date have been deemed insufficient by the EPA to meet water quality expectations, as reported by the federal government's most recent interim evaluation, released in June 2015. According to that assessment, Pennsylvania is on target to meet its 2017 TMDL goal for phosphorus, but significantly

behind targets for nitrogen and sediment reductions. Excess phosphorus, nitrogen and sediments are the leading causes of bay degradation, and Pennsylvania is one of six states obliged to achieve nutrient reduction goals.

The state must reduce nitrogen loads by another 31.4 million pounds, phosphorous by an additional one million pounds, and sediment by another 648 million pounds by the TMDL's 2025 target.

Because of Pennsylvania's lack of attainment in meeting interim goals, last month, the EPA advised DEP that it was withholding \$2.9 million in funding, and will consider taking additional actions that increase the federal agency's role in inspections, permitting and compliance, if progress is lacking.

More than half of Pennsylvania's land area drains into the Chesapeake Bay, with the Susquehanna River being the largest tributary in the watershed. The Susquehanna River provides 90 percent of the freshwater that flows into the upper bay region and half of the total flow into the entire estuary.

For more information on Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Program, visit www.dep.pa.gov and search "Chesapeake Bay Program."

Source: Governor's Press Office, 1/21/2016

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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.