
WUC

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



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

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*PA- Section, American Water Works Association
National Association of Water Companies
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Wolf Administration Highlights Steps to Reduce Lead Exposure

National events about lead exposure have generated new concerns for Pennsylvanians related to the safety of their homes and water. The Wolf Administration takes the issue of lead exposure very seriously and state agencies will continue to work together on their coordinated response to address lead exposure in communities across the commonwealth. The Departments of Health (DOH) and Environmental Protection (DEP) both work diligently to protect children from lead exposure and have many resources available for residents to learn more and take action on lead.

According to Department of Health, the primary source of childhood lead poisoning in Pennsylvania continues to be exposure to aging, deteriorating lead-based paint (chips and dust), and not drinking water. The age of Pennsylvania's housing stock contributes to this problem. While lead was banned from paint in 1978, many older dwellings still contain layers of pre-1978 paint. According to 2010 Census data, Pennsylvania ranks third in the nation for having the most housing units identified as having been built before 1950 (when lead was more

prevalent) and fourth in the nation for housing units identified as having been built before 1978, according to a 2014 Department of Health [report](#).

"The Department of Health is very concerned about elevated lead levels in children wherever they may occur. Our community health nurses work closely with health care providers and families every day to provide education about lead exposure and facilitate home inspections if needed to identify the source of the exposure," said Health Secretary Dr. Karen Murphy.

"Protecting the state's water and the health and safety of our citizens is DEP's mission," said Department of Environmental Protection Secretary John Quigley. "Ensuring the safety of our drinking water is essential. We have policies and programs in place already to protect Pennsylvanians."

Department of Health

The Department of Health provides a toll-free [Lead Information Line](#) (1-800-440-LEAD) to respond to caller questions and provide electronic materials about lead poisoning and other environmental hazards. For more information, please also visit the [Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention FAQ](#).

Residents should be proactive and follow steps to ensure the health and the safety of children in their residences and can find all the resources DOH provides [here](#). DOH's Lead Surveillance Program tracks and monitors childhood lead activity through the Pennsylvania National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (PA-NEDSS). PA-NEDSS is a web-based application system that receives all lead reports on Pennsylvania's children. Through PA-NEDSS, the Division of Child and Adult Health Services can identify possible high-risk areas, locate areas of under-testing, and identify other potential service gaps.

DOH's Community Health Nurses (CHN) monitor elevated lead levels in children ages seven and under living in Pennsylvania. The CHNs contact the family to provide education on laboratory results, sources of lead exposure, actions to take to prevent/decrease the risk of exposure and help facilitate follow-up testing between client's and their pediatricians. In cases where there is significant lead exposure, CHNs will work with the pediatrician and facilitate referrals to obtain home inspections which can identify the source of exposure as well as provide hands-on education to parents.

Department of Environment Protection

Federal and state regulations require that public drinking water suppliers regularly test for contaminants including lead. DEP monitors water suppliers to ensure that they are complying with testing requirements to safeguard our public drinking water supplies. DEP also provides information to private well water users on how to properly maintain their systems to reduce their exposure to lead. DEP has created a new section of their website for information on lead in drinking water for consumers [here](#).

Since lead exposure in drinking water typically comes from your plumbing fixtures and not the source of your water supply, it's important for both public drinking water customers as well as private well water users to follow these tips to reduce your exposure to lead:

- Run your water to flush out lead. If water hasn't been used for several hours, run water for 15-30

seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes out any stagnant water in your home plumbing and replaces it with fresh water from the water main in your street.

- Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula. Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
- Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead. In fact, lead concentrations will be higher in water that is boiled since some of the water is removed as steam.
- Test your water for lead. Contact your water system for more information about getting your water tested. Some water systems may offer to test your water free of charge. Your water system can also provide information about local laboratories that conduct lead testing. If you're a private well water user, you should contact a DEP-accredited lab for information about water testing. Here is the [link to a listing of DEP-accredited labs](#).
- Identify whether your house's plumbing fixtures contain lead. There are lead check swabs that can detect lead on plumbing surfaces such as solder and pipes. These swabs can be purchased at plumbing and home improvement stores.

Monitoring frequencies for lead and copper vary based on previous sample results. A new water system is tested every 6 months until they have 2 consecutive periods of compliance (so it could be the first 2 tests); after that they go to annual monitoring, and if, after 3 years of clean annual tests, they can go to a once-every-three year monitoring schedule. All large water systems (serving more than 50,000) and those small/medium water systems that have installed corrosion control treatment are also required to monitor for water quality parameters to ensure that corrosion control treatment is being properly operated and maintained.

If lead concentrations exceed the legally acceptable level in more than 10% of customer taps

sampled, the system must undertake a number of additional actions to control corrosion. These actions include completion of a corrosion control treatment feasibility study, submission of a permit application, and construction or modification of corrosion control treatment facilities. If the action level for lead is exceeded, the system must also inform the public about steps they should take to protect their health and may have to replace lead service lines under their control.

If lead action level is exceeded, public water systems are required to implement a public education program within 60 days. Printed materials must be delivered to all customers, the local or state health department, and other organizations. In addition, water suppliers must provide the results of all lead testing performed on individual homes to the homeowner within 30 days, along with an explanation of the health effects of lead, a list of steps consumers can take to reduce exposure to lead, and contact info for the water system.

Source: DEP Press Release, 2/4/2016

Restored EPA Funding to Help Pennsylvania Farmers Meet Watershed Goals

On the strength of the commonwealth's rebooted strategy to improve clean water in the Susquehanna River watershed, extending into the Chesapeake Bay, announced last month, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has restored \$3 million in program funding to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The commonwealth's comprehensive strategy was developed collaboratively between DEP and Pennsylvania departments of Agriculture and Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

The funding will primarily support installation of best management practices by farmers and the operations of County Conservation Districts. EPA will award the funds to DEP when Federal budget authority for the new fiscal year is finalized.

In a letter dated January 20, 2016, to DEP Secretary John Quigley, EPA Regional Administrator Shawn Garvin wrote, "EPA appreciates Pennsylvania's commitment to get back on-track with nutrient reduction measures necessary to achieve the Chesapeake Bay goals." The "submission, 18-month strategy and draft implementation plan contain many actions that can serve as building blocks to accelerate the pace of implementation."

"Pennsylvania was not on track to meet nutrient reduction targets, and EPA made clear in 2015 that it would withhold funding due to that lack of progress. DEP worked with our sister agencies and wrote a plan that will put us on track," said Quigley.

"This restored funding will be targeted by DEP to begin implementation of our rebooted strategy. It is a start – but only that. We have a long way to go in our efforts to assemble additional resources and to do the work to improve local water quality in Pennsylvania, and that of the Chesapeake Bay."

For more information about Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay strategy, click [here](#).

Source: DEP Press Release, 2/2/2016

BLOG: Go With the Flow - Green Infrastructure in Your Neighborhood

Ten years ago, we didn't see much green infrastructure for water resources around our neighborhoods. It was more of a novelty than a focused approach to sustainable development and construction. A few cities started using and experimenting with green infrastructure techniques such as rain gardens, permeable pavement, and bioswales which are landscape elements designed to remove silt and pollution from surface runoff water. The green was a complement to the gray infrastructure, the established system of underground tunnels and sewers. Together, green and gray infrastructure provided a holistic approach to manage stormwater for cleaner water.

Read [more](#).

Source: Water Headlines from EPA, 2/3/2016

EPA Launches New Online Training Module on Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources

EPA has released a new online training module, "Understanding Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources." This training module is intended to increase water resource professionals' understanding of the causes of climate change, its potential impacts on water resources, and the challenges that water resource professionals face. The module also describes how federal, state, tribal, and local governments and communities are working to make the United States more resilient to the impacts of climate. The 45-minute training is part of the EPA Watershed Academy Web certificate program.

Read [more](#).

Source: Water Headlines from EPA, 2/3/2016

Webinar on Feb. 10 to Focus on Unique Uses of Clean Water State Revolving Fund

A webinar on Wednesday, February 10 at 2 p.m. Eastern will feature three projects demonstrating unique uses and dispersion of Clean Water State Revolving Funds, and offers valuable case studies that will build state capacity and knowledge. The webinar is open and relevant to all levels of government, utilities, and NGOs. Presentations will include:

- A state-wide project in Montana minimized the need for plant upgrades through targeted education of wastewater treatment operators and some additional site-specific assistance.
- The City of West Monroe, Louisiana upgraded an existing wastewater treatment plant to meet the water needs of a nearby manufacturer. The

City worked closely with the manufacturer to identify, test, and implement this innovative solution to the company's industrial input needs.

- A Camden City, New Jersey project implemented various green and grey infrastructure projects to address stormwater and combined sewer issues through a partnership between the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority and other governmental entities and non-profits.

This webinar is being held by the Environmental Council of the States under a cooperative agreement with EPA to highlight the flexibilities in the CWSRF.

Read [more](#).

Source: Water Headlines from EPA, 2/3/2016

Environmental Quality Board Passes Updates to Oil and Gas Drilling Regulations

The Pennsylvania Environmental Quality Board (EQB), an independent board responsible for adopting environmental regulations, passed the revisions to the oil and gas drilling regulations by a vote of 15 to 4. The "Environmental Protection Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites" (Chapters 78 and 78a) rulemaking modernizes and strengthens the environmental controls employed by both the conventional and unconventional industries to assure the protection of public health, safety, and the environment.

In addressing surface activities at well sites, the amendments improve protection of water resources, add public resources considerations, protect public health and safety, address landowner concerns, enhance transparency, and improve data management. The regulatory language has been formulated with the input of more than 25,000 Pennsylvania residents.

"These updated rules are long overdue and it's time to get them across the finish line for the

protection of public health, for industry certainty, and for the protection of our state's environment," said DEP Secretary John Quigley. "The changes are incremental, balanced, and appropriate, and are the result of one of the most transparent and engaged public processes in the history of the agency."

The rules will now be delivered to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission and the House and Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committees for review.

Source: DEP Press Release, 2/3/2016

DEP Releases Findings on September 2015 Odor Event from Scranton Sewer System

DEP recently concluded its three-month investigation regarding a substance and odor that ran through the Greenridge section of Scranton Sewer Authority (SSA) in September 2015. The investigation revealed that the source of the petroleum-based liquid cannot be determined, and the substance, an undetermined small amount, was likely introduced into the system during a one-time release.

"The department spent significant resources trying to pinpoint who or what was responsible for this substance being illegally dumped into the sewer system," said Mike Bedrin, Director of DEP Northeast Regional Office in Wilkes-Barre. "We worked closely with authority inspectors to determine what happened and how. Finding the answers to those questions and determining a responsible party were not possible in this case, where a small quantity of material was dumped into a large sewer system."

Read [more](#).

Source: DEP News, 2/4/2016

Reading Area Water Authority Plant Completes

Third Phase of Partnership for Safe Water

The Reading Area Water Authority's Maiden creek water treatment plant in Berks County, recently completed the third phase of the Partnership for Safe Water program, a voluntary effort to provide safe drinking water. Presently, the plant provides drinking water service to approximately 87,000 people. The Maiden creek water treatment plant is now one of 60 plants to complete this phase of the partnership in Pennsylvania.

The Partnership for Safe Water is made up of DEP, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Pennsylvania Section American Water Works Association (PA-AWWA) and other drinking water organizations. Its goal is to implement preventative measures that are based on optimizing treatment plant performance.

Phase III entails a detailed, peer-reviewed report that summarizes the rigorous self-assessment portion of the program. This phase is specifically geared toward identifying weaknesses in plant operation, design and administration that could lead to a breakthrough of waterborne disease-causing organisms into the finished water that is distributed to consumers. Correcting these weaknesses helps prevent waterborne disease outbreaks from pathogenic organisms like Cryptosporidium and Giardia. By completing this phase of the program, the Maiden creek plant provides an additional measure of protection to drinking water consumers.

Read [more](#).

Source: DEP News, 2/4/2016

Revenue Department Releases January 2016 Collections

Pennsylvania collected \$2.5 billion in General Fund revenue in January, which was \$6.2 million, or 0.3 percent, more than anticipated, Secretary of Revenue Eileen McNulty reported

today. Fiscal year-to-date General Fund collections total \$15.9 billion, which is \$9.2 million, or 0.1 percent, above estimate.

Sales tax receipts totaled \$890.2 million for January, \$12.4 million above estimate. Year-to-date sales tax collections total \$5.8 billion, which is \$12.4 million, or 0.2 percent, more than anticipated.

Personal income tax (PIT) revenue in January was \$1.2 billion, \$9 million above estimate. This brings year-to-date PIT collections to \$6.7 billion, which is \$9 million, or 0.1 percent, above estimate.

January corporation tax revenue of \$149.1 million was \$7.3 million below estimate. Year-to-date corporation tax collections total \$1.6 billion, which is \$4.5 million, or 0.3 percent, below estimate.

Inheritance tax revenue for the month was \$65.6 million, \$3.7 million below estimate, bringing the year-to-date total to \$515.3 million, which is \$3.7 million, or 0.7 percent, below estimate.

Realty transfer tax revenue was \$43.4 million for January, \$1.6 million above estimate, bringing the fiscal-year total to \$291.8 million, which is \$1.8 million, or 0.6 percent, more than anticipated.

Other General Fund tax revenue, including cigarette, malt beverage, liquor and table games taxes, totaled \$83.4 million for the month, \$2.9 million below estimate and bringing the year-to-date total to \$835.3 million, which is \$3 million, or 0.4 percent, below estimate.

Non-tax revenue totaled \$66.2 million for the month, \$2.8 million below estimate, bringing the year-to-date total to \$210.3 million, which is \$2.8 million, or 1.3 percent, below estimate.

In addition to the General Fund collections, the Motor License Fund received \$196.4 million for the month, \$22.1 million below estimate. Fiscal year-to-date collections for the fund – which include the commonly known gas and diesel taxes, as well as other license, fine and fee revenues – total \$1.5 billion, which is \$21.9 million, or 1.5 percent, below estimate.

Source: Department of Revenue Press Release, 2/1/2016

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