
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*

Pennsylvania Water Systems Not the Cause of Lead Exposure

An analysis of public water systems in Pennsylvania cities with high lead exposure rates shows that drinking water is not the source of the lead. Out of the more than 150 public water systems reviewed by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) none had exceeded EPA standards for lead in the drinking water. The water systems tested serve more than 6 million people - nearly half of the residents of the state.

"We can definitively say that none of these 159 water systems have exceeded EPA action levels for lead. This eliminates one of the possible sources for the exposure," said DEP Secretary John Quigley. "DEP has regulations and programs in place to monitor lead levels in drinking water, and they are working."

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](#).

Public water systems must regularly sample water from the homes they serve. These tests target homes known to have lead pipes, lead solder, or lead service lines. The EPA action level for lead is 15 parts per billion (ppb) or 0.015 milligrams per liter. If 90% of tested homes are below the 15 ppb action level, a water system is considered safe.

Pennsylvania residents on public water systems can see the results of the most recent testing by visiting [DEP's Consumer Confidence Report](#) and searching by their water system name or by the county they live in (on the results page, contaminant 1022 is copper, 1030 is lead).

Pennsylvania residents are encouraged to visit our [website](#) for more information on lead in drinking water.

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](#).

Source: DEP Press Release, 2/8/2016

Lead testing package to be introduced in Pennsylvania House

Citing the growing concern both nationwide and in Pennsylvania about the dangers of hidden lead poisoning, state Rep. Angel Cruz, D-Phila., will introduce a package of legislation aimed at increasing lead testing in several main areas.

"It's a tragedy that the events in Flint had to remind us of the dangers of lead poisoning, but the danger is real and the danger is high," Cruz said. "Studies from the Department of Health show that multiple cities across Pennsylvania are dealing with children testing positive for high blood lead levels, including Allentown, Scranton, York, Harrisburg, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, among others. This is not an issue we can afford to take lightly."

The first piece of legislation would require children under age 6 to be tested for elevated lead levels in their blood. Currently, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control recommend children be tested at ages 1, 2 and again before age 6.

The second piece of legislation would amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to require more frequent testing for lead in water. Under current law, water is tested every three years at a reduced number of sample sites after the initial passing. Cruz's legislation would require testing to be done annually at the reduced number of sample sites and a complete test from all sample sites every three years.

The third piece of legislation, which is being developed by Lehigh Valley legislators, would

require residential rental properties built before 1978 to the same requirements that federal law has laid out for the sale of residential homes. Currently, a lead inspection is required before the sale of a home. This legislation would require a lead inspection each time a tenant vacates a rental property before renting to a new tenant.

Source: Rep. Cruz Press Release, 2/11/2016

EPA Awards \$12.7 Million to Assist Small Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems

EPA has announced the award of \$12.7 million in grants to help small drinking and wastewater systems and private well owners located in urban and rural communities throughout the U.S. and its territories. The water systems will receive training and technical assistance to improve small system operations and management practices, promote system sustainability, and better protect public health and the environment.

More than 97 percent of the nation's 157,000 public water systems serve fewer than 10,000 people, and more than 80 percent of these systems serve fewer than 500 people. Many small systems face unique challenges in providing reliable drinking water and wastewater services that meet federal and state regulations. These challenges can include a lack of financial resources, aging infrastructure, and high staff turnover.

Read [more](#).

Source: Water Headlines from EPA

EPA Reissuing Clean Water Act Pesticides General Permit

EPA is preparing to reissue the Pesticide General Permit, which regulates point source discharges of biological pesticides and

chemical pesticides that leave a residue. The current general permit was first issued on Oct. 31, 2011, and expires Oct. 31, 2016.

The proposed 2016 PGP contains the same requirements and provisions as the current 2011 permit. The permit covers: (1) mosquito and other flying insect pest control, (2) weed and algae pest control, (3) animal pest control, and (4) forest canopy pest control.

The draft permit does not cover terrestrial applications to control pests on agricultural crops or forest floors.

The proposed permit, which was published in the Federal Register on January 26, 2016, has a 45-day public comment period. Comments must be received on or before March 11, 2016. The 2016 PGP will be finalized by October 31, 2016.

Read [more](#).

Source: Water Headlines from EPA

EPA Report Shares Tips, Lessons Learned for Green Infrastructure in Communities

EPA's Green Infrastructure program has released a new report, "Tools, Strategies and Lessons Learned from EPA Green Infrastructure Technical Assistance Projects." The report provides results from EPA's green infrastructure technical assistance program for communities looking for the best solutions to their unique challenges.

This quick-reference guide matches problems with real world, tested solutions and offers readers resources for further information. The report also includes a handy guide to technology and a table of benefits to share with potential collaborators and stakeholders.

Read [more](#).

Source: Water Headlines from EPA

Financially Assisting Private Dam Owners, Communities and Individuals is the Focus of Brown's Bill

Rep. Rosemary M. Brown (R-Monroe/Pike) initiated [House Bill 1712](#), which seeks to establish the self-funded, freestanding Private Dam Financial Assurance Act. Brown's bill passed the state House this week, with a unanimous bipartisan vote, 196-0.

"This legislation is especially important because it addresses an issue that was brought to me by residents of the 189th District who privately own and are responsible for dams," Brown explained. "I have worked diligently on this legislation with my staff for more than two years."

Under the Dam Safety and Water Encroachment Act and the Pennsylvania Code, private dam owners are required to have a financial responsibility tool in place by Jan. 8, 2016, in the event their dam would need to be breached. Brown added that the average cost of breaching a dam is estimated at \$170,000.

"Many private dam owners have been extremely stressed with obtaining bonds due to the setup of their organizations," Brown said. "Oftentimes, financial institutions don't consider homeowners associations to be stable enough to offer bonds. With any private ownership, the financial stress to meet regulations has been tremendous. This legislation helps reduce the financial burden, while still protecting the state and public safety."

The program would be self-funded, with dam owners paying a one-time \$1,000 registration fee, in addition to a 1 percent annual fee of the bond amount required by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Brown explained. Additionally, once this fund reaches \$1.5 million, loans may be authorized for repairs. The program will be advertised through the Department of Community and Economic Development in conjunction with DEP.

In Pennsylvania, there are approximately 3,378 regulated dams, and nearly 404 of them are privately owned.

This bill has been sent to the Senate for its consideration. Brown encourages residents who own a private dam to contact their state senator to show their support for this legislation, and continue its movement through the Senate and to the governor's desk to become law.

For more information about this legislation, or any state-related issue, contact Brown's district office in East Stroudsburg located at 143 Seven Bridge Road, by calling 570-420-8301. Information can also be found on online at www.RepBrown.com or www.Facebook.com/RepRosemaryBrown.

Source: Rep. Brown Press Release, 2/10/2016

House Committee Studies Christiana Bill to License PA Plumbers

In an effort to ensure safety of public water supplies and increase consumer protection, the House Professional Licensure Committee heard testimony on February 11, 2016 from Pennsylvania plumbers on the importance of a state licensing program for the trade, said Rep. Jim Christiana (R-Beaver/Washington), author of a bill to establish such a program.

Christiana's bill, [House Bill 1357](#), would ensure plumbers licensed through the program have the knowledge and training needed to protect public health and the environment.

"With the recent water supply crisis in Flint, Michigan, it's more important than ever that we have a uniform set of standards in place for the plumbing industry. These men and women are responsible for ensuring our water supplies are safe and our drainage system systems are working properly. With a state-certified license, our contractors can reassure their customers that they are properly trained in the field.

"Having state-licensed plumbers will give homeowners peace of mind when selecting a professional to perform service and maintenance on their home," Christiana said. "People want to know that the contractor they are hiring knows what he or she is doing and will not take any dangerous shortcuts that could lead to unsafe water supplies or damage to their homes."

Testifiers at the hearing included representatives from statewide plumbers' unions and small business owners, as well as members of the Pennsylvania Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors Association, Associated Builders and Contractors-Cumberland Valley Chapter, Laborers' International Union of North America, Pennsylvania American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) and the Building Owners and Managers Association Pittsburgh.

"We have union plumbers and non-union plumbers working together in support of this legislation, and it's something they all want to see signed into law," Christiana said. "They also acknowledge a need for a way to differentiate between highly skilled and trained professionals and those who are not."

To watch video of the full hearing, visit www.RepChristiana.com.

Source: Representative Jim Christiana Press Release, 2/11/2016

EPA's FY 2017 Budget Request Increases Support for Communities to Deliver Core Environmental and Health Protections

The Obama Administration's Fiscal Year 2017 budget announced February 9, 2016 for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lays out a strategy to ensure that steady progress is made in addressing known environmental problems and ensuring the agency and its partners in environmental protection, states and tribes, are positioned to meet the challenges of

the future. EPA's FY 2017 budget request of \$8.267 billion provides resources vital to that overarching vision. The request is \$127 million above the agency's enacted level for FY 2016.

"For 45 years, EPA's investments to protect public health and the environment have consistently paid off," said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. "The proposed budget reflects an understanding that a strong economy depends on a healthy environment. The Administration is committed to continuing crucial work to curb climate change while improving air quality, protecting our water, conducting rigorous scientific research, maintaining an effective compliance and enforcement program, and making sure the public is safe from toxic chemicals."

Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Highlights Include:

Making a Visible Difference in Communities Across the Country

Helping all communities connect with the information and resources they need to address local environmental concerns and issues remains a key element of EPA's community-focused efforts. Coordination with other federal agencies, states, tribes, and stakeholders will help to focus the work of diverse programs at the community level. In response to feedback from across the country, this budget proposes a multifaceted effort to enable communities of all sizes, rural and urban, to find needed assistance and support for capacity building, planning, and implementation of environmental protection programs. For example, in addition to the \$17 million provided for the Alaska Native Villages infrastructure assistance program, and an additional \$2.9 million is provided to these communities to conduct resiliency planning exercises and capacity-building efforts. This will build upon previous collaborative efforts with FEMA, NOAA and HUD.

In addition to existing cross-program efforts, including Community Resource Coordinators, \$2 million is requested for non-EPA Circuit Riders who will help communities across the Nation connect with information and environmental programs that address their local concerns. In order to help overburdened and vulnerable communities address local environmental and public health

issues, \$5 million dollars will be available to provide financial assistance to eligible organizations working on these issues. The budget includes \$90 million in Brownfields Project grants to local communities, an increase of \$10 million. These funds will help to return contaminated sites to productive reuse by increasing investment in technical assistance and community grants for assessment and cleanup. These efforts include helping communities adopt green infrastructure, providing technical assistance for building resilience and adapting to climate change, and helping communities to reduce environmental impacts through advanced monitoring technology and decision making tools.

Addressing Climate Change and Improving Air Quality

The FY 2017 budget prioritizes actions to reduce the impacts of climate change, one of the most significant challenges for this and future generations, and supports the President's Climate Action Plan. EPA's FY 2017 Budget includes \$235 million for efforts to cut carbon pollution and other greenhouse gases through common sense standards, guidelines, and voluntary programs. EPA's Clean Power Plan, which establishes carbon pollution reduction standards for existing power plants, is a top priority for the agency and will help spur innovation and economic growth while creating a clean energy economy. Implementing these plans will involve innovative approaches and flexibility for achieving solutions, as well as extensive and unprecedented work with states, tribes, and territories, which is why this budget includes an increase of \$25 million in grants to help states implement their Clean Power Plan strategies.

As part of the President's 21st Century Clean Transportation Plan, the President proposes to establish a new mandatory fund at EPA. The existing fleet of cars, trucks, and buses is aging, contributing to climate change and putting our children's health at risk. To protect the health of the most vulnerable populations and reduce childhood exposure to harmful exhaust, EPA will provide a total of \$1.65 billion through the Fund over the course of 10 years to retrofit, replace, or repower diesel equipment. The proposed funding, which is separate from the Agency's discretionary funding

request, will provide up to \$300 million in FY 2017 to renew and increase funding for the Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant Program, which is set to expire in 2016.

Working with the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, EPA will continue to address greenhouse gas and fuel efficiency standards for mobile sources. These standards will represent significant savings at the pump, reduce carbon pollution, and reduce fuel costs for businesses, which is anticipated to lower prices for consumers. An additional \$1 million is included in the President's request for this work. The budget also includes a \$4.2M increase to enhance vehicle, engine and fuel compliance programs, including critical testing capabilities, to ensure compliance with emission standards.

Protecting the Nation's Waters

Protecting America's water resources is a critical part of EPA's mission. In FY 2017, the agency will continue to build upon decades of work to ensure our waterways are clean and our drinking water is safe. There are far reaching effects when rivers, lakes, and oceans become polluted. Polluted waters can endanger wildlife, make our drinking water unsafe and threaten the waters where we swim and fish.

Building on the strong funding level of \$2.0 billion provided through the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, \$42 million is included for loan financing, technical assistance, training, and other efforts to enhance the capacity of communities and states to plan and finance drinking water and wastewater infrastructure improvements. Twenty million dollars and 12 staff will support the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program. WIFIA will expand water and wastewater infrastructure work by making loans for large innovative projects of regional or national significance. The WIFIA program will also work to support investments in small communities and promote public-private collaboration. The \$15 million increase in the budget is the beginning of funding for WIFIA projects and the program is designed to highly leverage these funds. The Budget also provides \$7.1 million for the Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center to

continue helping communities across the country focus on financial planning for future public infrastructure investments, expanding work with states to identify financing opportunities for rural communities, and enhancing partnership and collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture on training, technical assistance, and funding opportunities in rural areas. The Center is part of the Build America investment initiative, a government-wide effort to increase infrastructure investment and promote economic growth by creating opportunities for state and local governments and the private sector to collaborate on infrastructure development.

Taking Steps to Improve Chemical Facility Safety

In support of the White House Executive Order on Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security, EPA is requesting \$23.7 million for the State and Local Prevention and Preparedness program, an increase of \$8.4 million above the FY 2016 enacted level. This increase will allow EPA to continue to improve the safety and security of chemical facilities and reduce the risks of hazardous chemicals to facility workers and operators, communities, and responders. These efforts represent a shared commitment among those with a stake in chemical facility safety and security: facility owners and operators; federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial governments; regional entities; nonprofit organizations; facility workers; first responders; environmental justice and local environmental organizations; and communities. In FY 2017, EPA will develop, initiate and deliver training to aid with expansive outreach and planning for local communities, emergency planners, and responders. This will assist local emergency planners and first responders in using the risk information available to them, educating the public about what to do if an accident occurs; and working effectively with facilities to reduce the risks associated with the chemicals that are stored, used, or produced on site.

Protecting Our Land

EPA strives to protect and restore land to create a safer environment for all Americans by cleaning up hazardous and non-hazardous wastes that can migrate to air, groundwater and surface water,

contaminating drinking water supplies, causing acute illnesses and chronic diseases, and threatening healthy ecosystems. We preserve, restore, and protect our land, for both current and future generations by cleaning up contaminated sites and returning them to communities for reuse. Our funds will assist communities in using existing infrastructure and planning for more efficient and livable communities, and encouraging the minimization of environmental impacts throughout the full life cycle of materials.

In FY 2017, we will increase the Superfund Remedial program by \$20 million to accelerate the pace of cleanups and fund additional construction projects, supporting states, local communities, and tribes in their efforts to assess and cleanup sites and return them to productive reuse, and encourage renewable energy development on formerly hazardous sites when appropriate. We also will expand the successful Brownfields program, providing grants, and supporting area-wide planning and technical assistance to maximize the benefits to the communities. In FY 2017, EPA is investing \$90 million in funding for Brownfields Project grants to local communities, increasing the number of grants for assessment and cleanup of contaminated sites. The investment in Brownfields builds on the program's successful community-driven approach to revitalizing contaminated land and further supports the agency's efforts to make a visible difference in communities.

Ensuring the Safety of Chemicals and Preventing Pollution

EPA's chemical safety programs are integral to efforts to advance a sustainable future. In FY 2017, we are requesting a total of \$679.6 million, an increase of \$56.4 million over the FY 2016 Enacted Budget. EPA will work to expand the usage of computational tools, and increase and enhance the quality, accessibility, and usefulness of information about commercial chemicals and pesticides, thereby strengthening the capability of EPA, other regulators, and the public to assess chemical hazards and potential exposures, identify potential risks to human health and the environment and take appropriate risk management action. EPA will work aggressively to complete additional risk assessments from the TSCA Work Plan list of

existing chemicals and meet its requirement to review all current pesticide registrations by 2022.

In FY 2017, \$5.9 million is requested to increase support for accelerated risk reduction work on TSCA Work Plan Chemicals where completed assessments have identified risks. The request supports efforts to address formaldehyde in pressed wood products and public concerns associated with the presence of PCBs in building materials in schools. In FY 2017, EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs will continue the important work initiated by the Presidential Memorandum Creating a Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators to reverse pollinator losses and help restore populations to healthy levels. EPA is committing \$500,000 in funding to states to draft pollinator protection plans.

Continuing EPA's Commitment to Innovative Research & Development

Environmental issues in the 21st century are complex because of the interplay between air quality, climate change, water quality, healthy communities, and chemical safety. They require different thinking and solutions than those used in the past. In FY 2017, we will continue to strengthen the agency's ability to develop solutions by providing \$512 million to evaluate and predict potential environmental and human health impacts for decision makers at all levels of government. Activities in the FY 2017 Budget include providing support tools for community health, investigating the unique properties of emerging materials, such as nanomaterials, and research to support the nation's range of growing water-use and ecological requirements.

Supporting State and Tribal Partners

Effective environmental protection is a joint effort of EPA, states and our tribal partners. In FY 2017, we are requesting an increase of \$77 million in funding for State and Tribal Assistance categorical grants - for a total of \$3.28 billion. Recognizing the value of aligning and leveraging our efforts, we are pursuing opportunities for closer collaboration with states and tribes, including targeted joint planning and governance processes. One example is our commitment to work

collaboratively to streamline, reform, and integrate our shared business processes and related systems through the E-Enterprise approach. Joint State-EPA-Tribal governance serves to organize the E-Enterprise partnership and elevate its visibility, boost coordination capacity, and ensure the inclusiveness and effectiveness of shared process and management improvements. This has been successful and will continue to yield the benefits of increased transparency, efficiency, and burden reduction for communities, businesses, and government agencies.

Maintaining a Forward-Looking and Adaptive EPA

EPA has strategically evaluated its workforce and facility needs over the last several years. We will continue the comprehensive effort to optimize and update our physical footprint in FY 2017 and prioritize efforts to save taxpayer dollars through space optimization and essential renovations. These efforts will include important laboratory buildings across the country but without sacrificing high quality of research. Since FY 2012, EPA has released over 250 thousand square feet of office space nationwide, resulting in a cumulative annual rent avoidance of nearly \$9.2 million across all appropriations. Additional planned consolidations and moves could release another 336 thousand square feet of office space. The agency will continue on-going work to improve processes and advance the E-Enterprise effort. The goals are leveraging technology, streamlining workflow, and improving data quality, and increasing data sharing and transparency. The agency also is making necessary investments to improve internal IT services to support productivity and address the issue of cybersecurity

Reducing and Eliminating Programs

EPA continues to examine its programs to find those that have served their purpose and accomplished their mission. The FY 2017 President's Budget also eliminates a number of programs totaling \$85 million. Details are found in the EPA FY 2017 Congressional Justification.

For more information on EPA's FY 2017 proposed budget, please visit:
<http://www.epa.gov/planandbudget/fy2017>

Source: EPA Press Release, 2/9/2016

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