
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
Water Works Operators' Association of Pennsylvania*

Stakeholder Meetings for the Proposed Disinfection Requirements Rule

The new webpage for the Proposed Disinfection Rule is now live. The webpage includes the dates for the stakeholder meetings.

Here is the [link](#):

Source: DEP, 3/1/2016

EPA Releases the Power Resilience Guide for Drinking Water and Wastewater Utilities

To help drinking water and wastewater utilities prepare for power outages, EPA is releasing the Power Resilience Guide for Drinking Water and Wastewater Utilities. The guide summarizes best practices, case studies, and tips shared at seven workshops held throughout the country. It covers seven topics including

communication, generators, and fuel. The Power to Keep Water Moving video highlights the importance of power resiliency at water utilities and features some of the practices at Stafford County Utilities.

Learn [More](#).

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

DEP Winter 2015-2016 issue of Drinking Water News is available

The latest issue of Drinking Water News, the newsletter from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Safe Drinking Water Program, is now available. The current edition of the newsletter, as well as past editions, is available at the link shown below. Once you open the [link](#), scroll to the bottom of the page and then select an issue.

This issue of Drinking Water News provides a lot of helpful information about the Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) which goes into effect in Pennsylvania on April 1, 2016.

It also contains information on wellhead protection, compliance with the Groundwater Rule, Lead and Copper Sampling in 2016, environmental lab accreditation, DWELR, drought contingency plans and Pennsylvania's Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems Operator Certification Program.

DEP hopes you enjoy the newsletter and find its contents to be helpful. Please share this e-mail message with individuals who may be able to use the information in the newsletter. Comments on the newsletter or its contents, and suggestions on items to include in future editions, are always welcome. Your feedback and suggestions can be sent to Joanne Nardone, Water Program Specialist, at jonardone@pa.gov.

Source: DEP, 3/3/2016

PUC Hears Perspectives on Alternative Utility Ratemaking Methods; Public Comment Accepted Through March 16

On March 3, 2016, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) hosted a Harrisburg hearing to gather information from a diverse group of experts regarding [alternative ratemaking methodologies](#), as part of ongoing discussions about how to best maintain safe and reliable energy infrastructure while also encouraging utilities to push forward with more aggressive energy efficiency and conservation programs.

The panels involved in today's hearing reflected perspectives from experts in alternative ratemaking, energy efficiency, consumer organizations, industrial customers and utilities. The agenda and full list of panelists is found on the Commission's [website](#).

The hearing focused on several issues concerning alternative rate design, including:

- Whether revenue decoupling or other similar rate mechanisms encourage utilities to better implement energy efficiency and conservation programs;
- Whether such rate mechanisms are just and reasonable and in the public interest; and
- Whether the benefits of implementing such rate mechanisms outweigh any costs associated with implementing the rate mechanisms.

In addition to the testimony presented today, the Commission also will review written comments regarding alternative ratemaking, which must be received no later than March 16, 2016. All documents related to the hearing, including the testimony and presentations submitted by the witnesses who testified today, are available on the Commission's [website](#).

The Commissioners thanked those who testified today, along with those parties who plan to submit additional comments and testimony, as the PUC continues to explore this issue.

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission balances the needs of consumers and utilities; ensures safe and reliable utility service at reasonable rates; protects the public interest; educates consumers to make independent and informed utility choices; furthers economic development; and fosters new technologies and competitive markets in an environmentally sound manner.

For recent news releases and video of select Commission proceedings or more information about the PUC, visit our website at www.puc.pa.gov. Follow the PUC on Twitter - @PA_PUC for all things utility. "Like" Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission on Facebook for easy access to information on utility issues.

Docket No.: M-2015-2518883

Source: PUC Press Release, 3/3/2016

DEP: State Board for Certification of Sewage Enforcement Officers 2016 Meeting Schedule

The State Board for Certification of Sewage Enforcement Officers and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will meet at 10 a.m. on the following dates in the 11th Floor Conference Room B, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg:

- Wednesday, March 16, 2016
- Wednesday, June 29, 2016
- Wednesday, September 21, 2016
- Wednesday, December 21, 2016

Discussion will focus on the certification of new Sewage Enforcement Officer (SEO) candidates who have taken the SEO Certification Examination, acceptance of prior Board meeting minutes and any new issues of concern. Questions concerning these meetings can be directed to (717) 772-2186 or RA-seotrng@pa.gov.

Source: PA Bulletin, [3/5/2016](#)

DEP GO-TIME Initiative Makes Bidding Process Electronic, Saves Money

On March 4, 2016, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) launched the first phase of a new electronic bidding process for DEP construction contracts that, when fully implemented, is projected to save the agency \$37,000 per year. Bid opportunities for construction contracts will now be posted and available for download free of charge [here](#).

DEP's electronic bidding process is one of the agency's initiatives developed through the Governor's Office of Transformation, Innovation, Management and Efficiency (GO-TIME).

"Moving DEP away from its antiquated reliance on paper documents is a top priority for the agency and the Wolf Administration," DEP Secretary John Quigley said. "Modernizing our business processes reduces DEP's costs and improves service to citizens, businesses, and the regulated community."

DEP regularly issues bids for construction projects for abandoned mine reclamation, acid mine drainage, surface mine reclamation, cleaning and plugging of oil and gas wells, waterways engineering, hazardous site remediation, removal and disposal of underground storage tanks, and wetland restoration. Previously, DEP staff would prepare paper copies of bid specifications, duplicate them, and mail them to vendors. The new webpage will allow contractors to easily navigate and download information on projects that are currently available for bid. Project information will be posted in PDF format. Project maps will be available both PDF and Auto-Cad format.

For contractors who lack downloading capability, bid opportunities will still be available by calling DEP's Construction Contracts Section at 717-787-7820.

DEP plans to further enhance the electronic bidding process by allowing bids and bid bonds to be submitted online when it implements Phase 2 of the project later this year.

To learn more about state agency GO-TIME initiatives, visit www.governor.pa.gov/go-time.

Source: DEP Press Release, 3/4/2016

Revenue Department Releases February 2016 Collections

Pennsylvania collected \$1.9 billion in General Fund revenue in February, which was \$51.5 million, or 2.9 percent, more than anticipated, Secretary of Revenue Eileen McNulty reported today. Fiscal year-to-date General Fund collections total \$17.8 billion, which is \$60.7 million, or 0.3 percent, above estimate.

Sales tax receipts totaled \$668.3 million for February, \$9.3 million below estimate. Year-to-date sales tax collections total \$6.5 billion, which is \$3.2 million more than anticipated.

Personal income tax (PIT) revenue in February was \$821 million, \$28.9 million below estimate. This brings year-to-date PIT collections to \$7.5 billion, which is \$19.9 million, or 0.3 percent, below estimate.

February **corporation tax revenue** of \$105.5 million was \$47.7 million above estimate. Year-to-date corporation tax collections total \$1.7 billion, which is \$43.2 million, or 2.7 percent, above estimate.

Inheritance tax revenue for the month was \$89.6 million, \$23.4 million above estimate, bringing the year-to-date total to \$604.9 million, which is \$19.7 million, or 3.4 percent, above estimate.

Realty transfer tax revenue was \$33.3 million for February, \$6.9 million above estimate, bringing the fiscal-year total to \$325.1 million, which is \$8.7 million, or 2.7 percent, more than anticipated.

Other General Fund tax revenue, including cigarette, malt beverage, liquor and table games taxes, totaled \$101.1 million for the month, \$1.6 million below estimate and bringing the year-to-date total to \$936.4 million, which is \$4.6 million, or 0.5 percent, below estimate.

Non-tax revenue totaled \$35.7 million for the month, \$13.2 million above estimate, bringing the year-to-date total to \$246 million, which is \$10.4 million, or 4.4 percent, above estimate.

In addition to the General Fund collections, the **Motor License Fund** received \$199.1 million for the month, \$11.5 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 \$1.7 billion, which is \$33.4 million, or 2 percent, below estimate.

Source: DOR Press Release, 3/1/2016

Susquehanna River Basin Commission Announces New Online Tools and Applications

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (Commission) is announcing new online tools for submitting information and data associated with aquifer testing evaluations and groundwater withdrawal applications. The online tools were developed to improve and standardize the Commission's review process, and also provide users the ability to conveniently upload and edit information through an easy-to-use webpage.

"The Commission is continually striving to reduce costs and improve efficiencies through the use of technology for the benefit of our regulated community," states Andrew Dehoff, Executive Director. "These new online tools will improve the quality of the review process by providing increased clarity and flexibility to those submitting needed data and information, and as a result, will increase the Commission's ability to efficiently review submitted materials to make determinations."

Additionally, the Commission has developed a sample template that will show potential applicants what information is needed prior to initiating a real project. In the template, potential applicants can view and navigate through example plans, waivers, and applications. To access these new tools, visit the Commission's website at www.srbc.net.

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission is a federal/interstate governmental agency responsible for protecting and wisely managing the water resources within the 27,500 square-mile Susquehanna River Basin without regard to political boundaries. The Susquehanna rises and flows through New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland into the Chesapeake Bay. For more information on the Commission, visit www.srbc.net or follow us on Twitter: @SRBCnews.

Source: SRBC Press Release, 3/1/2016

Susquehanna River Basin Commission Announces Workshops to Assist Small Water Suppliers

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (Commission) announces a workshop on Developing Aquifer Testing Plans and Groundwater Withdrawal Applications to be offered on two dates, April 5, 2016, and May 17, 2016. The day-long workshops will be held at the Commission's Conference Center located at 4423 N. Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110.

One purpose of this Commission-developed workshop is to provide guidance to small public water suppliers and their consultants on how to best evaluate their groundwater resources in accordance with the Commission's aquifer testing process. The Commission depends upon the quality of these evaluations for making sound decisions for the sustainable development, use, and protection of the groundwater resources of the Basin.

"The Commission is pleased to be able to provide this valuable training that will assist small water suppliers in completing high quality evaluations," comments Andrew Dehoff, Executive Director of the Commission. He added, "It is our belief that workshop attendees will walk away with the knowledge and tools necessary to quickly and efficiently navigate the Commission's review and approval process."

The workshops are being offered free of charge. Each workshop will contain six hours of instruction and certificates of attendance will be available for those who are seeking continuing education credits. Each workshop is limited to the first 60 participants who complete registration.

For more information on the workshops, please contact Brent Bauman, P.G., at 717-238-0423 ext. 1235, or through PWSAP@srbc.net. For additional information or to register for either workshop, please visit <http://mdw.srbc.net/pwsap/>.

The workshops have been made possible through a partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection as part of the [Public Water Supply Assistance Program](#).

The Commission is a federal/interstate governmental agency responsible for protecting and wisely managing the water resources within the 27,500 square-mile Susquehanna River Basin without regard to political boundaries.

The Susquehanna rises and flows through New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland into the Chesapeake Bay. For more information on the Commission, visit www.srbc.net or follow us on Twitter: @SRBCnews.

Source: SRBC Press Release, 2/17/2016

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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.