
WUC

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



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

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March 14, 2016 -- Issue 979

*PA- Section, American Water Works Association
National Association of Water Companies
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PUC Highlights National 'Fix a Leak Week;' Underscores Importance of Water Efficiency & Conservation

On March 10, 2016, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) underscored the importance of water efficiency and conservation, along with the impact of wasted water, as part of National "Fix a Leak Week," which runs from March 14-20, 2016.

As part of this annual campaign, families across the country are encouraged to check their fixtures for leaks and reminded about the community and economic impact of wasted water.

"The Pennsylvania PUC would like to remind people that finding and fixing household leaks can save a lot of water and reduce your monthly bill," noted Commissioner Robert F. Powelson, who highlighted Fix a Leak Week at today's PUC Public Meeting. "A little leak really does make a big difference, so we hope that everyone goes home today and checks for leaks and drips in their bathrooms, kitchens and yards."

According to the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](http://www.epa.gov) (EPA), an estimated 10 percent of all homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day, and the average household leaks can account for more than 10,000 gallons of water wasted every year. Nationwide, leaks account for more than 1 trillion gallons of lost water per year – equal to the annual household water use of more than 11 million homes.

As part of Fix a Leak Week, Pennsylvanians are encouraged to identify and fix leaks around their homes. The PUC and EPA offer the following tips:

- Common types of leaks found in the home include worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets and other leaking valves.
- Fixing easily corrected household leaks can help save about 10 percent on water bills.
- Check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, you probably have a leak.
- A drop of food coloring added to the toilet tank is a quick and easy way to identify possible leaks. If the color shows up in the bowl within 10 minutes without flushing, you have a leak. Be sure to flush immediately after this experiment to avoid staining the tank.

- A leaky faucet that drips at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year – enough water for 180 showers.

More tips for finding leaks and saving water are available on the EPA's WaterSense [website](#).

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.

Source: PUC Press Release, 3/10/2016

EPA Encourages Americans to Become Leak Detectives -- WaterSense® and its Partners Celebrate Fix a Leak Week March 14-20

Each year, more than one trillion gallons of water are wasted by easy-to-fix household leaks, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) WaterSense program. That's why EPA is encouraging consumers to "Be a Leak Detective" during WaterSense's eighth annual Fix a Leak Week, March 14 through 20, 2016, by finding and fixing leaks around the home.

"Not only do leaks waste precious water, they could be adding 10 percent to your utility bill," said EPA Regional Administrator Shawn M. Garvin. "By taking just minutes to detect leaks at home, the

average family could save more than 10,000 gallons of water every year."

Becoming a leak detective can be accomplished in three simple steps: check, twist, and replace:

- Check for silent toilet leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring into the tank at the back of a toilet; wait 10 minutes, and if the color appears in the bowl, it's a leak.
- Twist faucet, shower, and pipe connections tightly to avoid leaks, or screw on a WaterSense labeled faucet aerator to save water and energy.
- Replace broken or leaky fixtures with WaterSense labeled models, which are independently certified to use at least 20 percent less water and perform as well or better than standard models.

To learn more about detecting leaks or to find a Fix a Leak Week event in your community, visit www.epa.gov/watersense/fixaleak.

Source: EPA Press Release, 3/11/2016

DEP Issues Public Notice for Lead Exceedance in Drinking Water Served by Berks County Vendor

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today notified the public about a violation of the lead standard applicable to the drinking water sold at Crystal Spring Water, a company that sells water through vending machines in Adamstown, Berks County. The Department's notice does not apply to Crystal Spring Bottled Water, which is an unrelated company.

A routine test sample collected by the owner in September 2015 contained a lead level of 16 parts per billion (ppb) which is above the maximum contaminant level of 5 ppb. According to the Safe Drinking Water Act, the owner of Crystal Spring should have notified DEP within 24 hours of receiving this test result and should have notified customers within 30 days. Neither notification was given.

"If a public water supplier fails to give proper notice, DEP may perform this notification on its behalf," said Lynn Langer, DEP South-central regional director. "Although this incident was not an emergency, customers have a right to know what happened regarding the elevated lead level."

On March 8, DEP ordered Crystal Spring owner Lynn Rannels to take and report to the department two additional water samples before reopening his facility. Signs at Crystal Spring indicate the facility will be open weekends only beginning March 19. In a Notice of Violation issued February 19, DEP asked Rannels to post a lead exceedance notice on his vending machines, and take and report the results of the two additional water samples. Rannels did not comply.

Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the standard could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. Customers with specific health concerns should speak with their doctors.

For a copy of DEP's public notice click [here](#).

Source: DEP Press Release, 3/8/2016

EPA Releases the Drought Response and Recovery Guide for Water Utilities

EPA's Drought Response and Recovery Guide for Water Utilities is based on lessons learned from seven drought-impacted case study utilities. The interactive guide features worksheets, best practices, videos and key resources that outline emergency response actions that also build long term resilience to drought. The guide, designed for small- to medium-sized utilities, contains three main sections:

- 1) staffing, response plans and funding;
- 2) water supply and demand management; and
- 3) communication and partnerships.

The Guide also links to a Case Studies Map, a multimedia GeoPlatform website that documents the unique stories from the seven case study utilities: Tuolumne Utilities District, CA; Spicewood Beach Water System, TX; Hogansville, GA; Las Vegas, NM; cities of Hays and Russell, KS; and Clinton, OK.

Learn [More](#).

Source: EPA Water Headlines, 3/10/2016

New EPA Study Supports the Long-term Benefits of Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development

EPA encourages green infrastructure (GI) and low impact development for urban areas because of their benefits to water quality and stream channel protection. Reduced flooding is a noteworthy co-benefit of reduced stormwater runoff volume associated with impervious areas. This modeling study was commissioned by the EPA to estimate the flood loss avoidance benefits from application of small storm retention practices for new development and redevelopment nationwide.

Twenty HUC8 watersheds were modeled in areas where significant growth is expected between 2020 and 2040, using the FEMA Hazus model and national-scale datasets. The study was conducted in consultation with other federal agencies including the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The approach was vetted by a panel of experts from government, academia, and industry.

The results show that, over time, the use of green infrastructure can save hundreds of millions of dollars in flood losses, while just applying the practices to new development and redevelopment only. If retrofitting were to occur, the avoided losses would be even more significant.

Learn [More](#).

Source: EPA Water Headlines, 3/10/2016

CORRECTION -- Proposed Rulemaking Rulemaking: Water Quality Standards; Class a Stream Redesignations

The Environmental Quality Board identified an error in the proposed rulemaking published at 46 Pa.B. 1205 (March 5, 2016). The date of the close of the public comment period was incorrect and was changed to April 18, 2016. The remainder of the proposed rulemaking is accurate as published.

Source: PA Bulletin, [3/12/2016](#)

Cruz to outline lead testing legislation

State Rep. Angel Cruz, D-Phila., will be joined by fellow legislators for a news conference at **10 a.m. Tuesday, March 22** in the Capitol Media Center to discuss three pieces of legislation relating to lead testing in Pennsylvania.

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, 3/8/2016

DEP Water Resources Advisory Committee to Consider Proposed Fee Increases March 24

The DEP [Water Resources Advisory Committee](#) is scheduled to meet on March 24 to review proposed permit fee increase proposals for NPDES (Chapter 92a-- [application, annual](#) fees) and Water Quality Management ([Chapter 91](#)) permits.

No details on how much the fees will increase were posted on the Committee webpage.

The meeting will be held in Room 105 Rachel Carson Building starting at 9:30.

For more information, visit DEP's DEP Water Resources Advisory Committee webpage or contact Sean Gimbel, Office of Water Management, at 717-783-4693 or send email to: sgimbel@pa.gov.

Source: PA Environmental Digest, 3/14/2016

Nicki Kasi Named To Lead New DEP Chesapeake Bay Office

Department of Environmental Protection Deputy Secretary for Water Programs Dana Aunkst announced Nicki Kasi will lead DEP's new Chesapeake Bay Office, part of the Bay Program reboot announced January 21.

Kasi began her career at DEP 26 years ago with a short stint in the Bureau of Abandoned Mine

Reclamation, but quickly moved into the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort as a hydrogeologist in the former Bureau of Land and Water Conservation.

She was the first staff person assigned to the Chesapeake Bay Model, while also doing watershed assessments in the agricultural sector under section 319 of the Clean Water Act.

Since 1997, Kasi has worked as a Program Manager in DEP's Bureau of Clean Water, and its predecessors, where she has demonstrated versatility by managing and directing the development of our operator certification program and our efforts in water infrastructure financing and technical assistance.

Kasi is a trained facilitator, which will be very valuable in her new role, which begins officially on March 12.

For more information on the program, visit DEP's [Chesapeake Bay Office](#) webpage.

Source: PA Environmental Digest, 3/14/2016

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