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# WUC

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



## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

### From Gmerek Government Relations, Inc.

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*PA- Section, American Water Works Association  
National Association of Water Companies  
Water Works Operators' Association of Pennsylvania*

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## Governor Wolf on KDKA: We Can Balance the Budget without Broad Based Tax Increases

**G**overnor Wolf earlier this morning on KDKA said he believes we can balance the budget, provide an additional \$250 million for basic education, and include \$34 million to address the heroin crisis without raising the Personal Income or Sales Taxes. Here is an excerpt from the governor's interview:

“There are three things that are key for me and I think for the people we're talking with. And by the way, the conversations and the negotiations are going, I think, very well. But, we need a balanced budget that is truly balanced. I want \$250 million dollars for basic education, an increase, and I want \$34 million dollars for the heroin overdose problem, which is really a big problem in Pennsylvania. And I think all this can be done without a broad based tax increase. I'm not asking for a Sales Tax increase or Personal Income Tax increase. I think we can do all this; the balanced budget, the increase in education, and heroin initiatives without a broad

based tax increase. So, I think that we're making some good progress. I think we're very close.”

Click [here](#) for the full interview.

Source: Governor's Press Office, 6/21/2016

## DRBC Reminds Everyone about the Value of Our Water Resources and to Use Water Efficiently

**W**ith the solstice this week officially marking the arrival of the summer season, many of us will be spending a lot of time on or near the water between now and Labor Day doing recreational and other activities. The traditionally hotter and drier weather of summertime will also place increased demands on the Delaware River Basin's valuable water resources, and the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) would like to remind everyone to use water efficiently.

“We are dependent on our vital water resources for drinking water, recreation, power generation, aquatic habitats, commerce, industry, and so much

more,” said DRBC Executive Director Steve Tambini. “While we often take our water supplies for granted, they are not unlimited and we all need to do our part throughout the year to practice efficient water use.”

Observed year-to-date precipitation in the Delaware River Basin above Trenton, N.J. through the first half of June was over three inches below normal for this time period. The U.S. Drought Monitor, which reports on weekly conditions throughout the nation, indicated on June 16 that nearly all of the basin above Trenton is “abnormally dry,” with some areas noted as even drier.

The increase in hot and dry weather typically results in increased outdoor water use, especially on lawns, gardens, and landscapes. According to WaterSense, a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency partnership program which includes the DRBC as a member, homeowners can use two to four times as much water for lawns and gardens in the summer season compared to the amounts used during the rest of the year. In addition, WaterSense reports that some experts estimate as much as 50 percent of outdoor water use during the summer is wasted due to inefficient watering methods and systems.

“DRBC is committed to spreading the word about the value of our basin’s water resources and water use efficiency,” said Tambini. “Summer is the perfect time to enjoy the magnificent water resources in the Delaware River Basin, while every day is the perfect time for water use efficiency.”

Useful information, such as indoor and outdoor water savings tips as well as links to many water efficiency on-line resources, can be found on the commission’s web site at [www.nj.gov/drbc/programs/supply/policies](http://www.nj.gov/drbc/programs/supply/policies).

The DRBC is a federal/interstate government agency responsible for managing the water resources within the 13,539 square-mile Delaware River Basin without regard to political boundaries. The five commission members are the governors of the basin states (Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania) and the commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’

North Atlantic Division, who represents the federal government.

**Source:** DRBC Press Release, 6/23/2016

## **Governor Wolf Signs Bill Allowing New Fracking Rules to Be Finalized**

**O**n June 23, 2016, Governor Tom Wolf signed 12 bills into law, including [Senate Bill 279](#), which will allow for new regulations aimed at protecting the environment, water supplies and public areas from effects of unconventional oil and gas drilling, most commonly referred to as 'fracking.'

"I am pleased to have reached bi-partisan agreement with the legislature to proceed with the Chapter 78a unconventional oil and gas regulations, which will better protect the health of our environment and our residents," said Governor Wolf. "As part of the compromise I reached with the legislature, my administration will get to work immediately to redraft conventional regulations, and I have directed the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to begin the process."

Read [more](#).

**Source:** DEP News, 6/23/2016

## **State DEP to Investigate PFC Contamination on Easton Road, Bucks County**

**D**EP is investigating perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) found in exceedance of the 2016 Lifetime Health Advisory Level (HAL) established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in parts of Doylestown, Plumstead, and Buckingham townships, Bucks County, near the Cross Keys area.

"At this time, the extent and source of the contamination is not yet known. DEP is working expediently to investigate private wells in the area,

remove them from service and determine a long term solution," said Southeast Regional Director Cosmo Servidio. "It is important to reiterate that all public municipal water in the area meets the EPA Health Advisory."

Read [more](#).

Source: DEP News, 6/23/2016

## DEP to Hold Public Hearing on Injection Well Permit Request in Clearfield County

**D**EP will hold a public hearing on an application from Sammy-Mar, LLC to drill a new injection disposal well in Huston Township, Clearfield County. The hearing is scheduled to begin at 6 P.M. on **Tuesday June 28, 2016** at the Penfield Grange Hall, 12255 Bennetts Valley Highway, Penfield, PA 15849.

Both DEP and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must approve permits for this proposed injection well. EPA's permits oversee the material that is injected into the well, the integrity of the well, groundwater protection and closure requirements. DEP permits govern how the hole is drilled and surface issues on the well pad.

Read [more](#).

Source: DEP News, 6/23/2016

## PA Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Program; Availability of Rebates

**T**he Department of Environmental Protection announced the continued availability of grants to Commonwealth residents under the Pennsylvania Alternative Fuel Vehicle Rebate Program. A full list of rebates is available in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

Source: PA Bulletin, [6/25/2016](#)

## Emrick Request to Study Use of Sewage Sludge Passes Unanimously

**O**n June 23, 2016, the state House unanimously passed legislation authored by state Rep. Joe Emrick (R-Nazareth) that asks Pennsylvania's Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LBFC) to review the Commonwealth's program for beneficial use of sewage sludge by land application.

"It has been nearly 20 years since a thorough study of the use of sewage sludge, also known as biosolids, has been conducted," Emrick said. "I've heard the concerns from all sides on this issue. The goal of the study is to gather as much information as possible about the pros and cons of using sewage sludge. House Resolution 60 will also examine alternative disposal methods and possible benefits in areas such as electric power generation and abandoned mine reclamation."

[House Resolution 60](#) will result in examination of the following:

- The methods currently used for biosolids use and disposal in PA.
- The costs involved with current methods of biosolids use and disposal.
- The methods used to administer and enforce the program established by the Department of Environmental Protection.
- All appropriate alternatives to current use and disposal methods employed in Pennsylvania and in other states, particularly in regard to their economic feasibility and effects on the environment and on public health in comparison to current use and disposal methods.

Any alternative beneficial use, including but not limited to, electric power generation and abandoned mine reclamation, and any obstacles that may hinder the expansion of any alternative beneficial use of biosolids.

Emrick's resolution requires the LBFC to report its findings to the House within one year of passage.

Questions about this or any legislative issue should be directed to Emrick's district office at (570) 897-0401 or (610) 746-5090.

**Source:** Representative Joe Emrick Press Release, 6/24/2016

## American Water Receives 22 National Awards for Excellence in Water Quality

American Water Works Company, Inc. (NYSE: AWK), the largest publicly traded U.S. water and wastewater utility company, is proud to announce the achievement of 22 [Partnership for Safe Water](#) awards. The awards, which recognize water treatment facilities that have achieved higher than required water quality standards, are presented during the 2016 [American Water Works Association](#) Annual Conference in Chicago, Ill. this week.

"We hold ourselves to the highest standards in delivering clean, safe, high-quality drinking water to the people we serve, and so having twenty-two of our facilities recognized by the Partnership for Safe Water for going above and beyond EPA water quality standards is very meaningful for us," said Susan Story, President and Chief Executive Officer. "We pride ourselves on our exceptional water quality record which is 13 times better than the industry average, and this national recognition is a true testament to our employees' expertise, dedication to excellence and commitment to our customers."

As a member of the Partnership for Safe Water, American Water demonstrates its commitment to improve the [quality of drinking water](#) delivered to customers by optimizing its system operations. In American Water's footprint, six plants are receiving a Presidents Award, one plant is receiving a Phase III Directors Award for its Treatment Program, one plant is receiving an award for maintaining Phase III certification for five years, and 14 plants are being presented with the Phase III Directors Award status for 15 years.

Nationally, just over 400 surface water treatment plants are part of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Partnership for Safe Water Program, a voluntary effort that is designed to increase protection against microbial contamination through treatment optimization. American Water accounts for about 20 percent of the participating plants nationwide, and has received more Partnership for Safe Water awards than any other utility nationwide.

[Pennsylvania American Water](#) received six Phase IV Presidents Award recognitions at the following treatment plants:

- Bangor Water Treatment Plant
- Brownell Water Treatment Plant
- Crystal Lake Water Treatment Plant
- Gerald C. Smith Water Treatment Plant (Hershey WTP)
- Indiana Water Treatment Plant (Two Lick Creek)
- Nesbitt Water Purification Plant

Phase IV goals are the highest possible level of performance that can be achieved in the four-phase program. The Presidents Award recognizes achieving Phase IV's very stringent individual filter performance goals for turbidity. Pennsylvania American Water now has nine surface water treatment plants that have received the Phase IV Presidents Award.

"Our operations and water quality teams have worked very hard to earn the Presidents Award, and this recognition is a testament to their expertise and dedication to better serve our customers," said Kathy L. Pape, president of Pennsylvania American Water. "Reaching this elite status is a significant achievement in our ongoing efforts to not only meet stringent performance goals but also improve the quality of our water."

Pennsylvania American Water's Rock Run Water Treatment Plant was recognized with a Phase III Directors Award for its Treatment Program. In addition, Pennsylvania American Water's Stony Garden Water Treatment Plant (Blue Mountain System) was recognized for maintaining the Phase III Directors Award status for five years.

The following American Water treatment plants were recognized for maintaining the Phase III Directors Award status for 15 years:

Illinois American Water

- Pontiac Illinois River Water Treatment Plant (Peoria District WTP)

Indiana American Water

- Muncie-White River Water Treatment Plant

Iowa American Water

- East River Station Water Treatment Plant

New Jersey American Water

- Jumping Brook Water Treatment Plant

Pennsylvania American Water

- Brownsville Water Treatment Plant
- Crystal Lake Water Treatment Plant
- Kane Water Treatment Plant
- Lake Scranton Water Treatment Plant
- Norristown Water Treatment Plant
- Punxsutawney Filter Plant (Big Run)
- Susquehanna Water Treatment Plant
- Watres Water Treatment Plant
- White Deer Creek Water Treatment Plant

West Virginia American Water

- West Virginia - Ada Water Treatment Plant (Bluefield)

American Water accounts for approximately 50 percent of the plants receiving the Fifteen-Year Phase III Award.

Founded in 1886, American Water (NYSE: AWK) is the largest publicly traded U.S. water and wastewater utility company. Marking its 130th anniversary this year, the company employs more than 6,700 dedicated professionals who provide regulated and market-based drinking water, wastewater and other related services to an estimated 15 million people in 47 states and

Ontario, Canada. More information can be found at [www.amwater.com](http://www.amwater.com).

**Source:** American Water Works Company, Inc., 6/22/2016

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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.*