
WUC

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



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

From Milliron & Goodman Government Relations, LLC.

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

PUC to Livestream March 12 Damage Prevention Committee Meeting

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) will livestream a meeting of the Damage Prevention Committee (DPC) on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at 9 a.m. in Hearing Room 1 of the Commonwealth Keystone Building, Harrisburg.

To view the livestream, visit the PUC's website http://www.puc.pa.gov/about_puc/live_streaming_video.aspx . The **agenda** http://www.puc.pa.gov/transport/gassafe/pdf/DPC_Agendas/2019/DPC031219.pdf also is available on the PUC's website.

The creation of the committee was authorized by **Act 50 of 2017**

http://www.puc.pa.gov/about_puc/press_releases.aspx?ShowPR=3918 , which enhances Pennsylvania's Underground Utility Line Protection Act - also known as the "One Call Law." Modeled after successful programs in other states, the **focus of the committee** http://www.puc.pa.gov/utility_industry/transportation/pipeline_safety/pa_one_call_enforcement.aspx is a reduction in the number of "hits" on underground

utilities. The DPC meets regularly to review alleged violations of the Act and makes determinations as to the appropriate response including, but not limited to, the issuance of warning letters or administrative penalties.

Pennsylvania law requires contractors and residents to contact PA One Call at least three business days prior to excavation. The PA One Call service is provided at no cost to customers. For more information, visit <http://www.palcall.org/> .

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" PAMPowerSwitch on Facebook for easy access to information on electric shopping.

Source: PUC Press Release, 3/8/2019

EQB Meeting Cancellation

The Environmental Quality Board announced that the March 19, 2019, meeting is **cancelled**. The next regular meeting of the board is tentatively scheduled for 9 a.m. on April 16, 2019, at the Rachel Carson State Office Building, Harrisburg.

Questions concerning the board's next meeting should be directed to Laura Edinger at ledinger@pa.gov or (717) 783-8727. Agenda and meeting materials for all board meetings will be available **here** <https://www.dep.pa.gov/PublicParticipation/EnvironmentalQuality/Pages/default.aspx> .

Source: Pennsylvania Bulletin, 3/9/2019

Citizens Advisory Council Meeting Cancellation

The Department of Environmental Protection announced the March 19, 2019, meeting of the Citizens Advisory Council is **cancelled**. The next regular meeting of the Council is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16, 2019, at 10 a.m. in the Rachel Carson State Office Building, Harrisburg.

Questions concerning the Council's next scheduled meeting may be directed to Keith Salador: ksalador@pa.gov or (717) 787-8171. Agenda and meeting materials for all Council meetings will be available **here** <https://www.dep.pa.gov/PublicParticipation/CitizensAdvisoryCouncil/Pages/default.aspx> .

Source: Pennsylvania Bulletin, 3/9/2019
<https://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol49/49-10/328.html>

Kenyatta introduces bill to strengthen protections against cyberattacks

18 billion attempted attacks in 2018 in Pennsylvania

With the ongoing attempts of cyberattacks targeting Pennsylvanians, state Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta, D-Phila., has introduced legislation that would help protect the commonwealth's cyber infrastructure.

"From email and phone scams to personal data breaches, it is unconscionable the number of attempted cyberattacks occurring in Pennsylvania. With everyone constantly connected on their phones, computers and other electronic devices, the amount of potential attacks will only increase," Kenyatta said. "We have to protect Pennsylvanians' personal information and the creation of the Cybersecurity Innovation Commission would do just that."

House Bill 225

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&sInd=0&body=h&type=b&bn=225> would create a Cybersecurity Innovation Commission to safeguard Pennsylvania's data by conducting cybersecurity audits, improving security and privacy standards and analyzing the protocols. The commission also would work with businesses to make sure they are up-to-date on the newest technology.

During recent House Appropriations Committee budget hearings, officials with the Governor's Office of Administration testified that while they follow national federal guidelines and best practices to defend the commonwealth against cyberattacks, they still have seen an increase in the number of threats, with 18 billion in 2018.

According to the Insurance Information Institute, Pennsylvania ranks 18th in the nation for the amount of identity theft cases.

Source: Rep. Kenyatta Press Release, 3/4/2019

Budget Hearings Conclude with Many Questions Left Unanswered

House Appropriations Chairman Stan Saylor (R-York) issued the following statement upon the conclusion of the 2019-20 General Fund Budget Hearings:

"One of the main concerns the House Republican Caucus has with the governor's budget proposal for the 2019-20 Fiscal Year is the lack of details. This budget is long on aspiration but short on details. Those details are important for us to be able to truly evaluate the governor's proposal. Without them, it is hard for us to really take these initiatives seriously.

"One of the most frequent answers the committee heard was 'we'll get back to you' or 'we are still working on this proposal.' There were even several times that the committee got conflicting answers from various secretaries on aspects of the governor's budget proposal. Governing is about more than putting a couple proposals on a piece of paper in order to check a political box with those who supported us. Sadly, I think that is partly what we have seen with this proposal.

"The governor's proposal is a starting point and now we must work together with the administration to craft a budget document that meets the Commonwealth's needs in a fiscally responsible manner. It is important that we do this in an open and transparent manner. Our taxpayers deserve nothing less."

Source: Rep. Stan Saylor Press Release, 3/7/2019

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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.