



Partners in PA

Partnership for Safe Water Update

Summer 2019



Water Treatment:

32 Phase I & II Plants

67 Awarded Phase III

18 Presidents

2 Phase IV

Distribution:

23 Plants

1 Phase III

THE SPOTLIGHT IS ON: The Partnership for Safe Water (PFSW) utilities receiving recognition for their longevity awards in the PFSW program

Blossburg Water Authority Recognized for Longevity Award in the Treatment Program *Fifteen Continuous Years as a Directors Award Facility*

Travel up Route 15 North in Central Pennsylvania and you will run into the town of Blossburg located about halfway between Corning, NY and Williamsport PA. The town was built on the backbone of coal mining. Coal mining has subsequently been abandoned, but the town has recovered and is now a major transportation stop for commuters along Route 15 both north and south. Approximately 1,500 residents call Blossburg their home.

In February of 2001, Blossburg joined the Partnership for Safe Water Treatment program. By signing up for the program, the water utility made its commitment to begin the self-assessment process to further ensure that the high quality and ample quantity of water being distributed to its customers would remain uninterrupted into the future.

Work to complete their Phase III report was done in early 2004 and the utility was honored by the AWWA on July 2, 2004 for its Bellman Water Treatment plant with the granting of the Directors Award. The work did not stop there. The Bellman plant continued to maintain the voluntary goals of the program for



an additional 15 years through 2019 and remained in good standing in the program during that time. This is quite an accomplishment for a small system. All utility personnel are to be commended for a job well done.

Mr. Lloyd provided the attached comment. "Dan is very proficient and cognizant about making sure the water filter plants are operating efficiently. He has trained other



The National and Pennsylvania Sections of American Water Works congratulate the staff of the Blossburg Water Authority on receipt of their 15-year longevity accomplishment as a Directors Award facility. Presenting the award is Paul Zielinski, local Partnership representative (right in photo) to George Lloyd, Borough Manager (left), and Dan Grinnell, Assistant Authority Manager (center).

operators in the proper operation of the plants. The entire Borough crew is dedicated to performing exceptional work and making my job much easier because I know when the Borough crew is on a job, it will be done right."

Congratulations to Blossburg for their achievement!

Brodhead Creek Regional Authority

Congratulations to Brodhead Creek Regional Authority (BCRA) on being awarded the 15-year Director's Award. When BCRA initially joined the Partnership's Treatment Plant Optimization program in January 2000 the system was known as Stroudsburg Municipal Authority (SMA), which served a population of approximately 22,000 people in Stroudsburg Boro. SMA progressed quickly to being awarded Phase III status in September 2003. Soon after achieving Phase III status, SMA transitioned to being BCRA, which serves several municipalities in Monroe County PA and a population of approximately 30,000. During this transition, BCRA added about 20 miles of distribution piping to serve the increasing population and commercial development in Monroe County. Despite all the work involved in this expansion, BCRA management and operators maintained their commitment to the Partnership's Treatment Plant Optimization program, qualifying them for the 15-year Director's Award. BCRA exemplifies the Partnership ideals in that the entire staff, including upper management and operators, embraces the Partnership goals.



Back row, left to right, BCRA Operators Matt Dilger, Adam Possinger and Andrew Miller. Front row, left to right, BCRA WTP Manager Dean Johnson, Tom Detweiler and BCRA Manager Dave Horton.

Chester Water Authority Honored at PA-AWWA Meeting for 15 Years as a Directors Award Recipient in the Partnership for Safe Water Treatment Program

Chester Water maintains the 60 MGD Octoraro water treatment plant that provides potable water to approximately 42,000 customers located in Delaware and Chester Counties in Southeast Pennsylvania. Water is delivered through 456 miles of distribution piping and stored in many tanks which provide a storage capacity of 3 days at average system delivery.

The Utility has been very aggressive in its quest to optimize its treatment plant operation. Chester joined the Partnership program on March 3, 1995, and began to move towards completion of its self-assessment process. This initial review was not rushed, but done in a timely, orderly manner to ensure that all areas were explored. Chester Water received its Directors Award on March 3, 2004. It was then determined that Chester Water staff desired to progress to the end of the program

(Phase IV). Work then began to investigate the operation of the filters and plant processes further, following the guidelines contained in the application for the Presidents Award. This recognition was received on April 5, 2012. The utility then moved into Phase IV to identify additional possible areas for improvement. On May 6, 2013, Chester received the Phase IV Excellence Award, currently only one of two in the Commonwealth.

The American Water Works National and Pennsylvania sections as well as the Pa DEP congratulate Chester Water on their continued drive to improve their water operations and for their work done to meet the voluntary goals of the program for 15 continuous years as a Phase III Facility.



Members of Chester Water Authority were present to accept their recognition certificate for 15 continuous years in the Treatment program as a Directors Award utility. Chester Water is also one of two Phase IV Excellence Award facilities in PA. On hand to present and accept their award are (left to right) Don Hershey (PA-AWWA Executive Director), Paul Zielinski (PFSW Rep), Ken Eller (Chester Water Operator), Sharon Fillmann (Chief – Treatment & Pumping), Randy Freese (Chester Water Operator), and Kevin Anderson (DEP – Environmental Group Manager).

Chester Water Authority
Serving Western Delaware County and Southern Chester County

CWA Quality. Service. Value.

Business Hours & Phone
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday
Telephone: 610.876.8181
800.793.3323

Emergency Hours & Phone
24 HOURS PER DAY
7 DAYS PER WEEK
Telephone: 610.876.8181
800.793.3323

See the Map
Lancaster County
Chester County
Delaware County

0216

Congratulations to the Easton Suburban Water Authority on their 10 year anniversary of the Partnership for Safe Water Phase III Directors award.

Their continued participation and dedication to producing high quality water to their customers is a result of the hardworking professional staff, who has accepted the challenge of producing the highest quality drinking water from their facility. The 10 year award is indicative of their philosophy to be the "Best that we can be".

Back row, left to right: Don Mauro, Plant Superintendent; Chris Dickson, John Groller, Leroy Troxell, Robert Vandevere, Phillip Brickler. Front row, left to right: Nolea Giering, Joe McDonald, and Deven Brocius



Borough of Ephrata

LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Ephrata Joint Water Authority – A Utility on the Move...

Anyone who meets any of the personnel at the Ephrata Area Joint Authority (EAJA) would be immediately impressed with their friendliness and dedication to their jobs as a provider of clean water to their residential, commercial and industrial customers.

The Ephrata Area Joint Authority (EAJA) was formed through an inter-municipal cooperation agreement between Clay Township, Ephrata Township, and Ephrata Borough. The Borough of Ephrata is the contract manager for the Authority Water System. The authority produces over 700 million gallons of water annually to serve the 8,222 customers in the three-municipality area. The Borough is located in Lancaster County in Southeast PA.

Of the almost two million gallons of water used daily, approximately one third comes from the Cocalico Creek and the remaining comes from groundwater wells. The water from the Cocalico Creek is treated at the Church Street filtration plant. The facility was

built in 1932 and upgraded in 1985. EAJA has three wells and four storage tanks that can store a two-day supply of water.

EAJA began its quest for Treatment Excellence by joining the Partnership program on June 15, 2007. Phase II was completed shortly thereafter on February 5, 2008. The Phase III Directors Award was received on April 21, 2014. The utility did not stop here. The Presidents Award was granted on July 21, 2015. The utility then set its sights on moving to the final step in the program, Phase IV Excellence.

Upon receiving the Directors Award, the plant personnel then began to look for more, creative ways to enhance their ability to continue to deliver potable water to their customers. The Phase IV Excellence process was explored and adopted as a means to provide a patterned



The plant operations team that were responsible for finalizing the Phase IV Excellence report are (left to right) Mario Ascensio, Jai Howard, Jeff Iezzi, Scott Mohn and Dimitruis Dennison

approach to meeting the goals of the utility. The operations team began to work through the Phase IV process with ample documentation of progress to be included in their final report. Data was continually reviewed for the plant process control, and meetings were held with the operators to allow direct input to possible enhancement activities. The administration team,

Ephrata Joint Water Authority *continued on page 4*

Ephrata Joint Water Authority *continued from page 3*

headed by Paul Swangren, also began to review their practices and critique the current processes related to complacency, proper talent to operate the business, comprehensive long-term planning, and financial stability. The teams met often to gather each other's input and discuss options for areas that were deemed for review.

The Phase IV Excellence application was finalized and sent to National AWWA on April 15, 2019. The Partnership National and Pennsylvania Teams congratulate Ephrata on their continued dedication to the program and for the drive to not only stop at Phase III, but to continue further optimization efforts through the President's Award and hopefully to the receipt of the Phase IV Excellence Award.

Paul Swangren, Ephrata Public Works and Water Superintendent stated that "Our Team takes the responsibility of providing our customers with safe, clean water very seriously. Being a part of the "Partnership" helps make that possible. Through the program we have been able to achieve excellence in water quality beyond DEP requirements." Chief Operator Jeff Iezzi utilizes the program's reporting and Phase IV Excellence application for team building and as an SOP review and enhancement tool. "Each Certified Operator played a key role in the application process and provided input. The Partnership is invaluable for communicating each operator's performance and acknowledging the

exceptional quality of the water they supply to our customers. Press releases, web site articles, award plaques and articles in EAJA CCR reports are all motivational tools that allow us to provide the recognition our team members deserve. The Partnership offers a clear vision, with attainable goals. Each operator is able to work toward and achieve those goals and earn recognition for their efforts. This is an experience that is priceless. EAJA Operators are some of the best in the industry and their knowledge, skills, professionalism make it a pleasure to work with them on a daily basis. The passion our operators have for their jobs shines through. This past year they invited several classes from the Ephrata Area School District to visit the water plant, where our operators detailed how they perform their magic and demonstrated it as well."

The Authority is continually upgrading the distribution system to improve service and reduce water losses. To assist with the continual drive for optimal operations, as with the Treatment program, EAJA joined the Partnership Distribution program on March 26, 2012. Areas of disinfectant residual, pressure management, main break frequencies, and other areas were continually explored. Documentation of key data was enhanced in order to track profiles and trends. The initial review of the



The Ephrata Area Joint Authority was recognized for their 5 years of continual voluntary compliance with the Partnership Treatment program as a Directors Award utility. The utility also completed their Phase IV Excellence program self-assessment report and filed it with National. The photo has (left to right) Kevin Anderson, Paul Swangren (Ephrata Public Works & Water Supt.), Jeff Iezzi (Ephrata Chief Operator), Scott Mohn (Ephrata Water Operator), Paul Zielinski and Don Hershey.



main practices is nearly complete. EAJA plans on submitting the application for Phase III Distribution in late 2019/early 2020. The optimization of the distribution system remains an on-going effort in concert with the treatment plant and groundwater well operation.

Important Notices for Utilities Participating in the Partnership for Safe Water Programs

To remain in "good standing" in the Treatment and Distribution programs, partnered utilities must send in an annual report covering data from June 1 through May 31 of each year and also submit payment of their annual dues. Currently, annual reports are due for the period of June 1, 2018 to May 31, 2019.

Utilities participating in the Pa. Area Wide Optimization Program (AWOP) must also submit their annual Partnership reports following AWWA guidelines posted on the Partnership for Safe Water website. Submitting your monthly turbidity data through WEBOAS does NOT satisfy the requirements of the Partnership program for annual reporting.

Please contact your local Partnership for Safe Water Representative or call Nancy Dinger at the PA AWWA Section office at 717.774.8870 if you have any questions on the programs.

Congratulations to the Jersey Shore Area Joint Water Authority (JSAJWA)

The town of Jersey Shore is located in Lycoming County close to the town of Williamsport. The water utility delivers potable water to approximately 2550 customers located in 7 municipalities in Lycoming and Clinton Counties.

The main source of supply for the Larrys Creek Filter Plant is surface water which can be supplemented with groundwater during periods of drought or emergency conditions. The Authority purchased the water plant in May, 1984, and immediately began improvements. Enhancements to the dam and intake structure were completed, a new line was added from the dam to the settling basin, renovations were conducted on the settling basin, and the supply line from the settling basin to the filter plant was improved. New filters, filter

media, enhancements to the Plant piping systems, and improvements to the chemical feed systems were also completed. A new 0.75 MG clearwater tank has also been added to improve disinfectant contact time as well as provide additional system storage.

JSAJWA is a very progressive utility. They worked with PaDEP to complete a source water protection plan in 2005. Partners in the water monitoring and protection activities include the Pa Fish Commission, various local watershed groups, private hunting clubs in the watershed, and the Lycoming County Planning Commission staff.

Outreach to the community is very important. JSAJWA has partnered with the PaDEP to create and demonstrate a surface water/ground water model that is presented to elementary schools to show how important water is and how it needs to be protected from contamination and also remain in ample supply.

The Pennsylvania and National section of the American Water Works Association congratulates JSAJWA on their most recent accomplishment –

15 continuous years recognition as maintaining the voluntary goals as a Directors Award Phase III Utility. Well done, everyone!



Representatives of the Jersey Shore Area Joint Water Authority proudly accept their award for 15 continuous years of voluntary compliance within the Treatment program as a Phase III Directors Award utility. In the photo are (left to right), Don Hershey (PA-AWWA Executive Director), Dave Palski (JSAJWA Board Treasurer), Barbara Schmouder (JSAJWA Board Secretary), Paul Zielinski (PfSW rep), Judy Cohick (Jersey Shore Authority Manager) and Kevin Anderson (DEP – Environmental Group Manager).



Congratulations to the Philadelphia Water Departments Belmont, Queen Lane, and Baxter Water Treatment Plants, on the 20 year anniversary of their Partnership for Safe Water Phase III Directors Awards.

This is a tremendous achievement and indicates the staffs' long term dedication to the benefits of the program as well as providing high quality drinking water to their customers. Philadelphia Water has certainly raised the bar for longevity and set a standard for other utilities to strive to attain.



BELMONT

Pictured Left to Right: Robert Woolston, DEP Southeast Rep; Tom Kizhakemuriyil, Plant Superintendent; Frank Stake, Acting Plant Manager; John Bartol, PfSW Rep; Kate guest, Drinking Water Treatment Manager



BAXTER

Pictured Left to Right: Robert Woolston, DEP Southeast Rep; Kate guest, Drinking Water Treatment Manager; Abey John, Plant Manager; John Bartol, PfSW Rep; Merlin Daniel, Assistant Plant Manager; Mike Keough, Plant Superintendent



QUEEN LANE

Pictured Left to Right: Hiral Amin, Assistant Plant Manager; Robert Woolston, DEP Southeast Rep; Michael McMahon, Plant Superintendent; Shiju Kuriakose, Acting Plant Manager; John Bartol, PfSW Rep; Kate Guest, Drinking Water Treatment Manager

Shenandoah Municipal Water Authority

No Picture Available

Shenandoah Municipal Water Authority was recognized at our PFSW Mixer which was held at our Annual Conference in Hershey, PA. They were not in attendance, but were recognized for their 15 year Directors Award in the Partnership for Safe Water Program. Shenandoah Municipal Water Authority joined the Partnership program on 7/19/2000 and achieved Phase III status on 10/29/2003.

For the last 15 years they have maintained their commitment to the Partnership's Treatment Plant Optimization Program which is why they were recognized among the other awardees for their dedication and commitment to the Partnership for Safe Water Program.

Western Berks Water Authority Completes Application for Phase IV Treatment Excellence

Western Berks Water Authority (WBWA) provides wholesale water service that serves nine municipalities in Berks County. Their goal has always been to "deliver, with integrity, a safe, reliable and sustainable water service, and to provide their customers with water at the lowest reasonable rate, consistent with safe business practices, and in an environmentally sound manner." On paper, this all looks rather nice. But to constantly deliver a great product that follows this motto is something WBWA has met and continues to meet as a leading water purveyor in Pennsylvania.

The water treatment plant obtains its raw water from the Tulpehocken Creek downstream of the Blue Marsh Dam. Treatment can be challenging at times to remove iron/manganese and taste and odor producing compounds from the raw source, particularly when the Blue Marsh Dam subsurface gates are open. Additional vigilance of the treatment process is necessary during these periods to ensure water meeting standards and customer expectations continue to be met.

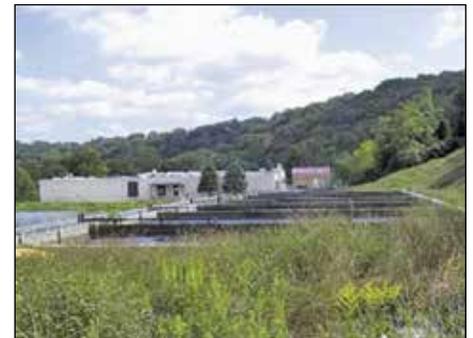


Western Berks personnel enhanced the process of optimizing its treatment operations by joining the Partnership program on January 23, 2008. The program provided a structured approach to conducting the self-evaluation aimed at identifying possible areas to explore for improvement. Careful examinations of its operation began and continued for several months. Their final self-assessment was completed in early 2010, and the utility received confirmation of its Directors Award under the Phase III program on August 5, 2010.

Optimization efforts following the Presidents and Phase IV Excellence processes continued past the Directors

Award receipt. Western Berks received their Presidents Award on June 19, 2013 and most recently submitted their final report for consideration for the Phase IV Excellence award in mid-2018. That application is currently under review by the National AWWA and Partnership PEAC teams.

National and PA AWWA congratulate Western Berks on their continual commitment to improve operations voluntarily following guidelines set by the Partnership for Safe Water program and for their recent completion of the application for the Phase IV Excellence award.



Birdsboro Municipal Authority Completes The Phase III Self-Assessment Under the Partnership Treatment Program

The town of Birdsboro is located approximately 8 miles southeast from the town of Reading, Pa, in Berks County. The town was named after William Bird, who built an iron forge back in 1740. Mr. Bird's son, Marcus, set up what is now Hopewell Furnace shortly thereafter, in 1771. As the town grew during the industrial age, many foundries and machine shops began to appear. Later the Birdsboro Steel Company began operation in 1905 and became the primary employer in the area.



Prior to 2013, the potable water for the residents was produced at a facility employing conventional water treatment processes, including flocculation, sedimentation, filtration and disinfection. The water delivered met all drinking water standards at the time.



New, stricter regulations on water quality began to appear, and the Birdsboro personnel began to evaluate their water system to see if it would continue to meet these new standards which would be coming into effect. It was found that the current plant may not continually meet some of the newer drinking water regulations. The Authority personnel reviewed many options for a new water treatment plant, and eventually decided on a very high tech process using membranes to remove particulates and biological contaminants from their raw water supplies. On-site membrane testing began and was found to be a good fit for the treatment option since the raw water sources for the new plant would continue to be reservoirs fed by natural springs in the watershed and a high quality stream.

In 2013, the new 1 MGD membrane filter plant was completed and preliminary operational testing began. Once all of the systems were verified and the plant process control system checked and approved for full scale operation, the Authority, with the permission of the PA DEP, eliminated the old plant from production and the new plant was placed into full operation. The approximately 5,100 people of Birdsboro began receiving water from the membrane filtration plant in March of 2014.

The plant operations staff began to work out the “bugs” that goes with startup of any new plant. They then reviewed the control logic established by the manufacturer for the plant, and began to investigate if the process could be better optimized. They looked for a structured, self-assessment method to assist them. The Partnership program was discussed with the operations staff as an excellent method to follow to assist them achieve their goals.

The Authority joined the Partnership for Safe Water Treatment program in January of 2016. Efforts to optimize the new plant began immediately. The plant personnel reviewed all of the operating guidelines for the plant, and began to adjust these settings to provide optimal operations. This work was not rushed. In April, 2019, the borough completed the self-assessment process under Phase III of the Partnership for Safe Water Treatment program and sent in the application to the National American Water Works Association for consideration of the Directors Award for completing Phase III of the program.

Mr. Durso, Manager, stated that “joining the Partnership program was a great experience for the Municipal Authority and its water treatment plant operators. We worked together to optimize our production and plan for the future. The Partnership helped us focus on the issues and the future. The Municipal Authority is very pleased with the work that the water treatment plant personnel have put forth in order to apply for Phase III recognition.”



Welcome Shamokin Dam Borough as Our Newest Member to the Partnership For Safe Water Distribution Program

The Borough of Shamokin Dam recently joined the Partnership Distribution Program on December 4, 2017. The utility, located in Snyder County off Route 11/15 south of the confluence of the North and West Branches of the Susquehanna River, serves approximately 760 customers (1,500 population) through a water distribution system that encompasses nearly 1.9 square miles. By joining the Program, Shamokin Dam pledges to review its operational data and set goals to ensure maintenance of their high water quality and an uninterrupted water delivery are maintained from the water treatment plant to the taps of their customers. The Borough is also a member of the Treatment Optimization program under the Partnership for Safe Water program.



Accepting the recognition certificates from AWWA and Pa. DEP are (left to right) Josh Herb (Plant Operator), Ed Hovenstine (Borough Manager), Paul Zielinski (PaAWWA Partnership Rep), Chad Latsha (Distribution Lead), and Brady Bachman (Plant Operator). Valerie Elsasser (not pictured) was also present from the NorthCentral DEP regional office.

Partnership Help is Only a Phone Call Away

Please note that the partnership representatives in Pa would love to help you get to the next level. Many of the reps have trained to review the Phase III reports and can give you valuable information on how to proceed throughout all the phases of the Treatment and Distribution programs. Don't be shy to ask for assistance. We are here to help you. The program is designed so you can proceed at your own pace, but sometimes it helps to have someone review your progress. We may be able to make helpful suggestions for you to reach your goal. Pennsylvania is unique in the Partnership Program as they are currently the only state to provide representatives to assist systems in reaching their goals. **Please don't hesitate to call us so we can assist you.**

The PFSW Rep's areas do overlap at times, but in general the following information is the contact information for each PFSW Rep: Northeast-Tom Detweiler (570) 977-1648, Southeast-John Bartol (610-751-3013), Central PA-Paul Zielinski (717) 645-2636, Southwest-Barry Herr (724) 622-0461 and Northwest-Kate O'Neill (412) 327-5460. If you're not sure of your area, please call the PA-AWWA Section office (717) 774-8870 and they can put you in touch with the representative for your area.

Anyone reading this who is not part of the Partnership for Safe Water program, feel free to call one of the PFSW Representatives and we can explain about this wonderful program and how you can optimize your water system.

The Partnership's mission
is to improve the quality of drinking water delivered to customers of public water supplies by optimizing system operations.

Partnership for Safe Water Workshop for Phase I/II Treatment Systems

The PA-AWWA section is pleased to announce that a 2-hour workshop has been prepared to assist utilities complete the Phase I and Phase II objectives of the Partnership program.

This session reviews the key elements of the Phases and helps prepare the utility towards moving to the Phase III Self-Optimization Process. It also provides guidance in completing the required annual reports. Several class exercises also enhance the knowledge of participants on data trending of raw, settled and filtered water turbidity levels as well as a full analysis of a filter run profile including backwash.

The workshop has been approved by the Pennsylvania DEP for 2 operator contact hours. The workshop can be offered to a group of utilities in a geographic area, or may be done specifically for one utility at their site. For more information on this program, please contact Nancy Dinger by email at nancydinger@paawwa.org or by calling 717.774.8870.