
WUC

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



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

From Milliron & Goodman Government Relations, LLC.

200 North 3rd Street ♦ Suite 1500 ♦ Harrisburg, PA 17101 ♦ Phone: 717-232-5322 ♦ Cell: 717-574-3963 ♦
Erik A. Ross, Senior Associate ♦ www.millirongoodman.com

Harrisburg, PA

Erik@millirongoodman.com

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PUC to Livestream October 8 Damage Prevention Committee Meeting

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) will livestream a meeting of the Damage Prevention Committee (DPC) on Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2019, at 9 am 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/DPC100819.pdf also is available on the PUC's website.

Digging Safety - PA One Call

Every year, underground lines across the state are struck more than 6,000 times - which means that during the average workday a pipeline or other vital utility system is hit every 20 minutes. While underground lines are often "out of sight and out of mind," every hit poses a risk to the contractors and homeowners who are doing the digging; to utility workers and emergency responders who are mobilized when lines are struck; and to bystanders who live, work or travel near the locations of the incidents.

State law requires contractors and residents to contact PA One Call <http://www.pa1call.org/> at least three business days prior to excavation - triggering alerts to all utilities within an intended digging area and prompting utilities to mark where their facilities are located. Pennsylvanians can dial 8-1-1 to connect with the One Call system, while out-of-state residents or businesses can call 1-800-242-1776.

About the DPC

The DPC is a peer-based group of representatives, nominated by their industry or affiliated organization and appointed by the PUC.

The DPC meets regularly to review alleged violations of Act 50 and make informal determinations as to the appropriate response including, but not limited to, the issuance of warning letters, mandatory training programs and/or administrative penalties. The DPC holds public meetings in Hearing Room 1 of the Commonwealth Keystone Building in Harrisburg. Each meeting is **livestreamed on the PUC's website** http://www.puc.pa.gov/about_puc/live_streaming_video.aspx where **summaries of actions** http://www.puc.pa.gov/utility_industry/transportation/pa_one_call_enforcement/dpc_agendas_Actions.aspx taken at those meetings also can be viewed.

Modeled after successful programs in other states, the focus of the DPC is to reduce the number of "hits" on underground lines and utilities.

Creation of the committee was authorized by **Act 50 of 2017** http://www.pucpa.gov/about_puc/press_releases.aspx?ShowPR=3918, which enhances Pennsylvania's Underground Utility Line Protection Act - also known as the "One Call Law."

About the Bureau of Investigation & Enforcement

As the independent investigation and enforcement bureau of the PUC, I&E enforces state and federal pipeline safety and motor carrier safety laws and regulations and represents the public interest in ratemaking and service matters before the PUC's Office of Administrative Law Judge. I&E has the authority to bring enforcement action, seek emergency orders from the Commission or take other steps to ensure public safety.

Source: PUC Press Release, 10/2/2019

PUC Recognizes Cybersecurity Awareness Month; Urges Consumers to #BeCyberSmart, Notes Ongoing Efforts to Safeguard Critical Utilities

On October 3, 2019, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) recognized National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, a collaborative effort between government and industry to ensure that consumers have the resources to stay secure online while increasing national resilience against cyberthreats.

"Our utility systems - including electric, natural gas, water, telecommunications and transportation networks - are keys to keeping our communities safe and productive, which makes them prime targets for bad actors," noted PUC Chairman Gladys Brown Dutrieuille, who also chairs the Critical Infrastructure Committee for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). "We all play a role in cybersecurity, at home and at work, educating ourselves about ever-

evolving cyberthreats and taking steps to #BeCyberSmart."

The national theme for this year's **cybersecurity campaign** <https://www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect> is: "OWN IT. SECURE IT. PROTECT IT." The education effort focuses on the role of each individual in online safety and stresses the importance of taking proactive steps to enhance cybersecurity at home and in the workplace. The PUC encourages every Pennsylvanian to review these CyberSecurity materials and remain vigilant online.

Additionally, Chairman Brown Dutrieuille underscored the ongoing work being done in Pennsylvania and across the country to address security in the utility sector.

In August 2019, the PUC hosted a utility Cyber Summit in Harrisburg, bringing together more than 140 professionals from across the country - including cybersecurity and national security experts, along with utility executives, information system leaders and infrastructure security professionals. The summit highlighted the latest threats directed at critical infrastructure and addressed cybersecurity best practices; cybersecurity resilience planning; and cybersecurity auditing, controls, and risk management.

The summit is the latest part of an ongoing effort to help ensure that the Commonwealth's regulated utilities are protected from cyber-attacks - guided by the **PUC's Director of the Office of Cybersecurity Compliance and Oversight** http://www.puc.pa.gov/about_puc/press_releases.aspx?ShowPR=4092 (OCCO), Michael C. Holko. That office and the director's position were created in 2018 to advance the PUC's efforts to protect Pennsylvania utility customers from disruptions to vital utility systems and services.

Also, a new comprehensive suite of Cybersecurity resources was released this summer by NARUC, helping to better equip public utility commissions to understand and address this critical issue. The **NARUC Cybersecurity Manual** <https://www.naruc.org/about-naruc/press-releases/naruc-releases-two-new-cybersecurity-manual-resources/> provides tools for regulators to

gather and evaluate information from utilities about their cybersecurity risk management practices.

"The more our state public utility commissions are educated about cyber issues, the better we are able to evaluate current challenges and target future enhancements," noted Chairman Brown Dutrieuille.

Along with the new national resources, the PUC has developed **Cybersecurity Best Practices for Small and Medium Pennsylvania Utilities Guide** http://www.puc.pa.gov/general/pdf/cybersecurity/Cybersecurity_Best_Practices_Booklet.pdf, available on the Commission's website.

Additionally, consumers are encouraged to review **Pennsylvania's Cybersecurity Guide** <https://www.pa.gov/guides/cybersecurity/> for more information about staying secure online.

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 <http://www.puc.pa.gov/>. Follow the PUC on Twitter - @PA_PUC for all things utility. "Like" PA Public Utility Commission" on Facebook for easy access to information on electric shopping.

Source: PUC Press Release, 10/3/2019

EQB Meeting Cancellation

The Environmental Quality Board's October 15, 2019, is **cancelled**. The next regular meeting of the board is scheduled for Tuesday, November 19, 2019, at 9 a.m. at the Rachel Carson State Office Building Harrisburg.

Questions concerning the board's next scheduled meeting may be directed to Laura Edinger at

ledinger@pa.gov or (717) 783-8727. The agenda and meeting materials for all board meetings are available through the public participation tab on DEP's website. Additional information can be found on the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

Source: Pennsylvania Bulletin, 10/5/2019
<https://pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol149/49-40/1493.html>

EPA Approves Virginia Plan to Improve Water Quality

On October 2, 2019, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced it has approved and helped fund a \$100 million plan by Virginia to implement key water infrastructure projects, including upgraded wastewater treatment plants to better serve residents, increase efficiency and reduce pollution.

Virginia's Intended Use Plan includes a \$32.5 million grant from EPA's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), \$6.5 million state matching funds, repayments from prior CWSRF loans, and interest earnings.

"The revolving fund program is essential to providing all Americans the clean and safe water they deserve," said EPA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Cosmo Servidio. "EPA is proud to support Virginia's plan and remains committed to helping communities with infrastructure improvements that protect their water resources."

Some of the projects targeted for funding in the state's CWSRF plan include:

- \$5.7 million to the City of Covington for a storage tank and equipment that will help the wastewater treatment plant during wet weather events. Wet weather events can contribute to flows that exceed the capacity of the plant and thus lead to potential discharge violations. These improvements will help ensure there are no overflows to the Jackson River and improve the capacity and operations at the treatment plant.

- \$10.6 million to the Town of Tazewell to rehabilitate one of the town’s wastewater treatment plants that has operated beyond its expected service life. This improvement will allow the plant to treat two million gallons of wastewater a day.
- \$37.5 million to the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Regional Sewer Authority for upgrades to its system that will allow for wastewater treatment facilities to improve operation during wet weather events.
- \$20.1 million to The Nature Conservancy to purchase a conservation easement on property in the Clinch River Watershed. The easement will protect tens of thousands of acres of working forests and hundreds of miles of streams and rivers, as well as significant habitats, scenic views, and historic features.
- \$2.7 million to James City County for a shoreline stabilization project at Chickahominy Waterfront Park and James City County Marina. The project will create a living shoreline to counter riverbank erosion and ultimately improve the water quality of downstream waterways.

A full list of CWSRF projects to be funded can be found at:

<https://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/CleanWaterFinancingAssistance.aspx>

The CWSRF program provides low interest loans for the construction of wastewater treatment facilities and other projects vital to protecting and improving water quality in rivers, lakes and streams for drinking water, recreation and natural habitat. The loans help communities keep water and sewer rates more affordable while addressing local water quality problems.

For more information about EPA’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program:

<https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf>

Source: EPA Press Release, 10/2/2019

EPA Approves Maryland Plan to Improve Water Quality

On October 2, 2019, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced it has approved and helped fund a \$297 million plan by Maryland to implement key water infrastructure projects, including upgraded wastewater treatment plants and stormwater control measures to better serve residents, increase efficiency and reduce pollution.

Maryland’s Intended Use Plan includes a \$38.4 million grant from EPA’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), \$7.7 million state matching funds, repayments from prior CWSRF loans, and interest earnings.

“The revolving fund program is essential to providing all Americans the clean and safe water they deserve,” said EPA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Cosmo Servidio. “EPA is proud to support Maryland’s plan and remains committed to helping communities with infrastructure improvements that protect their water resources.”

Some of the projects targeted for funding in the state’s CWSRF plan include:

- \$11.7 million to Talbot County for a sewer line extension project to serve more than 600 properties, including many that are currently served by failing septic systems that lead to wastewater discharges into waterways that flow into the Chesapeake Bay. This project will help prevent tens of thousands of pounds of pollution from entering the Bay.
- \$1.7 million to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission to repair and replace sewer lines in Prince George’s County to help minimize and eliminate sewage overflows.
- \$35.9 million to Baltimore City and \$50.5 million to Baltimore County for upgrades to the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant. Funding will support electrical improvements and replacement of five substations. The

upgraded power capabilities will protect the plant's treatment processes from wet weather flows, helping to ensure untreated flows go into storage tanks, rather than into local waterways.

- \$35 million to the Urban Stormwater Retrofit Program Public-Private Partnership in Prince George's County. This project involves the planning, design and construction of multiple projects to store or treat stormwater runoff to reduce pollutants from entering local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay. Projects range from installing small rain gardens to large urban retrofit solutions, such as pond retrofits and green streets.

A full list of CWSRF projects to be funded can be found at:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/WQFA/Pages/index.aspx>

The CWSRF program provides low interest loans for the construction of wastewater treatment facilities and other projects vital to protecting and improving water quality in rivers, lakes and streams for drinking water, recreation and natural habitat. The loans help communities keep water and sewer rates more affordable while addressing local water quality problems.

For more information about EPA's Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program:

<https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf>

Source: EPA Press Release, 10/2/2019

EPA kicks off Children's Health Month 2019 with its report on Protecting Children's Health

In support of Children's Health Month 2019, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Andrew Wheeler participated in the Mid-Atlantic Lead Forum, held in Hunt Valley, Maryland, to tout the agency's successes with regard to the Trump Administration's **Federal Action Plan to Reduce Childhood Lead**

Exposures and Associated Health

Impacts (released in December 2018)

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-12/documents/fedactionplan_lead_final.pdf.

The forum convened local and state, academic, and non-profit partners from the Mid-Atlantic region (EPA's Region 3), allowing federal agencies to continue the discussion about strategies to reduce childhood lead exposures and providing an opportunity for stakeholders to begin developing their own community lead reduction action plans.

"In recognition of Children's Health Month, EPA is highlighting the availability of its many programs and resources dedicated to improving air quality, reducing lead exposure, and protecting the health and wellbeing of children," said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. "From strengthening lead-dust standards to providing new funding for lead testing to our forthcoming revisions to the lead and copper rule, EPA is taking action to reduce childhood lead exposure and deliver on the Trump Administration's federal lead action plan."

EPA continues its commitment to safeguarding children's health and improving their environmental health outcomes. Specifically:

- EPA seeks to ensure that the air children breathe at home, school and outdoors is clean, as children breathe more air, and more rapidly, than adults.
- EPA seeks to ensure that the water children drink meets protective federal standards.
- EPA seeks to limit chemical exposures to children.
- EPA remediates hazardous and toxic waste sites.
- EPA researchers stay ahead of emerging children's environmental health challenges.
- EPA's 10 regional offices conduct work with states, tribes, local governments and

communities to protect children where they live, learn and play.

“EPA’s Office of Children’s Health Protection continues to work with stakeholders nationwide to protect children from environmental risks,” said Jeanne Briskin, Director of EPA’s Office of Children’s Health Protection.

As a kick-off to Children’s Health Month, EPA released Protecting Children’s Health, October 2019, to highlight major local and national initiatives and accomplishments to promote children’s health and healthy learning environments.

To view the report: <https://www.epa.gov/children/protecting-childrens-health-october-2019-booklet>.

Throughout October, EPA will celebrate children’s health by highlighting the following themes: children’s health research, healthy schools and healthy environments, and National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week.

To learn more about what EPA is doing to protect children’s health, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/children>.

Source: EPA Press Release, 10/1/2019

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