



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

JUL 03 2017

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SAFE DRINKING WATER

Lisa D. Daniels, Director  
Bureau of Safe Drinking Water  
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection  
400 Market Street  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

Dear Ms. Daniels:

On February 24, 2017, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) submitted an action plan to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) detailing plans to address funding challenges and personnel shortfalls through draft proposed rulemaking that would establish new annual fees and increase existing permit fees for drinking water systems. As part of the action plan, PADEP committed to provide quarterly reports on progress.

Based on communication between EPA and PADEP, the first update was expected by May 24, 2017, three months following the submission of the action plan. As of the date of this letter, EPA has not received a quarterly update on the progress of Pennsylvania's action plan. EPA appreciates the June 26, 2017 email stating the Commonwealth's intention to submit an update on or before June 30, 2017. It is important that EPA receive the quarterly updates timely; future reports are expected by September 30, December 30, and March 30.

EPA is encouraged by PADEP's plan to increase program revenue through its regulatory fee package but remains concerned about Pennsylvania's program performance in the interim. EPA continues to recommend that PADEP seek a temporary funding source to begin hiring staff. EPA advises that Pennsylvania continue to prioritize drinking water sanitary survey inspections and target resources to ensure the highest level of public health protection.

In addition to providing updates on program funding and budget, please include updates on public health protection efforts, such as, the number and location of sanitary surveys conducted, follow-up actions initiated, and any capacity challenges or concerns with Public Water System Supervision (PWSS) Program implementation.

If you have questions or would like to further discuss this issue, please feel free to contact me or Lori Reynolds, Acting Associate Director, Office of Drinking Water and Source Water Protection at (215) 814-5435.

Sincerely,

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Dominique Lueckenhoff, Acting Director  
Water Protection Division