



# Partners in PA

Partnership for Safe Water Update

Volume 12 • Issue 2

# 121

Partners in PA

68 Phase I & II Plants  
52 Awarded Phase III  
1 Phase IV  
12 PFSW Distribution Members



## The SPOTLIGHT is on our newest members: The City of Cumberland/ Evitts Creek Water Company & Mifflintown Municipal Authority



### The City of Cumberland/ Evitts Creek Water Company joins the Partnership

A big welcome to The City of Cumberland/ Evitts Creek Water Company as they have recently joined the Partnership for Safe Water program for surface water plants. The Cumberland plant is somewhat unique as it is located in Bedford County Pennsylvania but provides drinking water to the City of Cumberland as well as the Evitts Creek community in Pennsylvania. Population served is 23,600.

Joining the Partnership is the latest example of the City of Cumberland/ Evitts Creek Water Company's commitment to providing high quality water to its more than 23,600 customers. Previous examples of this commitment include major capital improvements that added additional multi-media, high rate filters, a Dissolved Air Flotation particle removal system and a sludge processing system that effectively treats waste streams. Other improvements include the addition of a zeta potential meter, several particle counters and a state of the art SCADA system.



Left to Right - Rodney Marvin, Plant Supt; Jeff Repp, Cumberland City Administrator; Mike Smith, DEP; Ralph Himes, DEP

Combined with these capital and major equipment improvement is an organizational mindset that, in the words of Plant superintendent Rodney Marvin, "strives for quality operations by [everyone] taking ownership of efforts to optimize plant processes".

City of Cumberland/ Evitts Creek Water Company is the latest of 121 Pennsylvania water plants to take advantage of the effective optimization tools and procedures available to Partnership for Safe Water members.

### Partnership for Safe Water Program welcomes New Partnership Rep Ralph Bliss

Ralph Bliss replaces Kate O'Neill as the Western Pennsylvania Representative for the Partnership for Safe Water Program. Ralph recently retired from the Allegheny County Health Department in 2010 where he was employed as an inspector in the Public Drinking Water Program.



He is a Vietnam era military veteran with active duty service in both the US Navy and US Army. Ralph attended the University of Pittsburgh on the G. I. Bill and earned a degree in geography, with related studies in earth and planetary sciences. He resides in the borough of Edgewood and enjoys photography and motorcycling.

Special thanks to Kate O'Neill for her years of service to Pennsylvania Partnership for Safe Water Program... Thanks Kate!

### Mifflintown Municipal Authority

New challenges awaited Mike Robinson when he became the Operations Manager for the Mifflintown Municipal Authority three years ago. At that time, major capital improvements to Mifflintown's outdated water treatment facilities were just beginning. The planned improvements were intended to provide Mifflintown's dedicated operating staff the facilities required to excel as public water supply purveyors. In Mike Robinson, the Mifflintown Municipal Authority found the key individual to oversee the construction of the new facilities as well as someone whose career experiences and operational values were grounded in the philosophy and goals of the Partnership for Safe Water.

During the last three years, new filtration, chemical feed, and SCADA system facilities have become a reality for the Mifflintown Municipal Authority. At the same time, Mike Robinson, operators Mike Howard, Erik Bargo and Zeb Page, along with the Authority's



Mifflintown Municipal Authority - L to R - Mike Robinson, Zeb Page, Mike Howard, and Erik Bargo

administrative staff and Board worked together to implement high quality operational and administrative standards and goals.

Recently, the Mifflintown Municipal Authority joined the Partnership for Safe Water to take advantage of the proven self-assessment and continuous improvement methods that the Partnership provides. Or, in the words of Operations Manager, Mike Robinson, "...we want to make sure that we provide the best water possible for our customers. The Partnership for Safe Water helps us accomplish this by providing us with the tools to continuously evaluate our plant and our operation."

The Mifflintown Municipal Authority serves approximately 4,500 customers in Juniata County. The Partnership for Safe Water welcomes the Mifflintown Municipal Authority as its newest Pennsylvania member.



1309 Bridge St., Lower Level  
New Cumberland, PA 17070

Tel: 717-774-8870  
Fax: 717-774-0288

e-mail: [paawwa@paawwa.org](mailto:paawwa@paawwa.org)  
[www.paawwa.org](http://www.paawwa.org)

# Don't miss Partnership for Safe Water Summit

## Save the Date: October 11-12, 2011 • Hollywood Casino

The PA Section AWWA will be hosting a two-day "Partnership for Safe Water Summit" on October 11 and 12, 2011 at the Hollywood Casino in Grantville that will feature workshops, exhibits and networking.

Workshop sessions will run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. both days with an hour for lunch (noon to 1:00 p.m.).

The topics for the workshops are still being developed but will focus on Partnership goals and incentives for both the filter plant and distribution system optimization programs. Since every water system has a distribution system, this is a golden opportunity to learn how your system can get involved in this rewarding new program.

Workshop fees are as follows for Full Summit (both days with lunch provided each day):

- Partnership member: \$175
- Non-Partnership member: \$210
- Small System (less than 3,300 population served): \$150
- One day registration with lunch provided: \$100.
- Exhibitor space is \$200.
- Sponsorships: \$500 Gold; \$250 Silver; \$100 Bronze

To obtain a registration form, visit the PA Section website in the calendar section at [www.paawwa.org](http://www.paawwa.org) or call the office at 717-774-8870.

## Pennsylvania Water Systems Join the New Partnership for Safe Water Distribution Optimization Program

HARRISBURG — The new Partnership for Safe Water (PFSW) Distribution Optimization Program is a voluntary effort to provide safe drinking water to all customers. The program is similar to the existing PFSW water treatment plant program. However, it is specifically focused on preserving distribution system integrity to include water quality preservation, hydraulic reliability and physical security. Surface water, groundwater and consecutive water systems are eligible to enroll. The program consists of four phases including commitment to the program, annual data collection and submittal, a self-assessment phase, and a final phase of Excellence in Distribution System Operation.

These water systems became charter members by joining before the Distribution Charter Membership deadline of March 31, 2011:

- North Penn Water Authority (Montgomery County) provides drinking water service to approximately 78,000 people;
- Chester Water Authority (Delaware County) provides drinking water service to approximately 125,000 people;
- Municipal Authority of the Borough of Oakmont (Allegheny County) provides drinking water service to approximately 37,877 people;
- PA American Water Company (multiple counties statewide) provides drinking water service to approximately 2 million people;
- Brodhead Creek Regional Water Authority (Monroe County) provides drinking water service to approximately 22,500 people;
- Philadelphia Water Department (Philadelphia County) provides drinking water service to approximately 1.6 million people;
- Reading Area Water Authority (Berks County) provides water service to approximately 87,000 people; and
- Elizabethtown Area Water Authority (Lancaster County) provides water service to approximately 15,000 people.
- City of Allentown (Lehigh County) provides water service to approximately 105,000 people.
- Dover Township Water Department (York County) provides water service to approximately 15,000 people.
- Oakmont Water (Allegheny County) provides water service to approximately 38,000 people.
- Western Berks Water Authority (Berks County) provides water service to approximately 25,000 people.

The PFSW is a voluntary cooperative effort between DEP, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, American Water Works Association and other drinking water organizations. Its goal is to implement preventative measures that are based on optimizing treatment plant and distribution system performance. By participating in the program, these water systems are working to provide an additional measure of protection to their drinking water consumers.

For more information, contact Nancy Dinger at 717-774-8870 or e-mail [nancydinger@paawwa.org](mailto:nancydinger@paawwa.org). Information is also available on DEP's website, keyword: filtration.

## Stony Garden



(L-R): Bob Donnelly, PFSW Rep; Kevin Anderson, DEP; Paul Zelinski, PA American Water-Stony Garden; Debra Kaye, V.P. of AWWA California/Nevada Section; and Gene Koontz, PA Section AWWA Director recognize Stony Garden for reaching Phase III

Paul Zelinski, Senior Director of Water Quality and Environmental Compliance, Pennsylvania American Water, representing the Company's Stony Garden Water Treatment facility, is presented with a plaque and the Partnership Water Droplet Award signifying that yet another of Pennsylvania American Water's water facilities has attained the prestigious Phase III level in the Partnership for Safe Water Program.

Developed by the US EPA, AWWA and other water industry leaders, the Partnership Program provides a rigorous program intended to result in optimized performance of all aspects of the water treatment process.

"Our goal is to continually strive to improve our water quality," said Paul. "Participating in the Partnership for Safe Water Program has provided us with the opportunity to evaluate our water treatment operations, maintenance procedures, and management practices, and identify areas where water treatment can be improved."

Stony Garden Water Treatment Plant is a 3.2 MGD facility, serving nearly 9,500 customers in the communities of Pen Argyl, Nazareth, Upper Nazareth, Wind Gap, Bushkill Township, Belfast, Stockertown, Tatamy, Forks Township, and Palmer Township. We in the Partnership Family applaud the Stony Garden Facility staff for their hard work.

Kate O'Neill will be leaving the PA Section AWWA as a Partnership for Safe Water Representative after her years of dedication to the program. Kate provided Partnership for Safe Water



Kate O'Neill receiving her Service Recognition Award from Curt Fontaine at the Western District Meeting.

assistance to 132 water filtration plants in the western portion of PA during the past 12 years. Pa's PFSW program and many water systems have been enhanced as a result of Kate's work. Kate has worked with many of these plants since they first became PFSW members in 1999 and has assisted them throughout the past several years while they optimized their filter plant performance. The Partnership for Safe Water program will miss Kate. We would like to congratulate Kate and wish her good luck with her new role in the water industry.

*"Through Kate's dedication and hard work she was instrumental in moving the PFSW program forward in western PA."*

— Don Hershey, Exec. Dir. of PA AWWA

## ANNUAL REPORTS DUE IN JUNE

Your annual report for the period 6/1/2010-5/31/2011 is due in June. Please submit your report to Debby Qualls by email at [dqualls@awwa.org](mailto:dqualls@awwa.org).