

# Partners in PA

Partnership for Safe Water Update

Volume 1



Issue 1

*This issue represents the first in a series of updates that are being produced specifically for participants in the Partnership for Safe Water program in Pennsylvania. This newsletter will include helpful information, highlights, updates to the program and more. This newsletter is being produced in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Drinking Water Management.*

## Partnership for Safe Water Tips and Hints for a Better Self-Assessment Report

As a participant in the Partnership for Safe Water program, you may have run into a few rough spots regarding data collection and report writing. We have prepared a list of suggestions that will help you to avoid common mistakes. If you still encounter a problem you can't solve, please don't hesitate to call us – we're here to help!

### Be Fiscally Correct

You may have already gathered twelve months of raw, settled and finished water turbidity data. You need to add the data for one baseline report and then every year thereafter. But how do you select the proper twelve-month period? The baseline and annual reporting period is arranged according to the Partnership's fiscal year. This is from June 1 to May 31. For example, June 1, 2001 to May 31, 2002 is one fiscal year. Although the baseline report can entail any 365-day period prior to joining the program, it's best to align the data with the June-to-May Partnership year.

### Save a Postage Stamp

Send the annual report along with your turbidity graphs to Denver AWWA by e-mail ([dqualls@awwa.org](mailto:dqualls@awwa.org) or [blauer@awwa.org](mailto:blauer@awwa.org)). Optionally, you can mail a diskette. However, AWWA requests that you do not send *only* a paper copy of the graphs. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) would also like a copy, but this is optional. You can send your information to [pconsonery@state.pa.us](mailto:pconsonery@state.pa.us) or call 717-772-2184 to obtain a mailing address.

### Check it Out

Take a look at the useful checklists in Appendix C in the three-ring Partnership binder. This Appendix contains General Reporting Requirements, Baseline Report Requirements & Checklist, Annual Report Requirements & Checklist, and Self-Assessment Report & Checklist. Many operators are using the glossy self-assessment manual but are not aware of these checklists in the three-ring binder.

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**70 Phase I & II Plants**  
**37 Awarded Phase III**

## An Award Winning Program

**P**ennsylvania Section AWWA was presented the 2000 Section Small System Program Award during the AWWA Conference and Exhibition held in Washington, D.C.

The Section Small System Program Award is presented to AWWA sections to recognize their initiatives that promote small system compliance, quality water service, and involvement in AWWA. The Pennsylvania Section received this award for its efforts in promoting the Partnership for Safe Water program to small water systems within the Commonwealth. It was especially noted that Pennsylvania has the first small system in the nation to complete Phase III of the program. East Greenville Borough received kudos at the state and national level for outstanding achievement in not only completing Phase III, but for doing so in record time.

A certificate and a check for \$200 to be used toward funding small system development was presented by AWWA President, Bob Willis, during the Section Officers' Forum in Washington, D.C. PA Section Chair, Aurel Arndt, and PA Section Executive Director, Tracy Sarris, accepted the award on behalf of the association.

There are currently 41 small systems (serving less than 10,000 people) enrolled in the program in Pennsylvania. As part of the regional Partnership, DEP has set up a special initiative to assist small water systems by loaning new computers and new monitoring instruments. To date, 20 small water systems have received the special partnership equipment package and six more have submitted requests and are awaiting approval.

### **Pennsylvania Section AWWA**

1924 North Second Street, 1st Floor

Harrisburg, PA 17102

Tel: 717-230-8935

Fax: 717-230-8925

[paawwa@paawwa.org](mailto:paawwa@paawwa.org)

[www.paawwa.org](http://www.paawwa.org)



## Tips and Hints...

### Annual "Do's"

You can keep things simple by writing a short annual report letter rather than a large essay. In the annual report, you should provide the turbidity spreadsheets for the raw water, settled water (optional), and finished water for the past year. Your cover letter should simply contain a brief summary of activities that you completed during the past year and a description of planned Partnership activities for the upcoming year. Its even easier if you send this information by e-mail to Denver AWWA ([dqualls@awwa.org](mailto:dqualls@awwa.org) or [blauer@awwa.org](mailto:blauer@awwa.org)). Annual requirements differ depending on your current Phase in the program so look for additional, more detailed information for Phase III systems in the next *Partners in PA* newsletter.

### Phase-In Correctly

Once you have joined the Partnership program (Phase I), you should send your turbidity graphs to Denver within 180 days (Phase II). Phase III is self-paced; in fact, many systems are taking about three years to complete the Phase III self-assessment report. This will allow you to take your time and do a thorough self-assessment of your operations, design, administration and maintenance.

### NTU Locations

The Partnership asks for the *maximum* daily raw and finished water turbidity levels. Many operators obtain this data from chart recorders. For the finished water, try to select the maximum value for the day but avoid using turbidities that do not accurately represent water you provide to customers. For example, if you decide to record data from individual filters, don't

use any turbidities that occurred during the backwash or filter-to-waste processes. Also, don't use data when on-line turbidimeters are undergoing calibration or cleaning, or (obviously) when the plant is shut down.

### Settling Arguments

Normally, operators use the raw water and the clearwell as their turbidity monitoring locations for the Partnership. You will gain valuable insights into your treatment plant if you also monitor the "settled water." This is the water that flows from the sedimentation process or water applied to the top of the filters. Try to include settled water with the raw and finished water so you can assess the effectiveness of all pretreatment processes.

### Get It On Line

You can obtain up-to-date information on how the program is progressing by visiting DEP's website at [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us). In the directLINK box, type the word "filtration," click on the GO button, and then select the Partnership for Safe Water link. You can also contact Tracy Sarris at PA-AWWA at (717) 230-8935 or Phil Consonery at DEP at (717) 772-2184. In addition, national AWWA maintains a website at [www.awwa.org/partner/partner1.htm](http://www.awwa.org/partner/partner1.htm). There, you will find an example Phase III report and other information that can help you with the Partnership.

### Profiling Tips

The Phase III self-assessment report must include turbidity performance profiles from the filters. A good turbidity profile may reveal potential problems that occur before or after a backwash. The following graph shows an example filter profile and provides tips on how to develop a good profile as well as labeling instructions for the graph.

Individual filter profiles can be a valuable tool and provide very useful information. For a profile to be useful, it must be "representative" of the performance of a particular filter. Below is an example of a "representative" filter profile. Note that events and times are clearly labeled. Sample intervals (how often turbidities are recorded and graphed) should be between 2 and 15 minutes. It is a good idea to use more frequent intervals (2 minutes) when turbidities are not stable. Times on the X-axis should be labeled at least every 30 minutes. The profile should include an entire filter run - several minutes prior to a backwash, an entire backwash, and should continue until the next backwash.

