



# Partners in PA

Partnership for Safe Water Update

Volume 9 • Issue 1



Partners in PA

53 Phase I & II Plants  
46 Awarded Phase III



## The SPOTLIGHT is on: Spring Township



Spring Township Municipal Authority's upflow clarifier (left) and the chemical feed building (right).



Water Plant Operator Steve Aumiller



The water treatment plant's sludge beds are shown with Kern Run Dam in the background.

Steve Aumiller continuously thinks of ways to improve the operation and maintenance of the Spring Township Municipal Authority's water treatment plant. Steve, who has worked for the Spring Township Municipal Authority (STMA) for 14 years, credits the development of this continuous-improvement mindset to his late friend and mentor Lewis Ritter who served as primary operator for STMA's water and wastewater plants for 20 years beginning in the mid-eighties.

Lewis, who passed away in 2005, was a vocal proponent of high-quality operations and was instrumental in STMA's decision to join The Partnership for Safe Water (PFSW) in May 2001. Steve reports that the benefits of the Partnership were quickly realized by the implementation of top-of-filter turbidity monitors and a computer containing PFSW software.

Top-of-filter and finished water turbidity goals of <1.0 and <0.1 NTUs respectively were enthusiastically adopted and served as the

incentive for a steady stream (no pun intended) of plant improvements that have been completed since the SMTA joined the Partnership for Safe Water

Examples of these improvements include utilizing the analog outputs of all in-line turbidimeters (raw, top-of-filters, individual filter effluent and combined filter effluent) in conjunction with data-logging hardware and software to trend all plant turbidities; installing filter-to-waste piping and valves on each of the plant's two multi-media filters; configuring the discreet outputs of the filters' effluent turbidimeters to open the filter-to-waste valve of a filter when that filter's effluent turbidity approached 0.10 NTUs; changing the coagulant from alum to poly-aluminum chloride; and installing/configuring timers on the up-flow clarifier to direct sludge from the clarifiers to the lagoon at regular intervals.

All of this work was done in-house by Steve Aumiller with the full support of the Spring Township Municipal Authority Board of Directors whom Steve says, "... are great to

### Easton Suburban duo published in March issue of AWWA's 'Journal'

Chuck Wilson, superintendent and Vince Puglia, office manager of Easton Suburban Water Authority (Easton Water Treatment Plant) have a technical paper on Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE) published in the March 2008 issue of the AWWA Journal. The evaluation is part of the Stage 2 Disinfectant/Disinfection Byproducts Rule and the paper provides real-life guidance through the difficult process for small and medium-sized water treatment plants.

As Partnership for Safe Water members currently working through the Phase III portion of the Program with their entire staff, Chuck and Vince recognize the value of sharing their experiences and knowledge with other operators. They recommend that others send their ideas to publications such as the Journal for review and possible inclusion in future issues. "We're all in the same business together, new ideas just help everyone do our business better," Chuck explained.

See Spring Township, continued on next page



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## Robinson Township Authority completes Phase III of Partnership



Robinson Township recently completed the Partnership program's Phase III. Shown (left to right) are: Gary Hasek, Allegheny County Health Department inspector; Ed Ford, chief operator; Kent Lockridge, operations manager; John Lavrich, operator; Deb McDonald, PA DEP Drinking Water Program Manager; Joe Pekala and Dale Greenwald, both operators.

The Municipal Authority of the Township of Robinson's water treatment plant has received the "Directors Award" for completing Phase III of the Partnership for Safe Water program.

Completing Phase III is an important milestone in the Partnership program and places Robinson Township in an elite category among treatment plants. It exemplifies the plant's dedication to voluntarily exceeding state standards in water quality.

The Robinson authority will be presented the prestigious Partnership for Safe Water Phase III Crystal Water Drop Award at the PA-AWWA 60th Annual Conference for successfully completing the Self-Assessment and Peer Review phase of the partnership program, a phase, which consists of identifying factors that limit treatment plant performance.

"We are thrilled to receive this award," said Tony Lenze, executive director. "Our goal is to continually strive to improve our water quality and by joining the ranks as one of the highest performing plants in the country, we have taken a large step toward achieving this goal."

Presently, the water system provides drinking water to approximately 12,000 people.



You Are Invited to the  
**Partnership for Safe Water Mixer**  
**Wednesday, May 14, 2008**  
4:30 pm- 5:00 pm • Outside the Exhibit Hall

**The Partnership for Safe Water program is going strong in PA.** Pennsylvania accounts for approximately 30% of the nation's total Partnership membership. Partnership filter plants serve nearly 5.4 million customers in Pennsylvania.

**Light refreshments will be served...it's a great way to "warm up" for the Exhibit Hall Opening!** All those dedicated to optimizing filter plant performance are invited to come and celebrate PA's success with the Partnership program.

### Spring Township, continued from front page

work for ...and are very proactive."

The benefits of these improvements are demonstrated by better sludge blanket formation in the up-flow clarifier, increased filter-run times and effective contingencies to maintain quality operations at all times. Accordingly, the STMA consistently meets PFSW turbidity goals.

The authority is currently performing their Phase III self assessment as Steve, back-up operator Kim Freed and the leadership of the Spring Township Municipal Authority relentlessly pursue optimized operations in a manner that exemplifies the professionalism that Lewis Ritter brought to work each day.

www.paawwa.org



## Please Note the Following Information

### E-mail Annual Report by June 30, 2008!

NO more floppy discs. NO more CDs and NO DVD'S. Annual report data must be sent to us via e-mail. The Partnership Steering Committee approved this policy to speed communication and reduce cost.

"Most utilities already send in their annual reports using e-mail," says Debby Qualls, Partnership Coordinator. "There is only a few that still use the postal service to deliver data discs. It's time to end this practice so that everyone can benefit."

Annual report data must be sent to [dqualls@awwa.org](mailto:dqualls@awwa.org) by June 30, 2008, using the current PFSW software version 4.1.

A special thank you incentive is available if your annual report is received early.

## NOTICE

If you receive a Notice of Violation you should contact National PFSW within a few days and explain the situation. In addition, all participating plants must include a statement of conformance with regulations in their annual report.

## Update Your Partnership Info

Send any changes to your Partnership contact information to Debby Qualls at [dqualls@awwa.org](mailto:dqualls@awwa.org). If we don't have the correct information you may miss out on upcoming program improvements. Be sure to include current e-mail address if available.