



Partners in PA

Partnership for Safe Water Update

Volume 1 • Issue 3

123

Partners in PA

84 Phase I & II Plants
39 Awarded Phase III

Water Supply Partners have asked the following questions about the Partnership Program...

Do we need to hire a consultant to complete the Partnership for Safe Water program?

Many Partnership members have completed their self-assessments without the help of a consultant. In fact, one of the major benefits of the program is having hands-on involvement from all employees concerned with the water treatment processes. This has often achieved a spirit of cooperation from first-level operators, supervisors and management personnel. Many members have reported an improvement in moral because they optimized plant performance and received recognition for their efforts. A few members have requested help from consultants to correct problems they identified in the self-assessment.

What services are available from PA-AWWA and DEP to help us through the Partnership program?

DEP has provided a grant—obtained through state revolving loan funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency—to the Pennsylvania Section American Water Works Association. DEP and PA-AWWA have already provided much public recognition and promotion for the state's Water Supply Partners. More importantly, DEP has trained staff in its field offices to help systems with the Partnership software as well as with any technical difficulties concerning the self-assessment procedures. With just a phone call, PA-AWWA is also available to help Water Supply Partners. In addition, DEP has a limited number of "loaner" particle counters to help systems in gathering data during their Phase III assessments. Finally, DEP has provided computers and on-line turbidimeters for small water systems serving less than 10,000 people. Call PA-AWWA at 717-230-8935 or DEP (Phil Consonery) at 717-772-4018.

Is the Partnership going to cost a lot of money if I find problems?

The Partnership stresses low-cost optimization. That means the goal is to improve treatment plant performance through better operations instead of undertaking major construction projects. The costs and results of each self-assessment are very site-specific. Some Partnership members have improved performance of existing facilities and reduced costs from wasted

treatment chemicals or inefficient filter backwash timing or procedures. Others have found that operational costs have increased slightly to improve turbidity levels that maximize protection for their customers against waterborne diseases.

Please take a few minutes to visit Pennsylvania's special Partnership for Safe Water website. Go to www.dep.state.pa.us and type the word, "filtration" in the directLINK box on the left side of the page.

Power Tip

Your computer is exposed to possible damage from lightening storms, power surges, and power spikes, especially if the computer equipment is located at your treatment plant. Allowing these electrical surges to hit your computer can cause problems far more serious than losing a document—it could fry your entire computer system! Protect your equipment with a basic surge suppressor. Look for these specifications:

- Response time is the time it takes for the suppressor to react to a surge. It should be five nanoseconds or less. Short response times are better; a zero clamping time is best.
- Energy dissipation of no less than 200, preferably at least 400 joules. Higher joule ratings are better.
- Telephone line jacks (RJ-11 lines) will help protect your modem and fax machines.
- Look for Underwriters Laboratories approval.
- Check for a good equipment protection policy, but read the fine print.
- Many uninterruptible power supply units—which keep equipment running on battery power for a few minutes during blackouts—are also surge suppressors.

Surge suppressor components wear out over time, so replace your suppressor every couple of years.

The American Power Conversion Corporation (APC) is widely recognized as a quality manufacturer of suppressors.

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Partnership rep's efforts greatly appreciated

Thomas J. Whitehill, who has served as a Partnership for Safe Water representative since the program's inception in 1999, announced his resignation recently in order to dedicate more time to his private consulting business.

"I've enjoyed working with the program and fully support it," Tom said. "And I will continue to support it in an unofficial capacity. I feel the program represents the commitment by the association (PA-AWWA) to optimized water quality and optimized operations at the plants."

Phil Consonery, Sanitation Program Specialist with the PA Department of Environmental Protection, said Tom's "people skills and initiative" helped foster the Partnership program. "Tom picked up the program and ran with it very quickly. He understood the program's direction and immediately felt it was worth his time to get involved. He did very well in presenting it across several different audiences."

Prior to his work with the Partnership program, Tom served as a Water Quality Engineer with the Chester Water Authority from 1987 – 1998. He served as Water Quality Superintendent with New Jersey American – Commonwealth in Short Hills, New Jersey from 1986-1987. He also served as Water Quality Supervisor for the Shenango Valley Water Company in Sharon, PA from 1982 - 1986.

Tom has a M.E.P.C. degree in Environmental Pollution Control and a B.S. in Environmental Resource Management, both from the Pennsylvania State University.

PAWC Coatesville water treatment facilities complete Phase I Partnership requirements



(Left to right) Gerard Centofanti, water supply manager, DEP – Southeast Region; Ralph DeFazio, environmental health supervisor, Chester County Health Department; and Tom Tracy, environmental health specialist, Chester County Health Department, present PAWC associates Joe Manning, water quality specialist; Rich Dunlap, laboratory technician; Terry McKim, operations supervisor; Ted Reed, manager; Paul Zielinski, director of water quality; John Farrier, plant operator; and Paul Hoffman, maintenance, with a Certificate of Recognition from the Partnership for Safe Water program for completing the Phase I requirements.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are planning to advance to Phase IV of the Partnership program, we strongly suggest you contact DEP before completing the Phase IV application. Call Phil Consonery at 717-772-4018 to obtain details about Pennsylvania's Phase IV program.

Partnership Educational Opportunity

Optimizing Filter Performance

Sponsored by
PA Section – AWWA
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Penn State Harrisburg
Environmental Training Center
& Small Public Water Systems
Technology Assistance Center

April 18, 2002

Brackenridge Borough
1000 Brackenridge Avenue
Brackenridge, PA 15014

*Are all of your plant's filters in good condition?
Not Sure? When did you last check?*

Conducting routine preventative maintenance and practicing best operational procedures is the best way to assure long-term reliability of your filters. The PA Department of Environmental Protection, in conjunction with the PA Section – AWWA and Penn State Harrisburg, will be conducting this workshop focusing on preventative maintenance procedures and operational practices, which will help assure optimum filter performance. This workshop will discuss best practices recognized by the Partnership for Safe Water Program for optimizing filter performance. Presenters will cover turbidity performance requirements for individual filters that are contained in new regulations.

This workshop will cover the most common causes of poor filter performance experienced by treatment plants throughout Pennsylvania. You will be provided with the knowledge and tools to help diagnose and prevent these problems:

- Lack of Interpretation of Filter Profile Data
- Fully automated backwashes
- Improper backwash procedures
- Media problems
- High applied water turbidities
- Inadequate % bed expansions
- Return to service too quickly after backwashing
- Excessive filter run times
- Hydraulic surges
- Start/Stop mode of operation
- Inadequate Design
- Lack of routine filter inspections
- And lots more.



**Working to
Ensure
High Quality
Drinking Water**

We're proud to announce we've joined the partnership for Safe Water, a national volunteer program for ensuring operational excellence in drinking water treatment.

**Cambria Township Water Authority
Ernest Boro Water System
Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County
(Beaver Run, McKeesport & Yough plants)**