



# Partners in PA

Partnership for Safe Water Update

Volume 4 • Issue 2

117

Partners in PA

75 Phase I & II Plants  
42 Awarded Phase III

## Congratulations!



On September 8, 2003, the Partnership's Program Effectiveness Assessment Committee (PEAC) granted Phase III approval for the Stroudsburg Municipal Authority. This plant will be awarded the "Director's Certificate of Recognition" for its efforts in completing the Phase III self-assessment process, to obtain excellence in effluent water quality. In addition, the newly redesigned Phase III Achievement Water Drop Award will be presented at the 56th PA AWWA Annual Conference.



### Partnership Website Information

You can find a lot of information on the Partnership Website at: [www.awwa.org/science/partnership](http://www.awwa.org/science/partnership)

The Western Berks Water Authority, located in Berks County, recently signed an agreement to become the newest member of the Partnership for Safe Water. With the addition of Western Berks, 117 surface water filtration plants are enrolled in the Partnership Program in Pennsylvania. These plants serve more than 5.4 million people, which is well over half of the 8.3 million Pennsylvanian's



(Left to Right) Mike Mull - Operator/Rick Glovenski - Operator/ George Torak, Jr. Operations Manager

who obtain part or all of their drinking water from surface water treatment plants. Western Berks Water Authority oversees the operation of a filtration plant that obtains raw water from the Tulpehocken Creek. Following the treatment at this plant, drinking water is provided to about 25,000 consumers.

Participating utilities and those that have achieved Phase III Directors Award are listed. You can find links to our Regional Partner websites and those of the Partnership organizations. The Phase IV application package is also available for download.

### Got Questions About the Phase III Self-Assessment?

Don't know how to start? Not sure what to include in your report? Answers are available, contact Ed Chescattie at (717) 772-4018 for more information.

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# Equipment Tips for Individual Filter Effluent (IFE) Monitoring and Recording

The Partnership for Safe Water encourages Individual Filter Effluent (IFE) monitoring as a means to optimize filter performance. Currently, EPA requires surface water filtration plants, that serve >10,000 customers, to continuously monitor and record IFE turbidity. Starting January 1, 2005, the Long Term 1 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule will require small systems (serving <10,000 and using conventional or direct filtration), to monitor IFE turbidity. PADEP's Filter Plant Performance Evaluation staff offer the below list of tips to help systems successfully monitor IFE turbidity.

## IFE Turbidimeters

- Monitoring method must be EPA approved and as specified by the manufacturer.
- Monitoring frequency must be continuous (at least every 15 minutes).
- Sample tap should be after the filter and prior to the filter-to-waste valve so operators can use the turbidity values to determine optimal filter-to-waste times.
- Avoid tapping directly on top of the pipe, because you are more likely to get air in your sample.
- Avoid tapping directly on the bottom of the pipe, because you are more likely to get sediment in your sample.
- Mount the turbidimeter fairly close to the IFE tap to reduce any delay caused by long sample lines. This may also eliminate the need for sample pumps.
- Sample line diameter should be as recommended by the manufacturer. If the line diameter is too large, response time could be sluggish. This could skew the duration of turbidity spikes causing erroneous results.
- Flow rate through the instrument should be as recommended by the manufacturer. Too fast may cause problems with air. Too slow may reduce the response time, and increase the duration of turbidity spikes, especially during the ripening period of a filter.
- Avoid using sample pumps if possible, because they can introduce air bubbles into the sample.
- Do not cut the power cord to the turbidimeter, because this could cause some manufacturers to void the warranty.
- Calibrate turbidimeters at least every three months using a primary standard such as Formazin or StablCal (Secondary standards such as CalCubes and Ice-Pics should only be used to check instrument performance.)

The next issue of *Partners in Pa* will contain tips related to recording devices.

## Update Your Partnership Information

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.

## Have You Sent in Your Annual Report?

If you haven't sent in your annual report yet please collect your turbidity data and e-mail it to Dan Rodeheffer at:  
[rodeheffer@awwa.org](mailto:rodeheffer@awwa.org)

or mail it (on a computer disc) to:  
Dan Rodeheffer  
AWWA  
6666 W. Quincy Ave.  
Denver, CO 80235

## QUESTIONS?

Contact Partnership for Safe Water Help Line at 717-774-9547 Monday thru Friday, 8 am - 4 pm



## Water Quality Technology Conference and Exposition

November 2 – 5, 2003  
Philadelphia Marriott Hotel  
1201 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
For more information, visit the following website:  
[www.awwa.org/conference](http://www.awwa.org/conference)

### 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.