



Partners in PA

Partnership for Safe Water Update

Volume 8 • Issue 3

101

Partners in PA

55 Phase I & II Plants
46 Awarded Phase III



The SPOTLIGHT is on: Our newest partner...Ephrata



Ephrata Area Joint Authority announced its participation in the Partnership for Safe Water program, a national volunteer initiative that seeks to help water suppliers improve local water treatment and water quality.

Developed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), states, and water supply associations striving to provide optimum quality drinking water, the Partnership currently includes over 200 water utilities, collectively serving more than 85 million people. Ephrata Area Joint Authority's participation in the program will include a rigorous review of treatment practices developed by national experts, and will also include a four-step, self-assessment and peer-review process.

"Our goal is to continually strive to improve our water quality," said Stephen L. Bonner, Superintendent of Water & Wastewater systems.



Pictured are L to R – Scott Young Chief Operator, Stephen L. Bonner Superintendent, Donald Griffith Operator, Mario N. Asencio Operator, and Jeffrey L. Iezzi Operator.

"Participating in the Partnership for Safe Water program will provide us with opportunity to evaluate our water treatment operations, maintenance procedures, and management practices, and identify areas where water treatment can be enhanced."

As members of the Partnership, utilities make a pledge to their communities to improve their treatment operations to reduce the risk of exposure to microbial contaminants, namely Cryptosporidium, a parasite that can cause illness. Ephrata Area Joint Authority will provide customers with continuous updates on their progress in the program.

"Local Water Utility Receives National Award of Recognition" Less Than One Percent of Nation's Utilities Receive Honor

The Municipal Authority of the Township of Robinson's water treatment plant has received the "Directors Award of Recognition" from the Partnership for Safe Water, a national volunteer initiative developed by EPA and other water organizations representing water suppliers striving to provide their communities with drinking water quality that surpasses the required federal standards. The Municipal Authority of the Township of Robinson will be presented the Partnership for Safe Water Phase III Prestigious Crystal Water Drop Award, at the PA Section AWWA 60th Annual



Left to Right - George Haskins, Ed Ford, Kent Lockridge Operations Manager, John Lavrich, Joe Pekala, Dale Greenwald

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. practices undergo a rigorous review developed by national experts, and include a four-phased, self-assessment and peer-review process.

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."

Robinson has committed to the enhancement of drinking water quality and operational excellence in water treatment. By making this commitment, the member utilities' treatment



Pennsylvania
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Another Partnership “Milestone” achieved by two Partners

Downington

Downington Water Authority and Oakmont Boro Municipal Authority are being recognized with a national award for maintaining active Phase III Directors Award status for 5 years.

Employees of the Downington and Oakmont Municipal Water Authority treatment plants earned the prestigious “Five Year Directors Award” for their role in providing additional safety measurements in water treatment as part of the Partnership for Safe Water program.

This is a significant accomplishment as it demonstrates ongoing commitment to optimizing filter plant performance. The Directors Award is presented to water systems who have completed a successful review in the Partnership’s Self-Assessment and Peer Review phase, a phase in which utilities examine the capabilities of their treatment plant operation and administration and then create a plan for implementing improvements.

Downington Municipal Water Authority is a 2.5 million gallon per day water treatment plant, and serves 9,500 customers in Chester County. The water comes from the beautiful East branch of the Brandywine Creek. This state of the art facility went into service September 1994 and will provide Downington residents with safe, economical drinking water for many years to come.

John Lichman, Executive Director and staff should be very proud of their accomplishment.



Left to Right – John Amoriello, Senior Operator, John Lichman, Executive Director, John Fabian, Tech. Section Chief PA DEP and Nathan Roush, Superintendent.

Oakmont

Dennis L. Kreider, Oakmont’s Water Quality Analyst said “The Oakmont Water Authority takes pride in the fact that their treatment plant is optimized, since finishing the self-assessment in Phase III. The time invested working on the self-assessment, helped operators to better understand any weakness, and all involved realized that the turbidities throughout the plant must be kept under the prescribed limits; settled water <2.0 NTU and filter effluent <0.1 NTU. By achieving Phase III status, Oakmont’s customers will know that Oakmont Water Authority is committed to producing the safest and highest quality water possible.

Oakmont provides drinking water service to nearly 40,000 people through approximately 16,000 residential, commercial and industrial connections in Allegheny County. The Authority renovated their filter plant in 1990.



Left to Right – Bill Peterman, Maintenance; Denny Kreider, Lab Manager, Jeff Collins, Operator; Carl Schultz, Asst. Superintendent, Bo Ovamio, Operator; Ed Adams, Plant Superintendent, Bob Mueller, Operator’s Helper; Ken Meglaye, Maintenance.

Performance Evaluation Assessment Committee Tip

The PEAC peer reviewers sometimes receive Phase III completion reports that include turbidity data that are not clear as to how the data were gathered. This will cause the PEAC to ask for clarification, which extends the time needed for review. Here are some tips on how to avoid this possible delay.

Many plants provide one turbidity value per day for raw and settled water data; this daily value should be the maximum value. However, it is not always clear how the value was obtained. It is the instantaneous value from an online instrument? Is it the maximum hourly value taken manually? Make sure you explain (a short discretion is sufficient) how you obtained your measurements.

Another example is plants collecting more data than is required. The Partnership software allows for the entry of up to 6 values per day, and some plants collect data more frequently. However, the Partnership software only allows up to 6 values. Some explanation as to what these data represent are needed, for example, are the maximum of the more frequent values? Are these the values at four-hour intervals? An explanation of what these data represent will go a long way in avoiding the time delays associated with clarifications that may be needed with the review process.

If you have any questions about the data you are submitting contact Bill Lauer, Partnership Program Manager, 303-347-6220 or blauer@awwa.org.

Annual Reports Overdue

Your annual report for the period 6/1/2006 – 5/31/2007 was due in June. Guidelines for annual reports are found on the Partnership website (www.awwa.org). You must use V3.1 (or later) of the data collection software to submit your data.

www.paawwa.org



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Advance Notice: E-mail Annual Report Next Year!

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,” said Debby Qualls, Partnership Coordinator. “There are 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.”

All participating plants must now submit their annual report data (and the narrative for award-winning plants) by e-mail. If you have any questions contact Debby, dqualls@awwa.org.

NOTICE

All participating plants must include a statement of conformance with regulations in their annual report. If you receive a Notice of Violation you must explain the situation and send us a copy of the Notice.

Kudos to the following for submitting annual reports early...

- Blossburg Municipal Authority
- Brodhead Creek Regional Authority
- Carlisle Borough Municipal Authority
- City of Easton
- City of Lancaster
- East Greenville Borough
- Harrisburg Water Department
- Hyndman Borough Water Department
- Jersey Shore Area Joint Water Authority
- Jim Thorpe Water Department
- Johnsonburg Municipal Authority
- Meyersdale Municipal Authority
- Municipal Authority of Lewistown
- Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County
- North Penn & North Wales Water Authorities
- Northampton Borough Municipal Authority
- Oakmont Water Authority
- Pennsylvania American Water
- Pike Township Municipal Authority
- Red Lion Municipal Authority
- Shenandoah Municipal Water Authority

All correspondence should go to Debby Qualls (dqualls@awwa.org). You can still contact Bill Lauer (Blauer@awwa.org) for any technical matters. .