



Partners in PA

Partnership for Safe Water Update

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116

Partners in PA

64 Phase I & II Plants
52 Awarded Phase III



The SPOTLIGHT is on: North East Borough and Western Berks Water Authority



North East Borough

North East Borough, located in Erie County, is the newest Pennsylvania member of the Partnership for Safe Water. The Borough's official commitment to the goals and self-assessment program of the Partnership was recently celebrated at the North East Water Treatment Plant. The celebration was attended by current & past North East leaders and employees as well as local media, representatives from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the Partnership for Safe Water.

A high quality, continuous improvement mindset has long been the focus at the North East Borough Water Department. This mindset is reflected in the comments of Superintendent Randy Culver who says that he and his staff, "have a strong commitment to the community of North East", to, "strive for the highest quality water". Their commitment to optimization is illustrated by actions such as embracing enhanced coagulation, installing new settled water turbidity meters, regularly checking filter bed expansion during backwashes and annually inspecting filter beds for mud ball formation and other problems.

The North East Water Department is also committed to long term, effective capital improvements. For example, prior to 2004, North East's primary raw source was Smith Reservoir, constructed in 1922 and containing water of varying quality. In the early 2000s the Borough constructed an 18" raw water main from Lake Erie to the plant. An intake structure and two pump stations rounded out the project enabling the usage of the higher quality Lake Erie water as the North East Water Plant's primary raw water source.

Other recent major initiatives of the North East Borough Water Plant include the addition of 3 new filters and sedimentation basins, on-going main and meter replacement programs and an active watershed acquisition effort.

Joining the Partnership for Safe Water is the latest example of North East Borough's commitment to providing



Pictured Above: North East Borough Water Treatment Plant.



Pictured to Right ((left to right) Brad Vanderhoof, DEP; Bill Swan, Operator; Lisa Baughman, DEP; Randy Culver, Plant Superintendent; Mark Kaday, Operator; Terry Daughenbaugh, Assistant Superintendent.

high quality water to its more than 4000 customers. North East becomes the latest of 116 Pennsylvania water plants to take advantage of the effective optimization tools and procedures available to Partnership members. The Partnership for Safe Water enthusiastically welcomes North East Borough and looks forward to working with them during their on-going optimization efforts.

Western Berks Water Authority

The staff of Western Berks Water Authority recently obtained the distinction of reaching the Phase III level in the Partnership for Safe Water program known as the Self Assessment Phase. "The program" as it is known in the water community, was developed

by AWWA along with DEP and EPA in the 90's and was envisioned to challenge and assist surface water systems to go beyond what was normally expected of them in terms of treating their water.

As George Torak, Operations Manager of Western Berks Water Authority noted during one of the team meetings while working on the Phase III Self Assessment Report, "we at the water plant feel it is our obligation to produce the best drinking water we can, on a consistent basis, for our customers. The Partnership Program provided a guidance document to reach this optimization goal and a tool to measure the results."

We in the Partnership family welcome George and his entire staff into the extraordinary world of optimization.



Western Berks Water Authority



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Distribution System Optimization Program Status Update

The draft Self-Assessment Guide for Distribution System Optimization was completed and submitted to EPA before the September 30, 2010 deadline. This Guide is similar to the current Treatment Plant Optimization Self-Assessment manual. It contains a wealth of information about distribution system operation and establishes performance goals for the Partnership for Safe Water.

Three measures were selected to evaluate distribution system performance: 1. disinfectant residual, 2. pressure management, and 3. main break frequency. The Guide contains goals for many other practices that will be included in the self-assessment.

The distribution system optimization program is scheduled to be open for enrollment starting January 1, 2011. Systems joining then will become "CHARTER" members. These systems will be able to fast-track their self-assessment and provide feedback that will be used for revising the Self-Assessment Guide. CHARTER systems successfully completing the self-assessment will be eligible for the Directors Award for Distribution System Operation.

Details about the self-assessment goals and procedures for distribution system optimization will be described at the National Conference on Water System Optimization. Anyone interested in learning more should attend this conference in Hershey, Pennsylvania October 18-20, 2010.

Update Your Partnership Info

Send any changes to your *Partnership* contact information to Debby Qualls at 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.

Plants Seeking Phase IV – Register with AWWA!

ALL plants that are actively pursuing the requirements of Phase IV to achieve the "Excellence in Water Treatment Award" MUST register prior to submitting an award application. It is highly recommended that plants register before they even begin to collect the documentation needed to attain Phase IV. Registration must occur at least three months prior to submitting a Phase IV application. The registration is free and the form is included with the Phase IV application on the *Partnership* website at www.partnershipforsafewater.org.

Partnership Rep Wanted for Western Pennsylvania region

The Partnership for Safe Water program (PFSW) focuses on optimizing the operation of water filtration plants and is supported by both the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Section. The rep's primary objective will be to provide technical assistance and training (e.g. report writing and computer software) to systems working through the Partnership's Phase III Self-Assessment process. A secondary objective would be to educate the owners/operators of the benefits of membership in the Partnership, with a goal of enrolling additional filter plants in the program.

This is a compensated and part-time position. If you have a strong background in optimizing surface water treatment plant operations, are knowledgeable and supportive of the PFSW, are proficient with Word, Excel, and the internet, have good people skills and a desire to see the Partnership Program flourish, please contact Nancy Dinger at 717-774-8870 or nancydinger@paawwa.org. EOE

Congratulations to Pennsylvania American Water's 18 Plants for receiving the Directors Award for 10 Years in the PFSW Program!

Pennsylvania American Water has received national awards at 18 of its plants for maintaining the Directors Award of recognition from the Partnership for Safe Water, a national volunteer initiative developed by EPA and other water organizations. These represent water suppliers striving to provide their communities with drinking water quality that surpasses the required federal standards.

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. Eighteen of our facilities have maintained the Directors Award for ten years, an honor achieved by only 32 water utilities across the country.



ALDRICH PLANT



BANGOR PLANT



CEASETOWN PLANT



ELLWOOD PLANT



FOREST CITY



HAYES MINE PLANT



INDIANA PLANT



KITTANNING PLANT



NESSBITT PLANT

ATTENTION OPERATORS: GET 20 CONTACT HOURS for FREE!

Partnership for Safe Water Information Phase III Contact Hours

If you are currently working on the Phase III self-assessment, you may be eligible for 20 contact hours upon receiving a Phase III award. The Partnership for Safe Water course has been approved under the Pennsylvania water and wastewater operator training program for 20 contract hours.

ATTENTION OPERATORS: GET 35 CONTACT HOURS for FREE!

Partnership for Safe Water Information Phase IV Contact Hours

REGISTER NOW— LESS THAN 1 MONTH TO GO

The National Conference on Water System Optimization

"Celebrating the 15th Anniversary of the Partnership for Safe Water Program"

OCTOBER 18-20, 2010

Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA.

- Technical presentations will help utilities optimize water treatment plants and distribution systems.
- Operations personnel, including supervisor, managers, operators, and engineers will benefit from the program.

THE CONFERENCE IS APPROVED FOR 4 PA DEP CONTACT HOURS!

 **The National Conference on Water System Optimization**
October 18-20, 2010 Hershey, PA
For more information, call 717.774.8870