In*Flow*-Line

The Magazine of the CT Section American Water Works and the Connecticut Water Works Associations

Fall 2021



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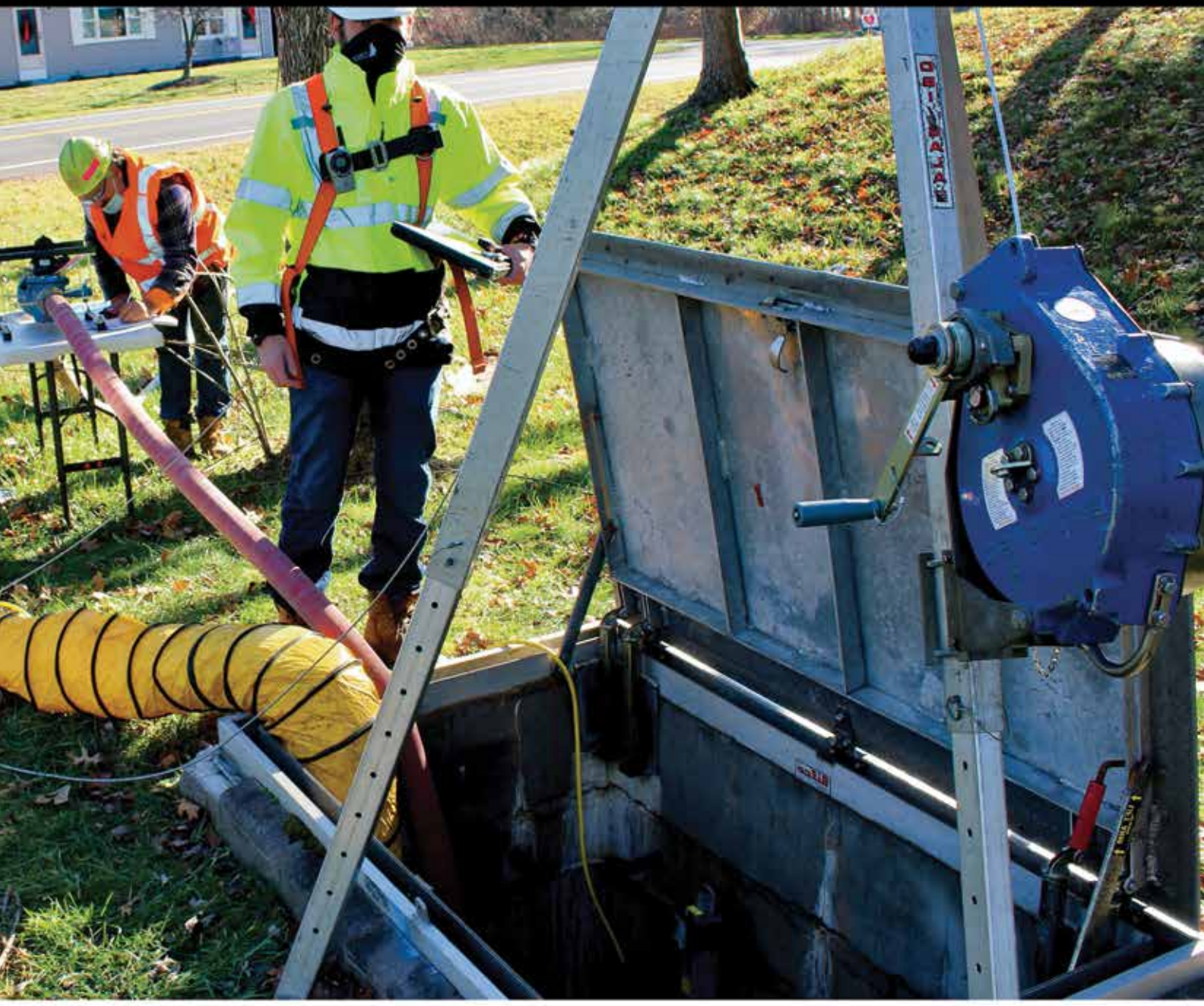
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Volume 16 – Number 3

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Tunxis Plantation, location of the Philanthropic Committee's 26th Annual Golf Classic. Photo by Kathy Fortin.

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Scott Bonett



Return to **Normalcy**

We've all heard the term 'return to normalcy,' and some of us have actually used that statement to describe 2021. According to Wikipedia, '*Return to normalcy* was United States presidential candidate Warren G. Harding's campaign slogan for the election of 1920. It evoked a return to the way of life before the First World War, the First Red Scare, and the Spanish flu pandemic.'

This reminded me that history does repeat itself, and also how our nation can overcome and flourish after events such as the 2020 pandemic.

This year, our nation and our Connecticut Section are recovering from an event which hasn't been seen in most of our lifetimes. In 2020, our Connecticut Section trainings and events had to swiftly pivot to virtual events, which was no small effort. Many of you may not be fully aware of how hard our Board and Committee volunteers worked to implement a completely new virtual platform so that we could continue to provide services to our members.

There are too many people to list who made virtual member engagement possible, but I'm particularly impressed how our 2020 Section Chair Gerry McDermott rose to the challenge during a difficult year. He could have easily 'gone through the motions' and chalked 2020 up as a lost year for CTAWWA. However, Gerry enthusiastically embraced his role as Chair, worked hard to advance Section Initiatives, and most importantly, ensure we could provide training and engagement opportunities for our membership.

Our Executive Director, Romana Longo, also embraced the challenges and put in countless hours to ensure the Section stayed strong and provided value to our membership.

Finally, I'd like to thank William Sullivan at the Connecticut Department of Public Heath, who worked closely with us to ensure we could provide Training Contact Hours for our virtual events.



"I'm thankful that technology has allowed our industry to stay productive and virtually connected during a challenging year, and I'm very much looking forward to collaborating with friends and colleagues in person."

As with every year, there are changes on the CTAWWA Board to ensure a constant influx of new ideas, individuals, and experiences. I'd like to welcome our new Trustee at Large, Hetal Shah, and new Council Chair Steve Vitko to the Board. I'd also like to acknowledge the contributions made by Tom Barger, who served in 2020 as Past Chair but will continue on the Board as a Council Chair, and also the efforts of Tom Cutler, who served as a Council Chair in 2020 and has moved on to new challenges.

This year, I am proud to represent our Section as Chair, and honestly, the job seems easy compared to the challenges our Section faced in 2020. I'm looking forward to continued re-engagement of the Section after a year of virtual communications.

The success of recent CTAWWA events, such as the Yard Goats baseball game, the Philanthropic Golf Tournament, and the Kevin T. Walsh Golf Tournament, have shown that our Section continues to be strong, and they have provided much-welcomed opportunities to interact in person with fellow members.

Given there is still uncertainty as to the end of the COVID pandemic, we are looking to the future and planning both in-person and virtual technical events and training to provide flexibility for our members. I'm thankful that technology has allowed our industry to stay productive and virtually connected during a challenging year, and I'm very much looking forward to collaborating with friends and colleagues in person and an actual 'return to normalcy.'

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Dan Lawrence



The Importance of High Quality Water

I am sitting at a picnic table this morning and looking over our Easton Reservoir and enjoying the view and reflecting on the work it takes to provide high quality water to our customers each and every day. High quality water requires investment in watershed protection, source protection, identifying and addressing encroachments and pollution sources, reviewing possible new developments and utility work, reservoir management, treatment, and lots of passionate people.

Over the past few years, we can see changes that have occurred and some to come that can impact high quality water and the ability to provide water in compliance with regulations.

Right now, we are looking at some critical issues:

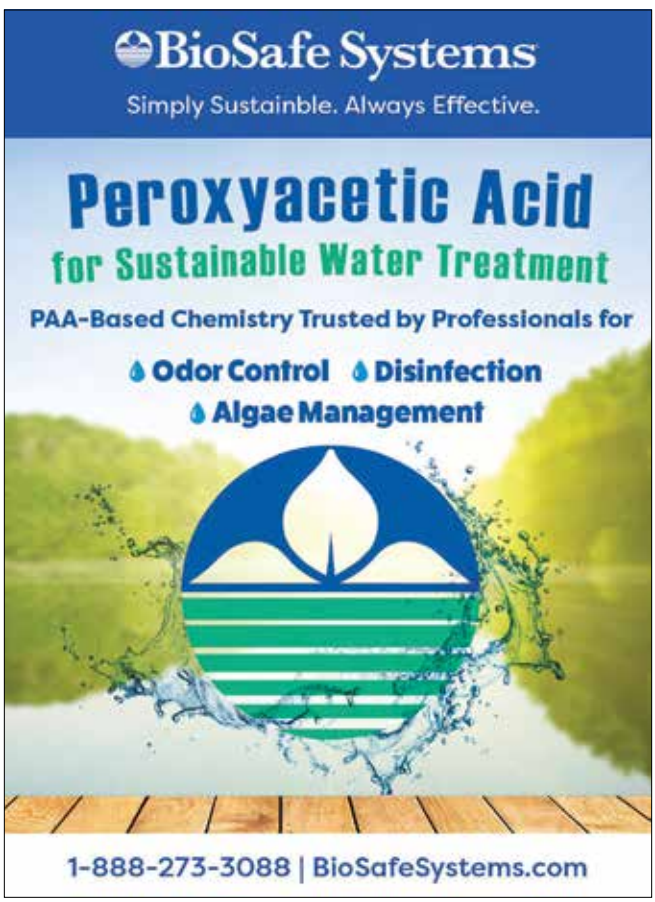
- Protecting our watersheds from new development and solar projects.
- Changes in climate and storms.
- Revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule.
- Changes in the maximum contaminant levels for arsenic and manganese.
- Different PFAs maximum contaminant levels by state.

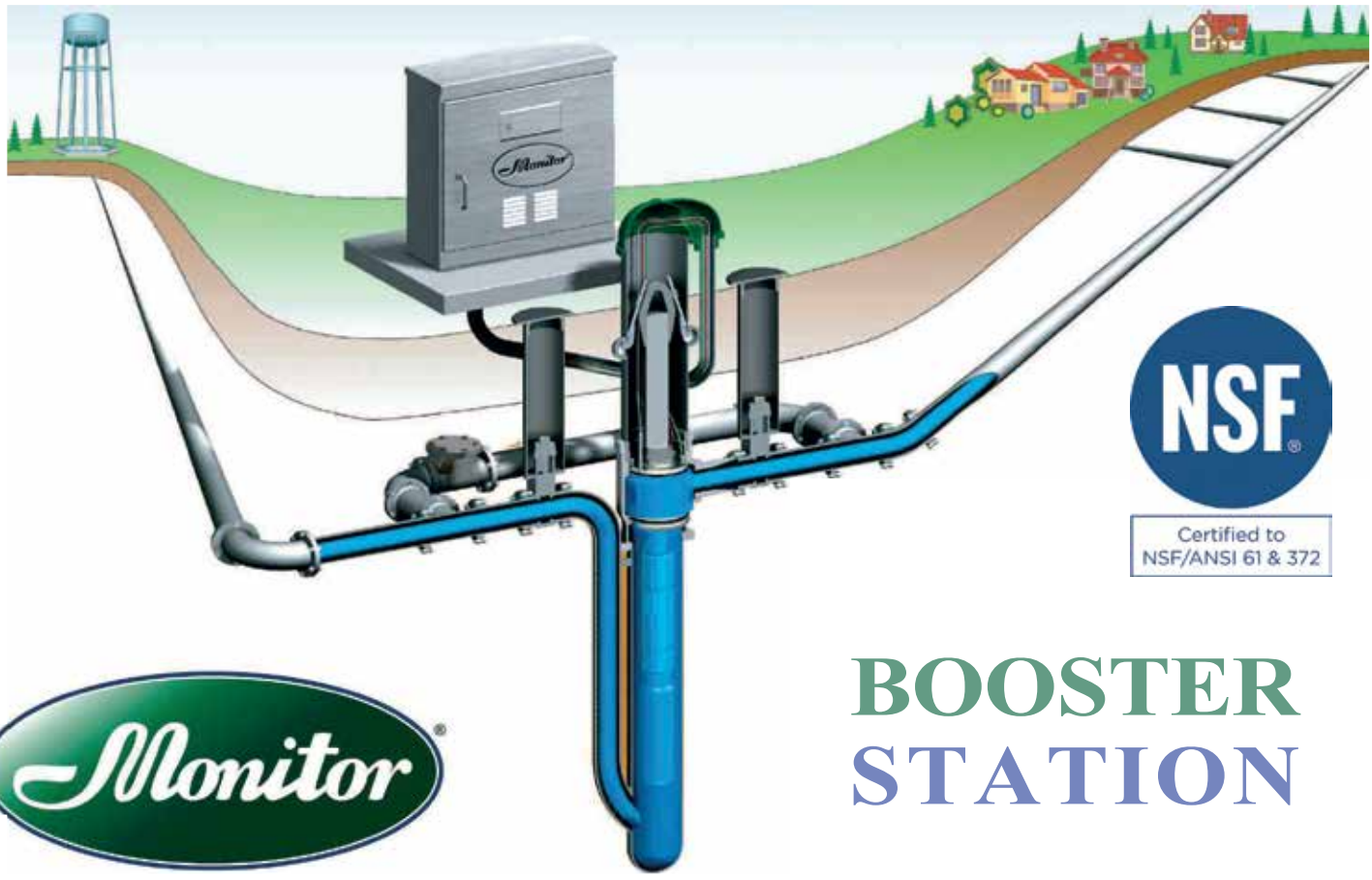
These issues, along with many others, result in ever-increasing requirements and costs to water utilities and eventually customers. CWWA is watching these issues closely and working with our members to develop and implement legislative initiatives for 2021 and looking forward.

If you are not a member, I encourage you to join us and support our efforts addressing legislative and regulatory policies so that water utilities can continue to provide the state's residents and businesses with safe, high quality public water supplies at a reasonable cost.

"I encourage you to join us and support our efforts addressing legislative and regulatory policies so that water utilities can continue to provide the state's residents and businesses with safe, high quality public water supplies at a reasonable cost."







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AWWA Remains Strong in the Face of Challenging Times



Hi folks – summer is now behind us, and what a summer it was. One of the hottest, wettest, and stormiest on record in Connecticut, presenting public water systems with various operating challenges – while at the same time, dealing with the surge of the COVID-19 Delta variant and its challenges.

But once again, Connecticut's water utilities rose to the challenge and succeeded in delivering a continuous supply of high-quality drinking water to customers. The public drinking water industry in Connecticut is strong. Thanks to all of you for keeping it that way during this extended pandemic.

AWWA staff in Denver were very busy over the summer months meeting the challenges facing the Association and pursuing opportunities for supporting Sections and members. Close monitoring of progress on implementation of the business plan goals while making adjustments along the way has resulted in positive results in many areas. Revenues are up and costs have been further reduced, closing the financial gap created by the pandemic's curtailment of in-person conferences and training. Membership recruitment and retention efforts (in coordination with the Sections) have now resulted in an upturn in the total membership numbers.

AWWA staff provided numerous knowledge enhancement and training

"Our Association, together with its Sections and members, continue to provide able stewardship of the world's most important natural resource – championing water knowledge, treatment, and informed regulations, and providing solutions to improve public health, protect the environment, sustain the economy, and enhance the quality of life."

opportunities for members and Sections during this period, including:

- virtual summer workshops (Section leadership training)
- several virtual summits including the YP Summit
- the Transformative Issues symposium series – culminating with the Resilient Water Resources Management topic in August
- many webinars, including several on the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions regulation
- launched the AWWA OpCert Exam Prep app to help operators prepare for certification exams
- published many new or updated AWWA Standards and made them available to members on-line via the envoi platform.

Additionally, AWWA pivoted back to in-person events and delivered conferences on membrane technology, utility management, and water infrastructure, with conferences on water quality technology and North American water loss scheduled for November and December. ACE 22 in San Antonio is scheduled for June of next year.

Meanwhile, the AWWA Government Affairs staff in the Washington, DC, office was extremely busy supporting water industry objectives in the national legislative and regulatory arenas.

Primary legislative priorities included water infrastructure (including monies for replacement of public water system infrastructure and monies for lead service line replacement), cyber security improvements, PFAS, and water pollution control including provisions in the Farm Bill (Source Protection), *Clean Water Act*, *Toxic Substance Control Act*, and the *Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act*.

In these efforts, AWWA staff met with numerous Congressional staff and committees to make sure the interests of the water industry are well represented and to lobby for our positions on the various issues of concern.

On the regulatory front, AWWA staff worked with EPA and other drinking water industry organizations on the development of drinking water regulations and implementation guidance. Key topics during this period included Lead, PFAS, DBPs, Legionella, Cyanotoxins and Affordability. The hottest topic of course was the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions regulation. AWWA submitted comments on the direction EPA should take regarding finalizing the rule, recommending that EPA not re-open the regulation development process and rather focus on implementation guidance.

In closing, I hope that the above gives you reassurance that AWWA remains strong in the face of the challenges of these times, and that AWWA has very capable staff that are doing a superb job. Our Association, together with its Sections and members, continue to provide able stewardship of the world's most important natural resource – championing water knowledge, treatment, and informed regulations, and providing solutions to improve public health, protect the environment, sustain the economy, and enhance the quality of life. Thanks for doing your part in the very important work of the public drinking water industry.







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Steven Ignatowich



CTAWWA/ CWWA Activities:
I have been a member of CTAWWA for the last four years. I have been involved with the Young Professionals Committee and recently became the Chair of the CTAWWA YP Committee this past spring. I look forward to continuing to grow the Young Professionals Committee alongside the other members.

Day Job:
Project Engineer at Environmental Partners in Middletown, CT.

Personal Stats (Hobbies, Family, Residence, Sports Favorites, etc.):
I grew up in Ridgefield, CT, and have lived in Middletown, CT, since graduating from the University of Connecticut with a degree in Environmental Engineering back in 2017. Outside of work, I enjoy anything outdoors, especially running and exploring new areas. Whether it's a new trail or simply a new section of town, I always love exploring my surroundings.

Recent Accomplishments:
I was recently promoted this past summer to Project Engineer and I look forward to the new responsibilities and projects I will take on. I also look forward to continuing to learn and help train the next wave of engineers, as my peers have done for me.

Why volunteer for CTAWWA/CWWA?
I got involved with CTAWWA after being encouraged by existing members. CTAWWA is a great way to interact with people from all aspects of the water industry, whether they work as an operator at a water utility, a vendor for a specific product, or a design engineer for a consulting firm. One moment you will be talking to somebody that has been in the industry for 40 years, and the next – somebody right out of school. Volunteering for CTAWWA provides so many learning experiences that can't be matched at any one job.

What was your first job in the water industry?
My first experience in the water industry was interning one summer during college at my town's wastewater treatment plant. I got to shadow the operators, helping them take samples and perform the daily testing. My first job in the water industry was at Environmental Partners as an entry level engineer concentrated in water distribution infrastructure, where I still work to this day.

What would you like to share?
I'd just like to encourage other young professionals to join CTAWWA and get involved! There are a bunch of fantastic people within this organization and it is not as scary as it seems!

Favorite Water Memory:
My favorite water memory thus far was completing my first water main project. Starting with the survey, going through the design and specification process, bidding, construction administration, and ending with record drawings of the completed construction. It is a great feeling knowing that you were a cog in the process to improving the water infrastructure in your own community.

Some of my other favorite water memories are all the great events CTAWWA organizes, whether it has been learning something new at a Tour and Pour, sitting rinkside at a Hartford Wolfpack game, or simply interacting with all the great people in the water industry.

"Volunteering for CTAWWA provides so many learning experiences that can't be matched at any one job."

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Developing Effective Funding Strategies for Compliance with

THE LEAD AND COPPER RULE REVISIONS PART I



By Christopher Hill, Quirien Muylwyk, John Konkus, and Tom Loto
AECOM Technical Services

Understanding the potential impacts of the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) and having an effective compliance and funding strategy to address the impacts of the rule are critical to meeting the rule requirements. The federal government is currently negotiating a US infrastructure plan and as details emerge, funding for lead service line replacement remains a priority of any future bill. While the details continue to evolve, Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (DWSRF), *Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act* (WIFIA), and federal earmarks are likely vehicles for funding to water systems. As such, it is important to understand how those programs work and what it will take to apply for and administer funds received under those programs to support LCRR compliance.

Introduction

The Lead and Copper Rule Revisions were finalized in January 2021. In June, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) affirmed the rule requirements and extended the effective date of the LCRR to December 16, 2021, and the compliance date to October 16, 2024. The LCRR includes a number of key provisions that will impact water systems, including changes in corrosion control treatment (CCT) requirements, find-and-fix provisions for homes with elevated lead levels, sampling requirements for schools and childcare facilities, and additional public outreach and education requirements.

This article focuses on three specific areas of the LCRR: service line inventories, lead service line replacement (LSLR) planning and changes in compliance monitoring – and strategies to take advantage of available funding for LSLR.

Developing a Service Line Inventory and Understanding LCRR Compliance Risk

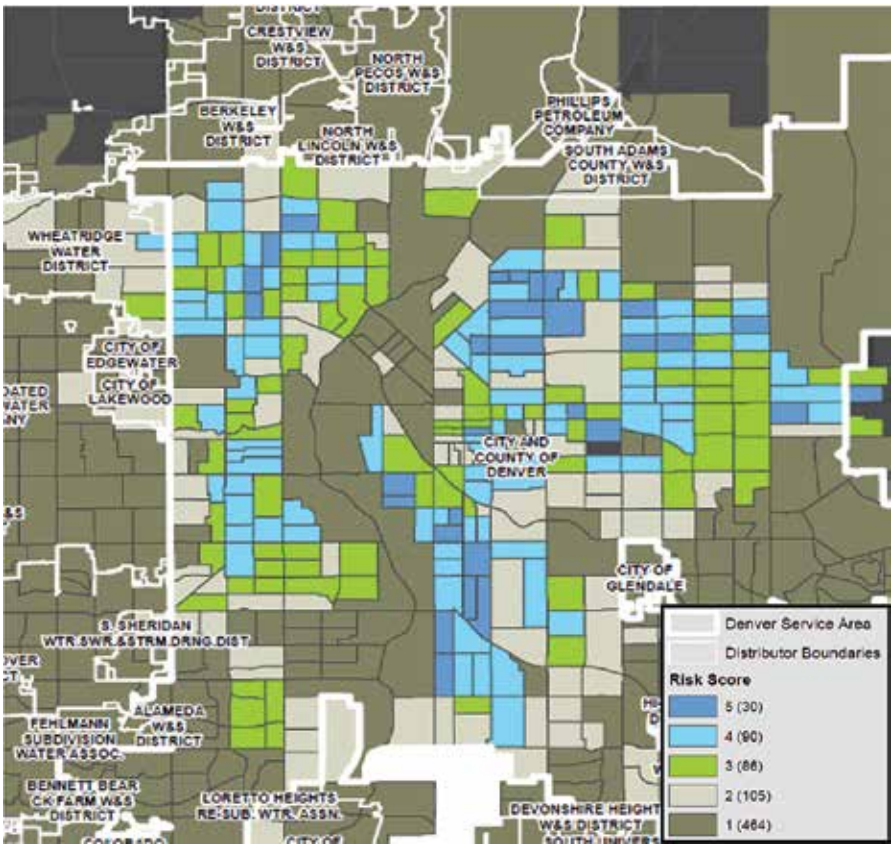
All water systems, including those that do not have lead service lines (LSLs), are required to create a publicly accessible service line inventory by October 16, 2024. Service lines will be given one of four possible designations. Known LSLs will be labeled as 'lead service lines.'

Galvanized service lines that are or were previously downstream of an LSL will be designated 'galvanized requiring replacement.' Service lines of unknown material are to be labeled 'lead status unknown service lines' and those known to be 'non-lead' can be designated as such.

A 'non-lead' designation does not require the water system to identify the exact material of a service line, such as plastic or copper, if it is not an LSL or galvanized requiring replacement service line. It is also worth mentioning that the LCRR does not require water systems to investigate or inventory lead connectors (i.e. goosenecks or pigtails). However, the replacement of lead connectors is expected to be undertaken opportunistically when discovered in the system.

Developing an inventory will be an iterative process due to the availability of records that may be incomplete or erroneous, the presence of unknown service lines, and the need to update the inventory over time.

The inventory must be updated over time to reflect changes, such as verification of unknown service line materials or LSLs that have been replaced. Water systems with only non-lead service lines are required to conduct an initial inventory, but are not required to provide inventory updates and may fulfill the requirement to make the inventory publicly accessible with a statement that there are no LSLs, along with a general



Machine learning can be an effective means of identifying LSL locations and prioritizing replacement.



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description of the methods used to make that determination.

Our experience helping multiple utilities find and document lead services has involved a range of different methods, including:

- Desktop reviews of historical data, building codes and ordinances, maintenance records, staff knowledge, and other sources of data, such as geographical information system (GIS) and asset management information.
- Field investigations, including non-destructive testing or visual check of the interior, observations at the meter, and pothole investigations. Our experience has shown multiple pothole excavations may be necessary, particularly where there is a history of partial LSL replacements or where there is evidence of a service line repair.
- Water quality sampling as an indicator of lead.

If using water quality data to identify possible LSL locations, it is important to consider the role of CCT and its potential impacts on water quality. For example, a water quality profile can be used to observe changes in lead concentrations from the tap to the water main.

Observed increases in lead concentration in samples collected away from the water main can be indicative of an LSL. However, a system using an orthophosphate inhibitor might see little variation in lead and should be cautious about assuming a service line is non-lead based solely on water quality.

The threshold lead concentration used to indicate lead will vary by water system and thus calibration will be necessary to demonstrate the efficacy of water quality sampling to find lead.

Confirmation of Non-Lead Status

One of the most challenging things about the LCRR may be confirming the non-lead status for an individual property or water system. As USEPA has not yet released guidance related to conducting a service line inventory, a recommended first step is to meet with the state or primacy agency to establish expectations for the LSL inventory, including what is required to demonstrate a service line is non-lead versus lead status unknown.

While there is no deadline to investigate the material of all lead status unknown service lines, water systems must include a strategy in their LSLR Plan for investigating the unknowns in their inventory. This strategy, coupled with the

incentive to investigate unknowns to ease the burden of future LSLR, will encourage water systems to verify unknown service line materials in a timely manner.

USEPA states in the LCRR that service lines installed after a state or federal ban on the use of lead may be designated as non-lead, but provides no real guidance beyond that criterion.

In the absence of additional guidance, a pragmatic approach is to balance the risk of lead exposure and the cost to conclusively determine that there is no lead (conduct water quality sampling, perform interior and pothole inspections, etc.), and prioritize service line material confirmation based on that risk.

For example, a household childcare facility located in an area where LSLs are known to exist is a relatively higher priority for confirmation. Alternatively, a service line at a home near an area where a water main was recently replaced and all of the homes were observed to have copper service lines is a lower priority for investigation (or could even be designated 'non-lead' based on discussions with the state or primacy agency).

Lead Service Line Replacement Planning to Reduce the Risk of Lead Exposure

Though USEPA opted not to lower the lead action level (AL) from its current value of 15 ug/L, the revisions establish a new lead trigger level (TL) of 10 ug/L. Compliance and associated actions by a water system are based on the 90th percentile of lead monitoring results in comparison to the AL and TL.

Water systems with LSLs are required to submit a LSLR Plan by October 16, 2024. The rule does not require mandatory LSL replacement unless a system exceeds the AL or TL, however, replacement of the publicly-owned portion of the service line is required when replacement of the privately-owned portion is initiated by a customer.

As such, water systems should develop service line replacement policies and procedures, inclusive of construction materials and methods, customer outreach, and funding strategy before October 2024.

A water system that exceeds the AL must implement full LSLR at a rate of 3% per year. A water system that exceeds the TL must implement LSLR at an annual rate approved by the State. In both scenarios, LSLR can be discontinued after two consecutive years of monitoring below the TL.

The LSLR Plan must describe how replacements are prioritized. It is recommended that LSL replacement be prioritized based on risk. However, risk is relative. A water system with relatively few LSLs may prioritize individual replacements based on lead levels at a particular home and/or based on the risk to occupants.

On the other hand, a system with a significant number of replacements may prioritize both individual sites *and* geographic areas based on risk. It is recommended the following factors be considered to prioritize replacements:

- Location, distribution, and density of LSLs.
- Sociodemographic factors that reflect the consequence of lead exposure.
- Construction constraints and opportunities to minimize community disruption.

When all three are considered, a balance between public health protection and construction efficiencies can be realized. Experience suggests that LSL occurrence often coincides with household income and therefore sociodemographic indicators for poverty, education, and other factors can be used with the lead inventory to determine which areas of a water system might be given higher priority.

Consideration should also be given to construction opportunities (e.g. water main rehabilitation projects) to realize cost efficiencies. A transparent prioritization framework can be shared with the public and city leaders, so that customers know when the lead at their home or in their neighborhood will be replaced and why.

PART II: Coming up in the WINTER 2021 issue of *InFlow-Line*.

"Water systems should develop service line replacement policies and procedures, inclusive of construction materials and methods, customer outreach, and funding strategy before October 2024."



Lead Service Line Replacement Plans are due by October 2024. Though replacement may not be required, the availability of funding should make LSL replacement a priority for most systems.

Table 1. *LCRR sample site tiering criteria.*

Tier	Definition
Tier 1	SFSs served by LSLs.
Tier 2	Buildings, including multi-family residences served by LSLs.
Tier 3	SFS served by galvanized service lines that are/were downstream of an LSL.
Tier 4	SFS service by copper service line with lead solder.
Tier 5	Representative sites.

SFS = Single Family Structure

Water Companies Embrace Environmental Stewardship



Dan Klune, a water treatment operator at Connecticut Water Company's Mackenzie treatment facility in Clinton, constructed and installed duck nesting boxes.

Connecticut's water companies have long recognized their critical role in protecting the state's natural resources and promoting sustainable practices to ensure the continued availability of safe, high quality drinking water. As stewards of the environment, water companies are leading efforts in their communities to protect open space and watershed lands, preserve wildlife habitats, and encourage residents to adopt sustainable practices.

"Protecting the environment has remained a core function of the Metropolitan District (MDC) for over 90 years. From managing over 30,000 acres of watershed land that protects the drinking water supply to the Clean Water Project, a wastewater infrastructure program that has improved the water quality of the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound to our household hazardous waste collection program, the MDC takes its role as a steward of the environment very seriously," said Scott Jellison, MDC Chief Executive Officer.

> *"The MDC takes its role as a steward of the environment very seriously."*

To highlight the company's role as stewards of the environment, MDC released a video describing its efforts. From safely treating wastewater to protect the state's rivers to an annual household hazardous waste collection program, the MDC's dedicated staff takes their job as stewards of the environment seriously.

Protecting Open Space and Watershed Lands

Recognizing how land use activities may negatively impact water quality, water companies across the state are taking steps to protect open space and watershed lands.

In 2020, the Connecticut Water Company purchased for permanent protection 154 acres of watershed land from Oakridge Diary LLC at the Shenipsit Lake Reservoir in Tolland, which is believed to be one of the largest water utility watershed land purchases in the state of Connecticut in decades.

Groton Utilities has worked with local conservation and open space interest groups such as Groton Open Space Association and Avalonia Land Conservancy in support of their efforts of land and aquifer protection and open space with the aim of protecting water quality, preserving forest land, and allowing for open space activities. In 2019, Groton Utilities contributed financially towards Avalonia's purchase and protection of 228 acres of watershed land.

The Atkinson-Thompson Brook Preserve, in Ledyard, provides watershed education through hikes and recreational access.

The South Central CT Regional Water Authority (RWA) manages more than 27,000 acres of land, most of which is owned specifically for the protection of the public water supply and regularly seeks opportunities to acquire and protect new parcels of open space. The RWA has also been instrumental in establishing a new regional conservation partnership (RCP) in the Greater New Haven area called the South Central Regional Land Conservation Alliance. This RCP is an association of local land trust organizations that have come together to work collectively towards fostering open space in the Greater New Haven region.

Last year, Aquarion Water Company announced it had acquired a conservation easement on 15.34 acres of land in Easton adjacent to the company's Easton Reservoir property, which adds to the nearly 20,000 acres of watershed land managed by Aquarion. By acquiring the easement, Aquarion is better positioned to ensure that these vital sources of water are protected. Additionally, keeping water sources clean helps to reduce the amount of treatment that water needs before being delivered to customers.

"It was critical that Aquarion acquire a conservation easement for the Kachele Street property," said Donald Morrissey, President of Aquarion Water Company. "Not only is the parcel an important water source, it is also located in an area with significant potential for real estate development. Were the parcel to be developed, we would have lost the opportunity to permanently conserve the land."

Managing Forest Lands

The RWA employs a forester and an invasive species technician as part of its forest management activities to support source water protection, wildlife habitat and sustainable forest products. Timber harvests ensure healthy forests that help filter and protect the RWA's high-quality water supply. Additionally, best management practices are employed throughout to protect the public water supply.

The RWA maps monitors and addresses invasive plants on watershed forestlands. This work includes research on control methods for species such as barberry, stilt grass, and knotweed, which interfere with forest regeneration, attract disease-causing ticks, and impact water quality. They have worked with University of Connecticut researchers on remote sensing methods for mapping invasive species, as well as the tree damage caused by insects and storm events.



Connecticut Water Project Engineer Adam Wing designed an eel lift to assist migrating American Eels on their journey to spawn in the Sargasso Sea.

Working in partnership with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and The Nature Conservancy, Aquarion Water Company agreed in 2002 to conserve 15,300 acres of forest near its reservoirs as a way to preserve open space, safeguard ecosystems, protect water supplies, and provide for public use consistent with those goals. This land was dedicated by the state as the Centennial Watershed State Forest.

Today, these lands not only provide vital buffers to the drinking water supplies for many thousands of people in Litchfield County, but they also serve as important habitat for numerous species of mammals, birds, and reptiles.

Groton Utilities also works with a certified forester and in 2019 developed a long-term management plan for the forested watershed land bordering its streams, wetlands, and reservoirs. These areas provide natural treatment services and help ensure continued production of clean water. Current forestry management includes timber stand improvements,

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Aquarion Water Company incorporated a notch, weir gate in its Aspetuck Reservoir Dam to provide safe passage for eels.

invasive species control, wildlife habitat improvements and tree seedling nursery for future planting and outreach.

Protecting Wildlife and their Habitats

In addition to preserving open space and watershed lands, many water companies are involved in efforts to protect wildlife and their habitats.

"Connecticut Water began installing wood duck nesting boxes in our watersheds, with the first two being installed near our Kelseytown Reservoir in Clinton. This was met with so much enthusiasm from our employees that the program has been expanded and we're planning to install 40 additional nest boxes (for wood ducks and bluebirds) throughout our company lands in the coming months," said Maureen Westbrook, President, Connecticut Water Company.

Several water companies are also working with DEEP to help American Eels on their journey to spawn in the Sargasso Sea. These projects are part of an overall effort by DEEP to restore populations of the American eel, which have been in decline due to habitat loss and overfishing.

Connecticut Water Project Engineer Adam Wing designed an eel lift which uses water flow to guide migrating eels into a cage-like structure, where they're later cataloged and collected by DEEP officials before being released downstream. "Without the collection system, there is risk of eels swimming into the intake piping of the Water Treatment Plant or facing the challenge of swimming downstream, at a time in the season when natural flows are low," explained Westbrook.

In an ongoing partnership with DEEP and The United States Geological Survey (USGS), Water Treatment Plant operators from Groton Utilities also constructed an American eel collection system. This system collects eels before they enter treatment plant pipework and allows for them to be manually released to the lower estuary. Additionally, intake piping is being upgraded and installed to further ensure eels are not drawn into the plant.

Aquarion, in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy and USGS, has been working to develop methods to restore eel migration routes which can be interrupted by manmade structures, including dams. A notch, weir gate to control the flow of water and a landing pool have been incorporated into the project. These improvements are designed specifically to provide safe passage for the eels into the Aspetuck River.

Additionally, the notch and weir gate will help Aquarion to comply with future streamflow water release requirements in order to improve the health of the State's rivers.

Groton Utilities, in partnership with their electric company lineman, also has a program to install utility poles and platforms in watershed areas as nesting sites for osprey. The birds and nest sites are monitored during the breeding season with CT DEEP and Audubon Society on their interactive map.

The RWA collaborated with DEEP, Save the Sound, and Trout Unlimited on a multi-year project to remove barriers to fish migration on the Farm River in North Branford and East Haven. Over a 15-year period, they worked with these partners to plan and construct two fishways – one constructed in 2014 at an RWA dam, and the other completed in May 2020 further upstream at a privately-owned dam. Together, these fishways have restored access to 5.4 miles of aquatic habitat, enabling spawning migrations of diadromous fish such as alewife, blueback



herring, sea lamprey, sea run brown trout, and American Eel.

Safely Disposing of Household Hazardous Waste

For 30 years, the RWA has operated HazWaste Central, Connecticut's first permanent collection facility for household hazardous waste. In that time, the program helped 6,612 users safely dispose of 110 tons of household hazardous waste. The program helps divert that waste from being improperly disposed of in a landfill. Residents of communities that are members of the program can bring their waste products to HazWaste Central's weekly collections for free, convenient disposal.

Groton Utilities makes educational materials regarding material disposal available to watershed residents as part of its Watershed Sanitary Survey, including the annual schedule of eight free Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events through the Southeastern CT Regional Resources Recovery Authority and information regarding PaintCare, which provides free paint recycling.

Recognizing Environmental Champions

To celebrate Connecticut's environmental volunteers and provides them with an opportunity to be honored statewide for their work, Aquarion Water Company launched its Environmental Champion Awards. Over the past 10 years, top Connecticut companies such as Sikorsky, Bigelow Tea, and Pratt & Whitney and leading non-profit organizations including the Trust for Public Land and the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition have been recognized for their commitment to environmental sustainability.

"Aquarion is pleased to salute the remarkable efforts of Connecticut's environmental advocates," said Donald J. Morrissey, President of Aquarion Water Company. "Thanks to dedicated environmental volunteers, we all benefit from cleaner water and air, fertile soils, and protected habitats for plants and wildlife."

Watershed Clean-Ups

Watershed clean ups have been a regular and favorite event among Connecticut Water employees. While the pandemic has prevented us from getting together in large groups to clean up watershed land, Connecticut Water employees have engaged in their own clean ups across the state with the Company creating contests and prizes for those who participate – keeping things fun while we can't get together.

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26th Annual Golf Classic Wrap Up

By Meagan Heslin

After taking 2020 off due to COVID-19, the event returned to Tunxis Plantation in Farmington, with about 170 golfers enjoying one of the first in-person events in a year and a half!



The 26th Annual Connecticut Section AWWA Fall Golf Classic took place on September 14, 2021, and was a great end to the summer season! The event was organized by the Connection Section AWWA Philanthropic Committee benefiting Water For People and Water Equation. After taking 2020 off due to COVID-19, the event returned to Tunxis Plantation in Farmington, with about 170 golfers enjoying one of the first in-person events in a year and a half!

The annual Fall Golf Classic represents the largest fundraiser for the Philanthropic Committee and this year's tournament raised approximately $11,300 for Water For People and Water Equation! This is the first tournament supporting Water Equation and the Philanthropic Committee looks forward to supporting them for many years to come.

The golfers were treated to a great day of sun, food, and fun, on and off the course. All the golfers received a stylish blue golf shirt sporting the new Philanthropic Committee logo, courtesy of our lead sponsor: Hazen and Sawyer. Other golfer giveaways included a bottle of water from Ferguson and a golf towel from Call Before You Dig.

The morning started with a continental breakfast of pastries and coffee, sponsored by Gesick & Associates, PC, and AECOM. After enjoying breakfast and catching up with colleagues, golfers practiced their swings on the driving range courtesy of sponsors Wright-Pierce and Environmental Partners Group. While on the course, golfers enjoyed burgers and hot dogs thanks to our cookout sponsor Weston and Sampson. In addition to these sponsors, there were 25 individual hole sponsors supporting this event!

After the tournament, golfers enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, dinner, and raffle prizes. After announcing the many tournament prize winners – including the always popular on-course 'poker hand' game, where nearly $2,000 in prizes were raffled. Some of the raffle items that golfers went home with included: tickets to a Red Sox/Orioles game courtesy of AECOM, a $250 gift card for the Max Restaurant Group from Water and Sewer Specialties, and a multitude of golf-related items.

In addition to the sponsors, there were dozens of volunteers who make the Classic the success that it is. The Connecticut Section AWWA Philanthropic Committee would like to thank all of our volunteers and sponsors for your incredible generosity.

Please mark your calendars now for the second Tuesday of September in 2022 as it will mark the 27th year of this great event!

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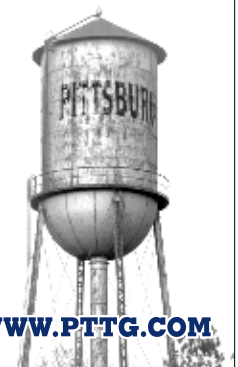


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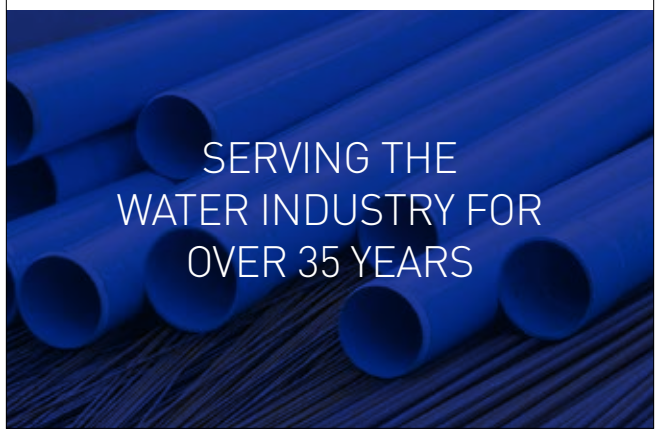
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Connecticut Water and Water Industry Represented at

White House Cybersecurity Summit

Eric W. Thornburg, President and CEO of SJW Group, the parent of Connecticut Water Company, was one of two dozen business and academic leaders invited to the White House on August 25 to meet with President Biden and his national security team on cybersecurity and critical infrastructure resilience. Joining Eric was Walter Lynch, the President of American Water Works Co., academics, and the leaders of companies such as Apple, Amazon, JP Morgan, Bank of America, and Duke Energy.

Cybersecurity is integral to the work of water utilities, as we seek to protect confidential customer and employee data and work to safeguard our water systems and operations. With the increasing number and complexity of cyber threats, there is a need for utilities to invest in cybersecurity systems and talent in the same way we have done in the past for other vital aspects of the business-like water treatment and operations.

Having Eric and Walter included at the Summit shows that the water industry is vital and just as critical to health, wellbeing of citizens, and our national defense as energy, finance, high-tech, and commerce. They met with President Biden, Alejandro Mayorkas (Secretary of Homeland Security) and Jennifer Granholm (Secretary of Energy).

In Eric's words, "It was great to have the water industry at the table and to be completely respected ... you could see people realize what an impact water systems can have on the nation's defenses and how crucial it is to collaborate and share best practices."

This session was a strong first step and there was a commitment among the leaders present to continue the dialogue and share best practices going forward.

> "Cybersecurity is integral to the work of water utilities."

Eric brought with him Connecticut Water's experience with the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority's collaborative approach with their voluntary annual cybersecurity review. The program, which was launched in 2017, is a way to discuss cyber threats, review the utility's programs relative to established cyber frameworks, and discuss emerging issues and opportunities.

Further, a new law passed in the 2021 legislative session (PA 21-119, *An Act Incentivizing the Adoption of Cybersecurity Standards for Businesses*) emphasizes the importance of following established cybersecurity frameworks. The law provides companies protections from punitive damages in the event of a data breach of personal or restricted information if they follow the most current version of specific industry-recognized cybersecurity frameworks.

Another takeaway from the meeting at the White House was that water utilities need to work within the industry to share information and best practices. In addition, it was noted that the larger companies, such as American Water and SJW Group, need to be a resource for smaller water utilities – especially those that do not have cybersecurity expertise on their teams or are not engaged in national collaborative efforts with other industry sectors.

Developing training and career paths to be able to recruit top-notch cybersecurity talent into the industry is also critically important.

Being under the umbrella of SJW Group with its national presence and reputation raised the profile of Connecticut Water and the water industry as a whole, which was well represented in this broader national cybersecurity discussion. Water ISAC membership for utilities is another avenue available for the water industry to raise awareness and to remain informed as to the most current cyber threats against the water sector.

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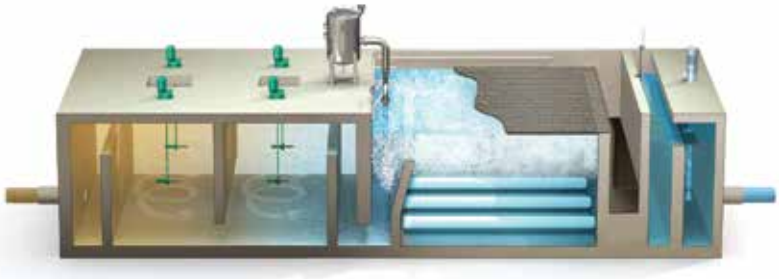
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CWWA Legislative Update

Summary of New Laws Affecting Water Utilities

CWWA's Summary of New Laws is designed to provide water industry professionals with information to assist in compliance with new requirements affecting your system. It is compiled from public act summaries and reports prepared by the Office of Legislative Research and the Office of Fiscal Analysis.

The closure of the Connecticut General Assembly due to the COVID-19 pandemic presented significant challenges in communicating with lawmakers on issues of concern to water companies. Fortunately, CWWA was well-positioned to make our voice heard via text, email, virtual meetings, and webinars. Throughout the legislative session, CWWA held electronic meetings with key legislators, agency officials, and the Governor's Office, testified on bills at public hearings via Zoom, and kept our members up-to-date on key issues.

"Working together, we were successful in addressing important issues facing our water utilities, including the elimination of the Safe Drinking Water Primacy fee."

CWWA also relied on our members to reach out to their legislators and let them know how pending bills may affect their operations and customers. Working together, we were successful in addressing important issues facing our water utilities, including the elimination of the Safe Drinking Water Primacy fee.

CWWA sincerely appreciates all that our members do to provide safe, reliable, high-quality water to customers throughout Connecticut. We look forward to continuing to advocate at the state Capitol and before state agencies on behalf of the state's water companies.

For more, please visit *www.ad23ee97-27e8-47fa-b873-2fd5dd897510.filesusr.com/ugd/9e6474_2011bec889954d988811053b0834301f.pdf.*



Apex Companies, LLC Acquires Environmental Partners Group, LLC

Apex Companies recently announced the acquisition of Environmental Partners Group, LLC, a regional leader in engineering services across water/wastewater/stormwater, civil, transportation, environmental, and other markets.

The acquisition of EP is the latest investment by Apex, a national leader in water resources, environmental services, health and safety, and compliance and assurance.

Based just outside Boston in Quincy, MA, EP brings Apex more than 80 professionals with expertise in drinking water, wastewater, civil engineering, construction management, planning, transportation, owner's project management, and infrastructure asset management.

The firm serves clients across New England with three locations in Massachusetts and one in Connecticut. Founded in 1997, EP has established a strong and loyal client base and earned industry accolades for the quality of their work and the integrity of their people and business practices.

'Like Apex, EP is a top-quartile performer in the AEC industry, outperforming the competition in growth, client satisfaction, and culture,' said Paul Gabriel, EP co-founder and CEO. 'Joining Apex provides an exciting strategic opportunity for us to further expand our impact and capabilities not only in New England, but also on a national scale as part of a likeminded firm that shares our commitment to client service, quality, culture, and growth.'

EP will operate as Environmental Partners, an Apex Company, serving as Apex's lead engineering platform and working collaboratively across the firm's national programs and regional structures.

'The clients we serve are confronting emerging challenges all across their natural and built environment,' said Apex President and CEO David Fabianski. 'EP's engineering expertise and talented leaders and staff will further enhance Apex's abilities to service these needs. In addition, our shared values and commitment to our people and culture will help us learn and grow even better together than we have apart.'

AEC Advisors LLC initiated the transaction and advised Environmental Partners.

Compliance Assistance
New Labor Laws Affecting Employers

Breastfeeding in the Workplace
Public Act 21-27 amends current law regarding breastfeeding in the workplace to require, provided there is no undue hardship, that lactation rooms 1) be free from intrusion and shielded from the public while the employee expresses milk, 2) include or be situated near a refrigerator or an employee provided portable cold storage device where the employee can store expressed breast milk, and 3) include access to an electrical outlet.
Effective date: October 1, 2021.

Cannabis Use
Public Act 21-1 (June Special Session) legalizes the adult-use and possession of recreational marijuana and other cannabis products. The act also includes provisions affecting employer policies relating to the use and possession of cannabis by employees and independent contractors. The labor and employment provisions, which don't go into effect until July 1, 2022, generally prohibit employers from firing or taking adverse action against an employee for using cannabis outside the workplace or deciding not to hire an individual based on past cannabis use. Certain employers, however, including water and sewer utilities, and certain employees and independent contractors, are exempt from the act's labor and employment provisions.
Effective dates: July 1, 2021, July 1, 2022.



Cannabis and Smoking Restrictions
Under *PA 21-1*, smoking of any kind, including tobacco, marijuana, and vaping, is prohibited within 25 feet of any door, window or vent intake of any building open to the public, including restaurants and retail stores. The law also prohibits the use of 'smoking rooms' in places of employment.
Effective date: October 1, 2021.

The Crown Act: Hair Discrimination

Public Act 21-2 makes it an illegal practice to (1) discriminate based on a person's hair texture and protective hairstyle in employment, public accommodations, housing, credit practices, union membership, and state agency practices or (2) deprive any person of any rights secured or protected by the Connecticut Constitution or the United States Constitution. It does so by specifying that the term 'race' includes ethnic traits historically associated with race, including hair texture and protective hairstyles. Under the act, 'protective hairstyles' include wigs, headwraps, and hairstyles such as individual braids, cornrows, locs, twists, Bantu knots, afros, and afro puffs.
Effective date: March 4, 2021.

Prevailing Wage Contract Rates

Public Act 21-154 requires the commissioner to make the prevailing wage rate (including benefits) for each trade or occupation the same as the rate established in the 16 dominant collective bargaining agreements in effect for that trade or occupation for the town where the project is being constructed to codify prevailing wage contract rates.
Effective date: October 1, 2021.

Public Employee Unions

Public Act 21-25 addresses the US Supreme Court decision in *Janus v. AFSCME* by establishing requirements for public employers (i.e. the state, municipalities, and local or regional boards of education) to provide public employee unions with 1) certain information about new and current employees, 2) access to new employee orientations, and 3) access to (a) the employees that they represent and (b) government buildings and facilities to conduct meetings with bargaining unit members. It also establishes requirements and criteria related to payroll deductions for dues paid to public employee unions.
Effective date: October 1, 2021.

Salary Ranges for Vacancies

Public Act 21-30 requires employers to disclose to job applicants the salary ranges for vacant positions upon request or prior to or at the time an offer of compensation is made, whichever is earlier. The act also requires employers to provide wage ranges to employees upon a change in position. In addition, the act broadens the standard used to determine whether an employer is discriminating in the amount of compensation the employer pays an employee based on sex.
Effective date: October 1, 2021.

Unemployment Compensation

Public Act 21-5 provides that to the extent allowed by federal law and as necessary to respond to the spread of COVID-19, for any taxable year commencing on or after January 1, 2022, the experience period shall be calculated without regard to benefit charges and taxable wages for the experience years ending June 30, 2020, and June 30, 2021.
Effective date: October 1, 2021.

Quarterly UI Reporting Requirements

Section 340 of *PA 21-2* (June Special Session) requires most employers subject to the state's unemployment law to include specified data about each employee in their quarterly wage reports to DOL. (The requirements do not apply to employers with 49 or fewer employees that have an electronic payroll system.) Specifically, employers must also report the following data for each employee: 1) gender identity, age, race, ethnicity, veteran status, disability status, and highest education completed, 2) home address and address of primary work site, 3) occupational code under the Bureau of Labor Statistics standard occupational classification system, 4) hours and days worked and salary or hourly wage, and 5) employment start date in the current job title and, if applicable, employment end date.
Effective date: The act phases in the reporting requirements, based on the employer's number of employees.

Unpaid Leave to Vote

Section 94 of *Public Act 21-2* (June Special Session) requires employers, through June 30, 2024, to give an employee two hours of unpaid time off from his or her regularly scheduled work on the day of a regular state election to vote if the employee requests it within two working days in advance. In the case of a special election for a US Senator, US Representative, state senator or state representative, the requirement applies only to employees who are already electors.
Effective date: Upon passage.

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Welcome New Members

Kelsey Adamson, *Student*

Luke Amory, *Jacob's Engineering Group*

Douglas Arndt,
Southington Waterworks Department

Tim Cannata, *AECOM*

Mike Dixon, *First District Water Department*

Matthew Knecht, *Student*

Julie Mangino,
Aquarion Water Co. of Connecticut

Vincent Masterson, *Veolia Charlton*

Jerry Morin, *Rogers Corporation*

Eric Mullai,
Aquarion Water Co. of Connecticut

Charles Nehrig, *TTM Technologies*

Manish Pawar, *Student*

Gregory Pillar, *Student*

Hannah Swearsky,
Aquarion Water Company

Eric White, *Burt Process Equipment*

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The Associates Committee sponsors the Annual Section Enhancement Program. CTAWWA Enhancers include manufacturers, suppliers, consultants, service providers, utilities, and contractors. The Section Enhancement Program offers outstanding recognition for participants in the program, and sponsors luncheons, speakers, welcome gifts, scholarships, and fundraising raffles at CT Section events.

For additional information about becoming a CTAWWA Enhancer, visit the CTAWWA website at *www.ctawwa.org.*

Governor Lamont Nominates Dr. Manisha Juthani as Public Health Commissioner



Governor Ned Lamont recently nominated Dr. Manisha Juthani to serve as commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Public Health.

Dr. Juthani is an infectious diseases physician at Yale School of Medicine in New Haven, where she specializes in the diagnosis, management, and prevention of infections in older adults. Her most recent area of interest is at the interface of infectious diseases and palliative care, including the role of antibiotics at the end of life.

She completed her undergraduate training at the University of Pennsylvania, attended Cornell University Medical College, completed residency training at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Campus, and was a chief resident at Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. She arrived at Yale School of Medicine in 2002 for infectious diseases fellowship training and joined the faculty full-time in 2006. She assumed the role of infectious diseases fellowship program director in 2012.

"Dr. Juthani's background in infectious diseases will be a tremendous benefit to the people of Connecticut as we continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen our vaccination efforts."

"Dr. Juthani's background in infectious diseases will be a tremendous benefit to the people of Connecticut as we continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen our vaccination efforts," Governor Lamont said.

In accepting the nomination, Dr. Juthani will succeed Dr. Deidre Gifford as head of the state's public health agency. For the last 14 months, Dr. Gifford has been serving dual roles within the Lamont administration. Although her primary position is as commissioner of the Department of Social Services, in May 2020 she agreed to also serve as commissioner of the Department of Public Health in an acting capacity while a search was underway to permanently fill the position.

Ti-SALES Welcomes Danny Smith as Director of Strategic Markets



Ti-SALES, a leading distributor of water and wastewater solutions, announced today that Danny Smith has joined the firm as Director of Strategic Markets. Danny brings over 30 years of experience in the water and wastewater industry; his expertise with chemical feed and monitoring equipment will help Ti-SALES continue to be a strong resource for municipal water and wastewater customers.

"We are thrilled to welcome Danny to Ti-SALES after knowing and collaborating with him for many years in his prior roles," said Marty Mazzella, President of Ti-SALES. "Danny's deep insight into all corners of the water industry, and especially his expertise with water treatment solutions, makes him a perfect addition to our team of knowledgeable experts."

"I'm excited to be a part of a team so committed to providing the highest quality products and solutions to meet customers' long-term needs."

As Director of Strategic Markets, Smith will be tasked with identifying and evaluating complementary product lines to expand Ti-SALES's existing solution offerings. "I'm excited to be a part of a team so committed to providing the highest quality products and solutions to meet customers' long-term needs," said Smith. "Water treatment is an increasingly complex and inarguably vital field, and it's my hope that we can continue to be a valued partner to our customers as they address these complexities."

Prior to Ti-SALES, Smith served as the Vice President of Sales at a leading New England distributor of fluid handling equipment to manufacturing and municipal markets.

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Opportunity for Individuals Desiring to Present at the CTAWWA Annual Technical Conference & Vendor Expo (ATCAVE) 2022

The CTAWWA is planning to conduct ATCAVE in person at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville, CT, on March 3, 2022. Each presentation will be approximately 40 minutes in length, allowing 30 minutes for presenting the topic and 10 minutes for response to questions. CTAWWA will provide moderators and technological support to assist presenters during the program.

Suggested Topics: Innovative Solutions, Sustainability, Resilience and Cyber Security, Efficiency and Water Loss, Asset Management, Hydraulic Modeling, Conservation, Emerging Technologies, Information Technology, Rate Management, Strategic Planning, Plant Operations, Small Systems, Water Treatment, Residuals Management, Engineering, Construction, Maintenance, Regulatory Issues, Distribution, Utility Management, Safety (including COVID-19 related topics), and Water Quality (including Lead/Copper and PFAS topics).

What to Submit: Please complete our online form, including presentation title, a short description of the presentation, and names of presenters, at *https://ctawwa.wufoo.com/forms/ctawwa-abstract-submittal-form.*

Deadline: Submissions are due by **November 30, 2021.**

Criteria for Selection: Program Committee members will review the submissions based on the following criteria: originality, innovative, significance of work, audience range, technical content, case studies, quality of abstract, real-life application.

Please note the selection of presentations for ATCAVE 2022 will be made by the CT Section AWWA Education and Program Committee, with presenters being notified by December 31, 2021.

Fresh Ideas: The Education and Program Committee is inviting Young Professionals to participate in the 'Fresh Ideas' Competition at ATCAVE. 'Fresh Ideas' Young Professionals competition at ATCAVE is for presenters 35 years or younger. YP presenters will be selected to present a 30-minute presentation during the regular sessions at ATCAVE. From those who present, one winner will be selected and CTAWWA will provide a travel allowance of up to $1,000 to cover the cost of airfare and hotel during ACE22 in San Antonio, TX, from June 12-15, 2022. AWWA will cover the cost of conference registration and the winner's employer should be asked to cover the cost of their time to attend this prestigious conference and present a poster at the 'Fresh Ideas' poster session. Above submission guidelines apply to contestants.

The water topics will be presented to the CT Department of Public Health for CEU approval for attendees.

If your paper is selected for possible presentation, you will be contacted and requested to prepare a more detailed abstract and biographical sketch of all team members. Additional information must be submitted by January 14, 2022, for inclusion in our program.

Questions: Please call Program Co-Chairs Steve Rupar at 475-882-1701 or Peter Grabowski at 413-572-3234.

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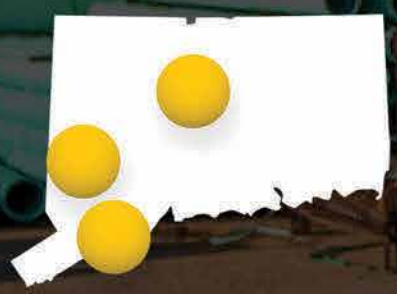
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