



# Partners in PA

Partnership for Safe Water Update

Volume 13 • Issue 1

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# 117

Partners in PA

62 Phase I & II Plants  
54 Awarded Phase III  
1 Phase IV  
17 PFSW Distribution Systems



## The SPOTLIGHT is on: Partnership for Safe Water Plants & Distribution systems



### This could be you...

The Partnership for Safe water is a National Program sponsored by AWWA, as an ongoing effort to offer help to program members to outline ways to optimize their entire water systems. Individualized programs are available to systematically evaluate their systems and develop in-house strategies for improvement of water quality without major capital expenditures. The program is designed to take a step-by-step evaluation approach by the system operators, to optimize the day to day methods of the way they currently do things, and make sure the system is utilizing all the current tools already designed into the individual systems.

This process is called the Phase III portion of the program for Treatment Plants. It is a rigorous self-paced, self-assessment program, in which the Plant staff evaluates each step of the current process, and looks for possible changes to individual parts of current treatment strategy.

The Phase IV part of the program takes it a step farther, by demonstrating complete optimization of the system. This will include verification by a team of water professionals from outside the Plant Staff.

There are many benefits to working through the Phase III & IV portions of the program in addition to optimization, such as: **Recognition** by your peers in the Water Industry that you take Water Treatment and Distribution very seriously and continuously strive to produce a product superior to established regulatory guidelines. **Maintaining the confidence** of your utilities customers, that you are providing the safest product possible from your facilities, and doing so in a cost effective manner. **Confidence of Regulatory Agencies**, in that you have evaluated your entire system and rigorously maintain its operation by enhanced monitoring and trending to make sure the operations stay optimized. **Early warning** of deviations to water quality conditions by enhanced trending of current operation conditions. **Continuing education credits** for participants who achieve these goals as recognition of your efforts to provide Safe Water to all of your customers, all of the time.

The newest part of the Program is dedicated to Distribution system optimization. This part is patterned after the Treatment Plant program, and many systems have embraced this part as a way to fully optimize their systems from **Source to Tap**, to provide the best quality water their system can produce.

The Partnership Staff is ready, willing, and able to help your utility reach these goals. The choice is up to you.

—John Bartol



### What's next after Phase III?

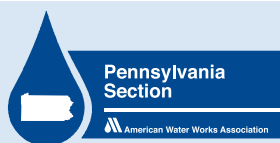
by Gordie Miller

Have you already achieved the Phase III Directors Award for your treatment plant and wondered what's next? What is the next goal? Well the Partnership for Safe Water Program has the answer. It is a voluntary program based on individual filter performance. This is a more stringent assessment of performance goals for each individual filter, not just combined filter effluent goals as is the case in Phase III. The President's Award recognizes those Operators that are able to achieve high levels of individual filter turbidity performance, the Excellence in Water Treatment Award recognizes those Operators' that achieve and continuously maintain the highest levels of plant performance.

To be eligible for the **President's Award** you must provide 12 months of **individual filter** turbidity data and be a Phase III Directors award plant that is in good standing. Listed below are the three Phase IV performance goals required: (Please go to the AWWA web site, Partnership, Program Requirements for more information)

- Filtered water turbidity less than 0.10 NTU 95 percent of the time based on values recorded at 15 minute intervals (or more frequent)
- Maximum filtered water turbidity goal equal to or less than 0.30 NTU for all sample locations

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# Thank You...

Thank you so much for the nice thoughts as I start my retirement. I am sure you know that without the tremendous support of the Pennsylvania Section the Partnership would have the impact it does.

It has been a pleasure to work with all of the dedicated professionals at the Section, the utilities, and the PADEP.

You never know, our paths may cross again and I look forward to that.

—Bill Lauer

## National Partnership program manager retires

After more than 15 years as Program Manager for the Partnership for Safe Water, I have announced my retirement effective Sept. 1, 2012.

I wish to express my gratitude to all of the great volunteers that have been involved with the program. It has truly been an honor and pleasure to work with all of you. Debby (Qualls) and I have been inspired by your dedication and passion.

I want to give special thanks to the members (both past and present) of the Steering Committee. It has been a pleasure to work with these selfless public servants. The attitude they exhibit to help their colleagues improve has been truly gratifying. They have always treated me as a respected member of the Partnership team so I never felt like only an employee. For this I will be forever grateful.

I am happy to see the program still benefiting utilities as they strive for excellence. This is amazing after 15 years. Many of the utilities that joined the program in its early years are still participating and continue to find value. The Partnership for Safe Water is an incredible program. I know of no other voluntary self-improvement program that collects actual performance data. This provides undeniable evidence of the results of the program—It works and we can prove it. This makes the Partnership unique.

My career in water supply began in graduate school where I was one of the first to explore the characteristics of ion selective electrodes for fluoride analysis. Later I spent more than 22 years with Denver Water in various capacities: laboratory chemist, assistant superintendent of water treatment, program manager for the (\$30 million and ten years to complete) direct potable water reuse demonstration project, and director of water quality.

After leaving Denver Water I was fortunate to spend several years as a principal for MWH Global, Inc. AWWA has been my home for the last 15 years where I was Program Manager for the Partnership for Safe Water. Now I am moving on to another phase in my life, but those of you who know me will appreciate that I won't be sitting around. I will be looking for some part-time projects to keep me busy so if you have something where you think I could help, contact me.

It has been a great ride, and it's not over yet!

—Bill Lauer



*Bill Lauer, retiring after many years of outstanding leadership*

## Welcome Aboard Barb Martin!

Barb Martin recently started at AWWA as Manager of the Partnership for Safe Water program replacing Bill Lauer. She has been an AWWA member and Rocky Mountain Section volunteer for a number of years and said she is looking forward to being a part of the AWWA organization.

Barb's past experience has primarily been in the drinking water field, and prior to AWWA she worked at Hach Company and Orica Watercare in positions that included R&D chemistry, water/wastewater operator training, and business development for instru-

mentation and water treatment equipment. She is also a certified drinking water operator in the state of Colorado.

Feel free to contact Barb if you have any questions or would like to discuss anything relating to the Partnership program. Barb can be reached at [bmartin@awwa.org](mailto:bmartin@awwa.org). Over the coming weeks she hopes to have the opportunity to speak with many of the PFSW people personally. She said that she looks forward to working with the PFSW to ensure the continued success and growth of the program.



Looking ahead...April 23 – 25, 2013

65<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference at the  
The Hershey Lodge • Hershey, PA

Visit [www.paawwa.org](http://www.paawwa.org) for more information.

# Aqua PA's Ingram Mill Water Treatment Plant achieves Phase III

by Bob Donnelly

The Partnership representative's recently awarded Aqua PA's Ingram Mill Water Treatment Plant with the Phase III award. They conducted a short quiz necessary for each operator participating in the program to take in order to receive 20 ceu's which DEP implemented in acknowledgement of the importance of the Partnership program. The ceu's notwithstanding, every operator at the occasion discussed their experiences and successes with the Phase III part of the program, outlined things they learned, changed and success realized along the way.

This is the second award for Aqua PA, the first was for Roaring Creek WTP located in Shamokin, PA. This facility is now considering the Presidents Award and moving onto Phase IV using the many tools available to Partnership members.



## What's next after Phase III? continued from page 1

- Maximum backwash recovery period goal of fifteen minutes (time turbidity is above 0.10 NTU)

Generally, if you have attained the President's Award your system should be ready for the Phase IV step. The general requirements of **Phase IV**, also known as the **Excellence in Water Treatment Award**, are as follows: (Please go to the AWWA web site, Partnership, Program Requirements for more information)

- Participation in Phase IV is voluntary.
- Prior to the Phase IV application, the plant must have completed Phase III, received the Directors Award and be a current member of the Partnership in good standing.
- The plant must complete the application process and all required documents and data listed in the minimum reporting requirements.
- The plant must submit 12 months of individual filter performance data.
- Phase IV President Award applicants must undergo plant verification.

To be considered for the either award a plant will be required to submit plant performance data. This data should be from the most recent 12 month period for combined filter effluent, settled water turbidity and raw water data using the Partnership for Safe Water spreadsheet software.

Using the performance goals, the plant must also be able to prove that the individual filter turbidity is equal to or less than 0.30 NTU at **all times** during a filter run and that the turbidity is lower than 0.10 NTU within 15 minutes during backwash recovery (filter-to-waste). The 95th percentile for each monthly individual filter's turbidity must be equal to or less than 0.10 NTU based on a 15 minute or less sampling rate. You may report the 96th to 99th percentile as well for the President's Award, but it is required for the Excellence in Water Treatment Award. The turbidity data must be a discrete value and not an average.

Another important component is verifying that the data is reliable and accurate. Documentation must be provided to describe sample locations, type of equipment, calibration and verification of turbidity data and operating procedures to ensure data reliability. If you feel that your plant is performing to the level of these stringent performance goals you can be the next plant in Pennsylvania, as well as the rest of the Country, to be recognized with these prestigious awards.

Contact one of your Partnership Representative's through the PA-AWWA office to discuss your next step at: 717-774-8870 or Nancy Dinger at [nancydinger@paawwa.org](mailto:nancydinger@paawwa.org)

## Welcome John Bartol



We welcome John Bartol to the Partnership for Safe Water program as a representative to provide support to the Partnership facilities along with Bob Donnelly and Gordie Miller.

John comes to the Partnership with 35 years of experience in the Water industry. He has worked at the City of Allentown, Miller Environmental and Easton Suburban. He was instrumental in the achievement of PFSW's Phase III status at both the City of Allentown and Easton Suburban. We are happy to have John as a member of our team!!

## Ed Chescattie continues to help Partnership in new role

Ed Chescattie has served on the national Partnership for Safe Water (PFSW) Steering Committee since 2006 representing the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators. Because Steering Committee terms are limited to a maximum of six years, Ed's appointment ended in February 2012.

Ed is currently Chief of the Planning and Conservation Section for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection in the Southcentral Region. Prior to his service on the PFSW Steering Committee, he was active on the Program Effectiveness Assessment Committee (PEAC) reviewing self-assessment reports and helping treatment plant operators optimize their operation.

Ed has been an invaluable member of the PFSW volunteer team, offering his perspective to strengthen the program. He has helped to refine the Phase IV process and was instrumental in the formulation of many Partnership policies and procedures. Ed's contribution to the Partnership will be greatly missed.

Although Ed will no longer be serving on the Steering Committee, he is not leaving the Partnership. Ed is now serving on the distribution system PEAC to help create the guidelines for that program's self-assessment report and reviewers.



*Ed Chescattie*



*Photo by David Hatcox/AWWA*

## Oakmont receives Director's Award at ACE national conference

Edward Adams (center), Plant Superintendent at the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Oakmont, receives the Partnership's 10-Year Director's Award from (left) Charles Anderson, President of AWWA, and Eric Bissonette, EPA Chief of Staff, Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water.



## West Shore Plant celebrates award

Celebrating their Phase III status in the Partnership Program at their West Shore Treatment Plant are PA American Water's (front row) Dan Hufton, Jim Shotto (back row) Bob Schnitzler, Dale Skinner, Jon Prawdzik, Gary Witmeyer and Paul Zielinski. Not pictured: Cindy Hitz, Water Quality Superintendent who was instrumental in the plant reaching Phase III.

**The Partnership's mission**  
is to improve the quality of  
drinking water delivered to  
customers of public water supplies  
by optimizing system operations.

*Happy Holidays  
to all the partners!*

from PA Section AWWA

