GURRENTS

PWSA Ramps Up Infrastructure Investments to Manage Stormwater



Phase Two of the Wightman Park project will include planters, like this one constructed along Solway Street during Phase One, to capture and soak up stormwater runoff then direct any excess into the new infrastructure within the park.

The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority is building innovative infrastructure projects to reduce flooding, basement backups, and combined sewer overflows to our rivers. When our sewer system was created more than a century ago, it was not designed to handle today's rainfall and runoff from paved surfaces.

During the past decade, PWSA has been expanding our stormwater management services to slow down, capture, and filter stormwater before it reaches our overwhelmed sewer pipes. These stormwater projects help reduce pollution, increase public safety, and beautify neighborhoods,

PGH₂O

which provides a higher quality of life for Pittsburghers. To build on the progress made by the completion of several stormwater projects in 2020, we plan to begin construction of five more stormwater projects this year.

Wightman Park: Phase One

In 2020, we completed the first phase of the Wightman Park Stormwater Project in Squirrel Hill through a partnership with the City of Pittsburgh. In addition to improving the park's safety and accessibility, the project includes a rain garden and underground storage system that capture stormwater runoff and promote better drainage.

Wightman Park: Phase Two

Construction began this April on the second phase of the

Wightman Park Stormwater Project. These street improvements will capture and direct stormwater runoff from portions of Wightman Street, Solway Street, Woodmont Street, Negley Avenue, and Murray Avenue to the new infrastructure within the park.

Maryland Avenue

This summer, we will begin the first phase of the Maryland Avenue Stormwater Project in Shadyside. This project will focus on parking lane improvements and underground storage along Howe Street and Kentucky Avenue, between South Negley Avenue and College Street, to reduce basement backups, neighborhood flooding, and combined sewer overflows.

Woodland Road

The Woodland Road
Stormwater Project on
Chatham University's
Shadyside campus will begin
construction this summer.
We are partnering with
Chatham University to build a
dry stream bed with stones,
engineered soil, and plants
to slow down and soak up
stormwater by the intersection
of Woodland Road and Chapel
Hill Road.

Thomas and McPherson

This fall, we plan to begin phased construction of the Thomas and McPherson Stormwater Project in North

COMING UP:

Next Board Meeting:

June 25

For a complete list of PWSA's board and community meetings, please visit pgh2o.com/events-meetings.

Following COVID-19 restrictions, meetings are held virtually and may be tentative or postponed.

Point Breeze. Improvements include underground stormwater storage, permeable paver parking lanes, and a permeable paver "green alley", as well as water main and lead service line replacements within portions of the project area.

Four Mile Run

After completing the construction of two drainage channels in Schenley Park as part of the Four Mile Run Early Action Projects in 2020, we plan to begin construction of the larger Four Mile Run Stormwater Project in The Run neighborhood and Schenley Park in fall 2021. The stormwater project includes improvements to Panther Hollow Lake, a restored stream in Junction Hollow, new storm sewer pipes in The Run, and a large stormwater pipeline to the Monongahela River.

Learn more about our stormwater investments at Pgh2o.com/stormwater-projects.

DIRECTOR'S CUT

By Chief Executive Officer Will Pickering

Infrastructure Investment: The time is now!





Investing in Pittsburgh's water infrastructure is an investment in people, the community, and the regional economy. Higher water quality and reduced pollution in our waterways makes this region more desirable to businesses, increases property values, and improves quality of life for everyone in the region. To put it another way, no community can thrive without clean water.

As the federal government considers the adoption of an infrastructure bill, the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority recognizes how that could alleviate the financial burden on our ratepayers by offsetting the cost of the investment we must make over the next several years.

We are currently embarking upon the largest capital investment in our history. Our capital budget of \$1.2 billion will rebuild key components of our water production and distribution systems, replace lead lines, rehabilitate aging sewer pipes, and build innovative stormwater infrastructure.

These projects will improve water quality, reliability, and safety and it is the first major investment in our infrastructure since our water systems were built a century ago.

Since the majority of our funding comes from ratepayer dollars, funding from state and federal sources is necessary to reduce the onus on PWSA customers and to more quickly advance our infrastructure investment - especially during a time when these projects can no longer be delayed.

We have been fortunate, though, to offset some of this cost by using state and federal funding programs. Our Community Lead Response and small-diameter water main replacement projects are prime examples. Since 2018, we have received \$160.6 million in low-interest loans or grants from the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority

(PENNVEST), which has saved ratepayers a total of \$112 million.

We were also recently invited by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to apply for a Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan. If approved, it would provide 49% of the funding needed for the projects in our Water Reliability Plan.

Earlier this month, PWSA participated in United for Infrastructure, a national event to raise awareness about our country's infrastructure needs. We had the opportunity to spotlight our Community Lead Response and join a national panel of water sector innovators to discuss future plans for Pittsburgh's water infrastructure.

Within the water industry, there is tremendous momentum to encourage investment from the federal government. An infusion of federal dollars will support overdue improvement projects, reduce the need to increase our rates in the future, and prioritize the families, workers, and businesses that rely on our services each day. PWSA is part of the conversation and is doing its part to elevate awareness about the need for federal investment in Pittsburgh.

"An infusion of federal dollars will support overdue improvement projects, reduce the need to increase our rates in the future, and prioritize the families, workers, and businesses that rely on our services each day."

PWSA Welcomes Three New Additions to Board of Directors

New Board Chair, Alex G. Sciulli, and Board Members, Peg McCormick Barron and Mark Anthony Thomas, bring a diverse array of experience and expertise to our Board of Directors.



PWSA Board Chair, Alex Sciulli



PWSA Board Member, Mark Anthony Thomas



PWSA Board Member, Peg McCormick Barron (Photo by Steve Mellon, Post-Gazette)

At the April 2021 board meeting, we were pleased to announce Alex G. Sciulli as our new Board Chair. Alex's appointment comes after the retirement of former chair and longtime board member, Paul Leger, in March.

In his early professional engineering career, Alex served as the Director of the City of Pittsburgh Water Department and the Director of Engineering and Construction. More recently he held a consulting role with PWSA, where he served as the Chief of Program Management, led the effort to incorporate a stormwater master plan, and managed the design of the Four Mile Run Stormwater Improvement Project.

The PWSA Board of Directors is also excited to be joined by new Board Members Peg McCormick Barron and Mark Anthony Thomas. With their addition, our board is now comprised of nine members. Transitioning to a ninemember board was one of several recommendations made by Mayor Peduto's Blue Ribbon Taskforce, a group of community leaders tasked with evaluating PWSA and making recommendations for its future governance and management.

Peg's extensive background in public service includes serving as Director of Communications and Intergovernmental Affairs for former Pittsburgh Mayor, Tom Murphy, and her time as the Executive Vice President for External Affairs for the West Penn Allegheny Health System. In addition, she established the Governmental

Relations Office at Carnegie Mellon University and served as Director of Governmental and Community Relations for Magee-Women's Hospital. Currently, she chairs the board of the Squirrel Hill Health Center and sits on the board of the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County.

Mark serves as the current President of the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance. This role entails being responsible for creating, developing, and executing the 10-county region's business investment strategy and advancing partnerships to drive job creation and catalyze development. Before coming to Pittsburgh, he spent two decades crafting and executing economic growth strategies and cross-sector collaborations in New York City, Los Angeles, and Atlanta. Mark also chairs the Board of Directors of the Power of 32 Site Development Fund and sits on the boards of Fuse Corps and the Camille A. Brown Dance Company.

As we continue to implement PWSA's Water Reliability Plan, establish a stormwater master plan, work towards our goal of removing all lead service lines, and continue our partnership with the Pittsburgh community to create an equitable water future, we look forward to each of our three new board members leveraging their proven leadership experience to help us realize our full potential as a 21st Century public water and wastewater utility.

To learn more about our Board of Directors and board meetings please visit Pgh2o.com/about-us/board-board-meetings.

PWSA Hits the Virtual Road to Talk About Customer Assistance Programs and Stormwater Outreach

Community meetings ensure our staff can connect directly with customers about important programs and projects.



Rain gardens along Riverview Avenue capture stormwater during heavy rain events.

Our Stormwater team attended a meeting at the Brighton Heights Citizens Federation about our proposed stormwater fee on May 13th. This is one of many meetings around the city where we will explain and answer questions about our stormwater management program and how the stormwater fee would be charged for each property in the city based on its impervious (hard) surface area. We also shared an update about our Woods Run Stormwater Project in Riverview Park. PWSA is planning to begin landslide remediation this summer for one of the rain gardens constructed during the first phase of the project along Riverview Avenue. The second project phase along Mairdale Avenue is currently in design.

PWSA's new PGH2O Cares team spoke to residents at Oakland Planning and Development Corporation's Oakland-Wide Community Meeting on May 25th about our new enhanced customer assistance programs. At the beginning of this year, the PGH2O Cares team hit the ground running to bolster enrollment in our programs and identify ways to reduce water usage, saving customers money on their monthly bills.

This group of education and outreach professionals are dedicated to working directly with our most vulnerable customers and are passionate about the one-on-one work they will be doing to build relationships with those who need support.

Community meetings are a great way for us to reach people and explain how easy it can be to take advantage of programs that can ease financial hardship. Often customers may not even realize they are elligible for these opportunities!

Customers can receive 100% reduction of our fixed monthly water and wastewater conveyance charges for one year through our Bill Discount Program, and a \$15 reduction of their past due balance for every on-time monthly payment. Other programs like Flexible Payment Plans and our Hardship Grant Fund can go a long way to relieve financial strains.



Learn about assistance programs for income-qualified customers at Pgh2o.com/CAP.

To schedule a future presentation in your community, go to:

Pgh2o.com/request-us-event

PWSA Joins United for Infrastructure 2021

A week of education and advocacy to raise awareness for our country's infrastructure needs.



PWSA participated in the annual national advocacy and educational event, United for Infrastructure 2021 from May 10-14th. Across the country, businesses, labor organizations, and elected officials came together to spread the message that the nation must #LeadWithInfrastructure.

"United for Infrastructure is an important event to spotlight national infrastructure needs. Especially now when water utilities across the country are striving to balance rates against the amount of work that needs to be done," Will Pickering, PWSA's Chief Executive Officer, said. "A substantial federal investment in water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure will help us build overdue improvement projects more quickly and reduce the need to increase our rates in the future."

PWSA was proud to participate in this national event and share information about our infrastructure needs, projects, and achievements with our customers. Events included a virtual discussion hosted by the Value of Water Campaign, entitled *Meeting the Moment: The Urgency and Opportunity to Invest in Water Systems*. Our Chief Executive Officer, Will Pickering, joined an esteemed national panel of leaders in the water industry to discuss our lead program and the benefits of federal funding for critical water infrastructure projects.

We were also active on social media throughout the week highlighting "once in a generation" projects to modernize Pittsburgh's water infrastructure, active construction projects, and the success of our Community Lead Response. Our comprehensive participation and highlighted projects will be housed on our National Water Sector Events page.

Over the next five years, PWSA will embark upon its largest investment since the water system was first built at the turn of the 20th Century. This investment, totaling \$1.2 billion, will improve the safety and reliability of our water system while also bolstering the quality of life for residents and enhancing the economic development of the Pittsburgh region. An infusion of federal funding into our projects, and projects across the nation, will prioritize families, workers, and businesses, create more livable communities, and will support the economic recovery of the country.

For more information about PWSA's participation in United for Infrastructure, please visit Pgh2o.com/united-infrastructure. For more information about United for Infrastructure 2020, please visit unitedforinfrastructure.org.



Media and Press Releases

MEDIA COVERAGE

Assistance is available to pay PWSA water and sewer bills, South Pittsburgh Reporter

Utility work begins in advance of Bus Rapid Transit project between Oakland and Downtown, Post-Gazette

8 Ducklings Rescued From Pittsburgh Sewer Grate, KDKA TV

Pittsburgh Water And Sewer Authority Working To Replace Lead Pipes, Increase 'Water Equity', KDKA TV

Governor Wolf Announces \$117 Million Investment in Water Infrastructure Projects in 19 Counties, Governor Tom Wolf Press Release

PRESS RELEASES

PWSA Joins United for Infrastructure 2021, May 11

Attention Renters! Assistance Available for Water and Wastewater Payments, *May 6*

PWSA Earns 6th Unqualified Audit Opinion, *May 3*

PWSA Will Break Ground on Forbes and Fifth Water Main Replacements, *April 30*

Alex Sciulli joins PWSA Board of Directors as new Board Chair, *April 23*

PENNVEST Funding Awarded to PWSA, April 21

Employee Spotlight

Project Manager of the Laboratory, Linda Leopold, promotes the importance of water quality in her position at PWSA and through her many organizational affiliations.



Linda considers her current position as a project manager in our laboratory one of the most rewarding positions at PWSA. Prior to her career at PWSA, she attained a degree from Juniata College in Biology with an emphasis on Aquatics and Environment. Out of college, Linda began her career in wastewater treatment and through that position, she developed an interest in drinking water and freshwater resources. She believes beginning her career in wastewater and transitioning to drinking water allowed her to understand the importance of water quality and the treatment process.

One of her many roles in the laboratory includes testing and reporting water quality levels to ensure the safety and reliability of our water system. Our water distribution system is always changing, and it is the responsibility of the water quality team to adapt to the changes and actively respond to situations that occur. PWSA is actively monitoring water in our

distribution system daily and always maintains fresh and healthy water in our distribution system. In addition to testing, Linda confirms that we are in compliance with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulations at all times. Since PWSA is a public water provider, several government programs set specific standards with reporting requirements. The DEP is our primary regulatory agency.

"Any time there is a water main break, the water quality team conducts rigorous testing before we are able to distribute the water safely," said Linda.

In her time outside of PWSA, Linda applies her extensive water knowledge through participating in several organizations, including the Pennsylvania Water Environment Association (PWEA), the Western Pennsylvania Water Pollution Control Association (WPWPCA), and the Water Environment Federation (WEF). In addition to her involvement in these organizations, Linda has published articles for the Keystone Water Quality Manager Magazine and on the PWEA website. She believes it is important to educate people on water quality and share her experiences in the field with the public. In her spare time, she enjoys running, writing, kayaking, and vacationing anywhere that includes aquatic activities.

"I have always had a passion for water, it is an essential resource and our responsibility to ensure drinking water is safe for consumption by the general public."

PGH2O Excellence Award

We applaud our employees' exceptional efforts! These talented individuals set a high standard and inspire our team to go above and beyond expectations. Congratulations to the following employees:

Sharon Gottschalk, Senior Collections Manager John Potanko, Program Manager Capital Projects Michele Schanbacher, Senior Payroll Administrator

New Hires

WELCOME ABOARD!

Lori Anderson

Inspector II

Sarah Collins

Talent Acquisition Specialist

Shannon Connell

Engineer III

Melissa Couch

Customer Service Representative I

Keith Jackson

Electrician

Ari Wynn

Co-Op, Engineering

Promotions congratulations!

Maria Michalek

Dispatch Coordinator

Carol Moye

Field Service Technician III

Job Postings

Interested in working at PWSA? We are looking for dedicated and talented people to join our team.

Laboratory Manager

Water Quality and Compliance

Stationary Engineer

Water Quality and Compliance

Operations Superintendent

Water Quality and Compliance

Plant Operator

Water Quality & Production

Electrician

Water Quality & Production

Security Manager

Water Quality & Production

Project Systems Specialist

Finance

Training & Development Manager

Human Resources

Project Manager

Engineering & Construction

Associate Project Manager

Engineering & Construction

Inspector II

Engineering & Construction

Steamfitter

Field Operations

Plumber

Field Operations

Visit Pgh2o.com/about-us/careers to learn more.

Fifth and Forbes Water Main Replacements Off to Productive Start



Trench for new water main on Forbes Avenue, near Miltenberger Street.

In early May, PWSA began a major water main replacement project spanning from the Central Business District, to Uptown, to Oakland. Crews will be replacing the water mains and service lines on both Forbes and Fifth, from Sixth Avenue to the Birmingham Bridge. If any lead service lines are found as part of the work, we will work with customers to replace with a non-lead material at no direct cost to the property owner.

To date, water main has been installed on Fifth Avenue, from Van Braam Street to Jumonville Street, and on Forbes Avenue, from Jumonville Street to Kirkpatrick Street.

This project is part of a major utility coordination effort, involving Peoples Gas, Duquesne Light, the City of Pittsburgh's Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI), and the Port Authority of Allegheny County. PWSA's infrastructure improvements will be followed by the construction of the Port Authority's Bus Rapid Transit Project (BRT), slated to begin in late 2023.

Project details and work schedules

- Fifth Avenue: work will occur during the daytime, Monday-Friday, between 9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.
- Forbes Avenue west of Chatham Square: work will be completed at night to avoid traffic congestion, Monday-Friday, between 8:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m.
- Forbes Avenue east of Chatham Square: work will be completed during the day, Monday-Friday, between 6:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Wyandotte and Moultrie Streets are "no-outlet" streets receiving water main replacements and will be completed during weekends, from 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Crews will work in one-block segments to minimize noparking zones, with one lane of traffic on both streets maintained throughout the project. Asphalt in the street will be temporarily restored, leaving final restoration to be completed as part of the BRT project. PWSA work is anticipated to be complete in spring of 2022.

For project updates and contact information for questions or concerns, visit Pgh2o.com/FifthForbesWaterMains.

2021 Capital Spending

PWSA continues to invest and prioritize the rehabilitation of our sewer infrastructure.



PWSA crews uncover a sewer manhole in Rodgers Street

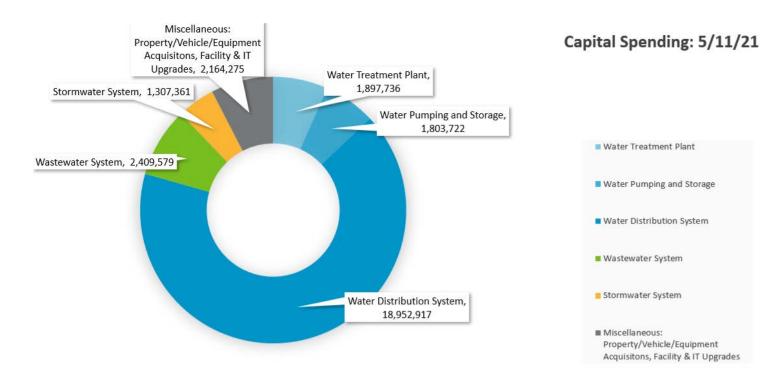
The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) has invested over \$28 million in our Capital Improvement Projects program through April. PWSA is committed to investing in rehabilitating water distribution and wastewater systems by proactively identifying areas for improvement by assigning funding to areas in need. Through several programs, including the Small Diameter Pipes, Large Diameter Pipes, and the Sewers Under Structures programs, PWSA aims to

replace or rehabilitate miles of sewer piping with previous issues or the possibility of future failure which would impact our customers.

By prioritizing the rehabilitation of aging and damaged sewers, PWSA strives to provide a better and more complete service to our customers. Our combined sewers transport stormwater and wastewater efficiently through our network to be treated and discharged accordingly. Any lapses or impediments in our network can cause significant issues with our service; therefore, PWSA prioritizes the implementation of capital programs to address improving our infrastructure.

Through our Capital Improvement Plan, PWSA will complete several neighborhood sewers projects, including the 31st Ward Sewer Reconstruction Project, which will line approximately 5 miles of aging sewers, repair broken sewers, relocate storm drains, and separate combined storm and sanitary sewers where needed. Additional projects include continuing to rehabilitate pipes scattered throughout our service area that address site-specific needs. Ongoing Small Diameter Pipe Rehabilitation projects include relining and repairing pipes in the Overbrook neighborhood.

By continually updating and improving our sewer infrastructure, we ensure the safety and reliability of our systems. Through the Capital Improvement Program, it is our goal to enhance our service by rehabilitating aging sewers. The Capital Improvement Projects graphic below shows a financial breakdown through 2021.



Digging Into Development

Monthly Metrics



Figure 1: April Predevelopment Meetings

We have talked about over-the-counter permits, residential permits, development permits, the development services team, and our developer's manual over the last seven months. With all that background information, we think now is the time to dive deeper into some of our monthly statistics. We track metrics such as the number of predevelopment meetings held, review times, number of permits issued, and revenues. As the pandemic is winding down, it is more important than ever to understand how the last 15 months have impacted development in Pittsburgh.

A key indicator of construction for PWSA is our predevelopment meetings. Development Services held 13 predevelopment meetings with developers and their representatives in April. PWSA Development Services team has continuously increased the number of meetings held through 2021. Development projects are beginning to be introduced to PWSA. It is anticipated that the number of predevelopment meetings will remain high as we progress through 2021. This trend signifies that development projects are moving forward, and planning for those projects is underway. Figure 1 shows an overview of the total predevelopment meetings held from January through April 2021, and Figure 2 shows applications approved.

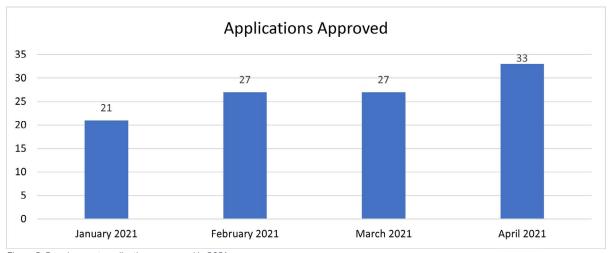


Figure 2: Development applications approved in 2021



Stormwater Tip: What Does a 100-Year Storm Actually Mean?

When severe weather events like flooding or hurricanes occur, you may hear terms like "100-year storm" on the news. The "100-year storm" label makes it sound like that amount of rain only falls once every 100 years, but 100-year storms can actually happen two years in a row or even multiple times in the same year.

A "100-year storm" refers to the amount of rainfall that has a 1 in 100 (or 1%) chance of occurring at that location in any given year. As of now in Pittsburgh, 2.56 inches of rainfall within 1 hour or 4.92 inches of rainfall within 24 hours would both be considered 100-year storms.

Storm sizes are estimated for each region based on a statical analysis of local rainfall data. The Pittsburgh region only has 60 years of historical rainfall data, which makes the estimation of a 100-year storm less accurate. As we gather more years of rainfall data and as climate change continues to shift our weather patterns, the amount of rain associated with a 100-year storm in Pittsburgh will likely change.

Pittsburgh Storm Frequency Label	Annual Chance of Occurring	Rainfall in 1 Hour	Rainfall in 24 Hours
1-Year Storm	1 in 1 (100%)	0.969 inches	1.98 inches
2-Year Storm	1 in 2 (50%)	1.18 inches	2.35 inches
5-Year Storm	1 in 5 (20%)	1.49 inches	2.88 inches
10-Year Storm	1 in 10 (10%)	1.73 inches	3.31 inches
25-Year Storm	1 in 25 (4%)	2.05 inches	3.91 inches
50-Year Storm	1 in 50 (2%)	2.31 inches	4.40 inches
100-Year Storm	1 in 100 (1%)	2.56 inches	4.92 inches



Save Water and Money This Summer



With summer around the corner, you may be using more water than usual for outdoor gardening and home maintenance

To track your household's real-time water use, enroll in our free customer usage portal. You'll be able to see daily water usage updates and set up alerts for spikes in water usage. Leaking hoses, irrigation systems, or spigots can waste a lot of water, so detecting and repairing outdoor leaks can help you reduce your water bills.

Following these water conservation tips can also help you save money:

- Sweep your sidewalk, steps, and driveway instead of hosing off those areas.
- Water your plants in the morning or early evening to reduce water lost to evaporation.
- Use an automatic shut-off nozzle for your gardening hose to control the flow.
- Set sprinklers to water the lawn or garden only not the street or sidewalk
- Wash your car using water from a bucket over your lawn or a commercial car wash that recycles water.

Learn more at Pgh2o.com/WaterConservation.

PGH2O CONNECT



Customer Assistance **Programs**

Our Customer Assistance Programs are designed to provide financial relief for income-qualified residential customers who are having difficulty paying their water and wastewater bill.

For more information about our programs, including the Winter Shut-off Moratorium, Bill Discount, Flexible Payment Plans, Hardship Grant, and Lead Line Reimbursements, please visit pgh2o.com/CAP or call Dollar Energy Fund at 866.762.2348.

Do We Have Your Number?

Did you know that we call customers during water emergencies and outages? It is important to verify that we have the best number to reach you. You can even add multiple numbers for your account, so your entire household is informed about our work.

HOW DO I UPDATE MY CONTACT INFORMATION?

Call PWSA Customer Service: 412.255.2423 (Press 5) Or visit our website: pgh2o.com/update-contact-info

Enroll in eBilling

Use our paperless billing and payment portal to receive and pay your bill and manage your PGH2O account from your desktop or phone.

Visit pgh2o.com/ebilling to enroll.

Stay in the know with PGH2O!

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