

# CURRENTS

## Vice President & EPA Administrator Highlight PWSA's Work Protecting Public Health in Recent Visit to Pittsburgh

▶ Since 2016, PWSA has delivered on our mission to protect public health, replacing more than 10,800 public-side and over 7,600 private ones through our [Community Lead Response](#) program. Our work on this front has been so successful that we've been recognized as an [industry leader](#) in lead line replacements, consulting with water utilities and governments across the country on best-practices for their programs.

We've also caught the eyes of government officials at the highest levels. Earlier this month, we [welcomed Vice President Kamala Harris and Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) Administrator Michael Regan](#) back to Pittsburgh, where they highlighted the importance of safe drinking water and applauded organizations, like PWSA, who are using Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (BIL) funds to invest in water infrastructure.

The delegation visited a PWSA lead service line replacement site in Elliott for an intimate look at how lead pipes are removed from our drinking water system. Vice President

Harris also spoke at the Kingsley Association where, in nearby neighborhoods, PWSA has replaced hundreds of lead service lines, delivering on our mission to protect public health in the communities we serve.

Federal funding has allowed us to accelerate the pace of replacements and reduce the burden placed on our ratepayers for this costly endeavor. To date, PWSA has received over **\$43 million in grants** and over **\$23 million in low-interest loans** from the BIL for this essential work. Coupled with the tens of millions of dollars received in state funding since 2017, we can expedite the replacement of lead service lines and are **more than halfway to replacing all lead pipes by 2026**.

Using these funds while they are available has been a top priority for PWSA, as grant money allows for work to be done at no direct cost to our customers, and low interest loans allow for millions in savings over time compared to traditional municipal bonds. ♦



*Vice President Kamala Harris visits a PWSA job site where contractor crews removed lead service lines in Pittsburgh's West End.*

**Read more: Lead levels continue to trend low.**

## Grant Funding for Lead Service Line Replacements Keeps Coming

► PWSA is pleased to announce we were recently **awarded a \$32.1 million funding package** from the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) to continue the aggressive removal of lead service lines throughout our service area. This funding is split between \$13.8 million in grants – **marking the largest grant PWSA has received from PENNVEST** – and \$18.3 million in low-interest loans.

Over time, funding from external partners helps to reduce the financial burden on ratepayers during a period of necessary, unprecedented investment in our essential water systems. **This round of funding will save ratepayers nearly \$50 million** over the next thirty years when

compared to the issuing of municipal bonds.

PWSA estimates this award will help us **replace 1,375 public and 1,260 private lead service lines** in the Borough of Millvale and ten Pittsburgh neighborhoods, including Mount Washington, South Side Slopes, South Side Flats, Garfield, Upper Lawrenceville, Central Northside, Manchester, Perry North, Perry South, and Spring Hill-City View.

Proactively removing lead service lines is the most effective way to eliminate the presence of lead in drinking water and enhances our ability to protect public health now and for future generations.

The work PWSA is undertaking

throughout our communities has a direct economic impact on our region. This nearly \$32 million award will **generate approximately \$56 million in economic benefit**, helping to fuel our local economy, create jobs, and keep money in our communities.

Since 2018, PWSA has received from PENNVEST a combination of \$637 million in low-interest loans and \$62 million in grants, totaling \$699 million. Combined, these funding packages received are projected to save ratepayers more than \$635 million when compared to traditional



Lead service line replacement work being performed on Hazelwood Ave.

financing received through municipal loans.

As a publicly owned and operated water utility, every dollar we receive is reinvested back into the water systems that serve those living and working in Pittsburgh. To learn more about the Authority's finances, please visit our PGH2O [Finance webpage](#). ♦

### TEAM PGH2O

## PWSA Recognized for Client Partnerships by ACEC Pennsylvania

► PWSA recently took home two honors at the Pa. Chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC/PA) Diamond Awards.

Our sewer project teams were recognized with the Client of Distinction Award for their industry-best management practices and productive working relationships on large-scale sewer rehabilitation work.

Additionally, the 2020 Large Diameter Sewer Rehabilitation project was recognized with the Engineering Excellence Award within the Waste and Stormwater project category.

PWSA was nominated by our engineering consultant, GPD Group, for the Client

of Distinction Award. GPD's management team recognized PWSA's fair business practices with consulting firms, including straightforward procurement practices, transparent project expectations, and ample information on our website about upcoming capital improvement projects so consulting firms can plan accordingly to bid work. Being a good partner in work means PWSA can consistently deliver for their customers on these complex and high-dollar jobs.

The Engineering Excellence Award recognized our Large Diameter Sewer Main Project, designed in partnership with GPD Group. This \$1.4 million PENNVEST-funded project rehabilitated large sewer



(from left) Brent Sailhamer, ACEC/PA; Keith Jensen, GPD Group; Mora McLaughlin, PWSA; Toby Stutzman, PWSA; and Ed Reese, GPD Group.

pipes, including one located in the Pittsburgh Zoo, that are aging and difficult to take offline for extensive repairs. The rehabilitation process was carefully planned and

sequenced as to not disrupt sewer service for customers, all while adding years of life to these large pieces of infrastructure. ♦

## Request PWSA at Your Next Community Meeting



► At PWSA, we're public servants. From Board of Directors meetings to neighborhood project updates to special community events, it's our goal to meaningfully connect with and be available to those we serve. We've been working hard making necessary

upgrades to our water system and doing all we can to provide safe, reliable water services to our consumers.

Many of these needs and interests vary by neighborhood, and meeting face-to-face with our customers can help build

awareness about the projects and priorities that will improve your day-to-day water services.

Our team of dedicated water professionals and public servants are always available to attend community meetings and events to share information and answer questions.

If we haven't met with your community group or neighborhood association yet and you would like to schedule a presentation, please visit our [Request Us at an Event](#) website. We'd enjoy speaking to your group!

For more information about our comings and goings in the community, please visit our [Events & Meetings](#) webpage. ♦

## DEVELOPMENT REPORT

### Calling Contractors for Water Reliability Plan Projects

March 20 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center

► PWSA is seeking qualified construction firms with varying specialties to partner with us on upcoming Water Reliability Plan contracting opportunities. We invite interested contractors and construction firms to our upcoming Contractor Information Session this March.

This free session will focus on construction opportunities for the Aspinwall Pump Station, Bruecken Pump Station, and the Clearwell Bypass projects. The anticipated bid release date is Summer 2024.

These projects, totaling \$147.5 million in capital funds, are a critical phase in our ongoing Water Reliability Plan, a series of once-in-a-generation

investments that will improve the redundancy and resiliency of our water system.

Contracting opportunities for these projects include:

Building demolition, CAD services, concrete supply, environmental testing, equipment rental, fencing, landscaping, mechanical & electrical work, painting, permitting support, plumbing work, security services, signage, specialty welding services, structural concrete work, trucking, & more!

Guests will also have the opportunity to network with peers and will be provided with a breakfast buffet.



**Regional, local, and MWDBE firms are especially encouraged to attend.**

The event will be held on **Wednesday, March 20** at the **David L. Lawrence Convention Center** from **9 – 11 a.m.** Please register using this [link](#) or by scanning the QR code. ♦

PGH<sub>2</sub>O

WATER WISE

**Tackling the question: Why is my water cloudy?**



During this time of year, when cold weather still lingers, water that comes out of your tap can sometimes appear "cloudy." No need to worry over the quality and safety of your drinking water – in many cases, cloudiness is the result of simple water chemistry!

**Ready for a little science lesson?** It all comes down to pressure and water temperature.

Since colder water can hold more air than warmer water, what you're really seeing is an excess of harmless, trapped air.

Furthermore, the water that comes out of our faucets is under pressure, meaning it can also hold onto excess air. If it's chilly outside, the effect can be compounded as air bubbles become trapped in cold-water molecules.

If you open your tap to find some cloudiness, just let the water settle for a minute or two. It should go back to being crystal clear shortly!

You can find many more helpful tips, including seasonal advice about protecting your pipes and winter water main breaks, on our [Tips, Maintenance, and Prevention](#) website.

## Customer Assistance Programs

Our Customer Assistance Programs are designed to provide financial relief for income-qualified residential customers who are having difficulty paying their PGH2O bill. These programs are managed by our **PGH2O Cares team**, a group of education and outreach professionals dedicated to working directly with our most vulnerable customers to bolster enrollment in our Customer Assistance Programs and identify ways to reduce water usage.



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 our [Customer Assistance Program](#) page or contact the PGH2O Cares team at 412-255-2457 or [cares@pgh2o.com](mailto:cares@pgh2o.com).

## Additional Assistance Programs

Additional assistance programs are offered separately from PWSA's own Customer Assistance Programs. Please see below for a listing of available programs.

The **Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (ALCOSAN) Clean Water Assistance Fund** is available to eligible residential customers. It is administered by Dollar Energy Fund. To learn more and apply for assistance, visit the [Clean Water Assistance Fund](#) page.

### Neighbors Helping Neighbors

If you can, consider donating to our [Hardship Grant Program \(www.pgh2o.com/give\)](#).

### Enroll in eBilling

Convenient and easy to use, our [online billing and payment portal \(www.pgh2o.com/ebilling\)](#) ensures timely delivery of bills and payments.

### Track Water Use

Visit our [Customer Advantage Portal](#) to track water use in real time and receive alerts when there's a spike in water use.

### 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.

### TO UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO:

**Call PWSA Customer Service:**  
**412.255.2423 (Press 5)**

**Visit our [Update Contact Information portal](#).**

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