



# Partnership for Safe Water

Working Together to Protect America's Drinking Water

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

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

## Farewell

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 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 are continuing 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.

Some of you may want to know a little about my career (if you don't skip this paragraph)? 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, advised many committees and volunteer groups, and, as time permitted, authored or edited twenty books and many other articles and publications.

*"On behalf of the Partnership for Safe Water Steering Committee, I would like to thank both Bill and Debby for their many years of valuable service to the Program, as well as their friendship. Your energy and professionalism in building the program to what it has become will always be remembered. Although your presence will be missed, we are happy for you as you enter the next stage of your lives."*

**Robert C. Cheng, Ph.D., P.E.**  
**Partnership for Safe Water Steering Committee Chairperson**

Now I am moving on to another phase in my life. 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



## Thanks Kami!!!

Kami Johle Butt (Kami) has helped out the Partnership by getting together with Debby Qualls before she left and downloading as much information as possible.

Additionally, Kami has continued to provide Partnership administrative assistance during our search for a replacement. She performed these duties while continuing her full-time job supporting the ETS department of AWWA.

Kami is still involved with training Tom Schippert, but her role with the Partnership will end soon.

**THANK YOU KAMI!!!**



## Introducing Tom Schippert



The new Partnership for Safe Water Coordinator is Tom Schippert. Tom has a strong administrative background with an emphasis in marketing and project management. Tom has worked on some Partnership projects recently including the new member campaign that ended on March 31, 2012. He also was involved in the production of the December and April newsletters.

Tom has a Masters from Colorado State University in Communications Management and Technical Journalism and a Bachelor's degree from the University of Denver in Journalism and Communications. His experience includes significant involvement with small business management and communications assignments. Please join me in welcoming Tom to the Partnership for Safe Water.

## AWWA Annual Conference Meeting Summary

The AWWA Annual Conference is in Dallas, Texas, June 10-14, 2012. The Partnership for Safe Water had two meetings and its annual awards luncheon.

**Steering Committee meeting summary:** The meeting agenda included a discussion of the revised program budget and personnel changes of Partnership staff at AWWA, draft operating agreement between AWWA and the Partnership, and the development status of the new distribution system optimization program.

- Bill Lauer announced his retirement effective September 1, 2012.
- The Steering Committee passed a resolution to be involved in the hiring of a new Program Manager.
- Robert Cheng, Chair, reported on the AWWA/Partnership operating agreement. The revisions from the Steering Committee may need another round of review before agreement can be reached. All parties are confident that agreement is close at hand.
- The 2012 and proposed 2013 budgets were discussed. The 2012 budget will be tight so PEAC training cannot be conducted this year. Training should be back on the schedule for 2013.
- The Steering Committee passed changes to the annual reporting requirements. These included addition of the requirement for the new Presidents Award.
- EPA has proposed the possible addition of a new program element on water system security. The Partnership is collaborating with EPA to determine if this would be a good fit to provide self-assessment tools to help utilities in this area.

**PEAC-Treatment Committee:** Members will discuss potential training, status of current report reviews, and process for the new Presidents Award.

- A phase IV training event will be planned for 2013.
- The PEAC discussed the need to provide more feedback to plants regarding the outcome of their phase III completion report review.
- The Rocky Mountain Alliance was discussed. On-site plant assessments will be conducted on a voluntary basis.
- Champlain Water District is working with HACH to evaluate the possibility of incorporating features in their data analysis software that may be useful to Partnership members.

## The Partnership Welcomed These New Members in 2012

### Treatment Plant Optimization Program

Easton Utilities, Easton, MD – Fred Henckel WTP  
 Village of New Concord, OH – New Concord WTP

<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>
Easton	MD	2/09/2012
New Concord	OH	3/27/2012

### Distribution System Optimization Program

Lake County East Water Subdistrict  
 Lake County West Water Subdistrict  
 American Water - SAFB  
 American Water Military Service Fort AP Hill  
 Borough of Huntingdon  
 American Water Enterprises  
 American Water - South Fort Hood  
 American Water O&M Fort George G. Meade  
 American Water Oklahoma  
 Columbus Water Works  
 Wrightsville Water  
 Fort Worth Water Department  
 Paducah Water  
 Central Lake County Joint Action Water Agency  
 Ephrata Area Joint Authority  
 Pinellas Cty Dept of Environment & Infrastructure  
 American Water Military Services Fort Polk  
 City of Raleigh Public Utilities  
 Washington County Service Authority  
 City of Bethlehem  
 City of Bloomington Utilities Division  
 City Utilities of Springfield, Missouri  
 Metro Water Services - Nashville  
 Mount Pleasant Waterworks  
 Sartex-Jackson-Wellford-Duncan Water District  
 Spotsylvania County Utilities Department  
 City of Alcoa  
 Hooversville Borough Municipal Authority  
 Portland Utility District  
 City of Henderson  
 City of Liberty  
 Easton Utilities  
 Marshalltown Water Works  
 San Jose Water Company  
 Grand Forks Water Utility  
 City of Tempe  
 Iowa City Water Division  
 St. Cloud Public Utilities  
 City of Gresham  
 Charleston Water System  
 Village of Waterloo Water System

<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>
Painesville	OH	5/21/2012
Willoughby	OH	5/21/2012
Scott Air Force Base	IL	5/14/2012
Bowling Green	VA	4/11/2012
Huntingdon	PA	4/11/2012
Fort Rucker	AL	4/10/2012
Fort Hood	TX	4/6/2012
Laurel	MD	4/4/2012
Fort Sill	OK	4/4/2012
Columbus	GA	4/4/2012
Wrightsville	PA	4/3/2012
Fort Worth	TX	4/2/2012
Paducah	KY	4/2/2012
Lake Bluff	IL	3/29/2012
Ephrata	PA	3/26/2012
Largo	FL	3/20/2012
Fort Polk	LA	3/9/2012
Raleigh	NC	3/9/2012
Abingdon	VA	3/7/2012
Bethlehem	PA	3/5/2012
Bloomington	MN	3/5/2012
Springfield	MO	3/5/2012
Nashville	TN	3/5/2012
Mount Pleasant	SC	3/5/2012
Lyman	SC	3/5/2012
Fredericksburg	VA	3/5/2012
Alcoa	TN	2/27/2012
Hooversville	PA	2/23/2012
Portland	ME	2/16/2012
Henderson	NC	2/15/2012
Liberty	MO	2/9/2012
Easton	MD	2/8/2012
Marshalltown	IA	2/7/2012
San Jose	CA	2/7/2012
Grand Forks	ND	2/2/2012
Tempe	AZ	1/31/2012
Iowa City	IA	1/31/2012
St. Cloud	MN	1/31/2012
Gresham	OR	1/24/2012
N. Charleston	SC	1/17/2012
Waterloo	NY	1/3/2012

## Treatment Plant Optimization Program

### New Partnership *Presidents Award*

The Partnership for Safe Water Steering Committee is happy to announce the creation of a new award. The *Presidents Award* recognizes the Directors award plants which have been tenaciously pursuing optimization as demonstrated by meeting the Phase IV individual filter performance goals.

To qualify for this prestigious award treatment plants must:

- 1) Be in "good standing" and be a current Directors award recipient.
- 2) Have maintained monthly individual filter turbidity less than 0.10 NTU 95 percent of the time (based on values recorded at 15 minute intervals) for the past 12-months (ending no more than two months from the application date).

Have indicated intent to continue to make improvements, using a collaborative team approach, to attain fully optimized plant performance and achieve the "*Excellence in Water Treatment*" award.

It takes considerable time and effort to meet the Phase IV individual filter turbidity goals. The Partnership wants to recognize this outstanding achievement with its *Presidents Award*. We hope this will help you and your staff as you continue address action plans, move toward fully optimized treatment plant operation, and ultimately qualify for the *Excellence in Water Treatment* award.

There is no additional charge for this award and specific award application guidelines can be found on the Partnership for Safe Water website at [www.partnershipforsafewater.org](http://www.partnershipforsafewater.org). Applications can be submitted at any time.

Please contact Tom Schippert, the Program Coordinator at [partnership@awwa.org](mailto:partnership@awwa.org) or (303) 347-6169 if you have any questions.

## Annual Reports are Overdue

Your annual report for the period 6/1/11-5/31/12 was due in June.

Guidelines for annual reports are found on the *Partnership* website at [www.partnershipforsafewater.org](http://www.partnershipforsafewater.org).

### Software Upgrade is Postponed!!

*A new version v4.3 of the Data Collection Software was scheduled to be available on June 21, 2012. This date has been postponed to complete the program testing. A new availability date will be set after this testing is completed. The update repairs some issues that have developed over the years due to changes in MS EXCEL®. Continue to use the old version (v4.1) for your current annual report data.*

## NOTICE

**All participating plants must include a statement of conformance with regulations in their annual report. If you received a Notice of Violation you must explain the situation and send us a copy of the Notice.**

All correspondence should go to the Program Coordinator, Tom Schippert, at [partnership@awwa.org](mailto:partnership@awwa.org). You may still contact Bill Lauer for any technical matters at [blauer@awwa.org](mailto:blauer@awwa.org).

## Treatment

## Operator

## Certification

## Quiz

## Question (advanced)

**Q:** How many lb/day of sodium fluorosilicate ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SiF}_6$ ) are required to raise the fluoride level to 1.00 mg/L given the following other operating parameters?

*Flow rate is 1,750 gpm*

*Fluoride in raw water is 0.15 mg/L*

*Sodium fluorosilicate is 98.1% pure*

**A:** Answer is provided at end of this newsletter.

## Distribution System Optimization Program

The Partnership's PEAC-D volunteers have started to work on the development of a "working draft" checklist of the requirements for a self-assessment completion report. This committee is also reviewing some of the tools that have been developed to assist systems in the preparation of their report. Seven selected distribution systems are piloting the self-assessment process in collaboration with the PEAC-D. This group is working through each chapter of the Self-Assessment Guide together. Feedback from the pilot process will be used to improve the Guide and other preliminary self-assessment tools.

Summaries of the self-assessment pilot process monthly meetings will be posted on the Partnership distribution system program webpage. Also, you may [listen](#) in to the telephone conference call meetings by contacting Tom at [partnership@awwa.org](mailto:partnership@awwa.org). Tom will give you the meeting schedule and dialing instructions.

## Baseline Disinfectant Residual Data is Due Now

Each distribution system should submit 12-months of disinfectant residual data that will be the baseline for their performance improvement program. Use the Disinfectant Residual Data Collection software (the most current version is 1.3).

The program contains a "save file for AWWA" button that creates a copy of the summary table that can then be e-mailed to Tom at [partnership@awwa.org](mailto:partnership@awwa.org). This data is due now. Contact Tom Schippert if you have any questions.

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## Policy for Compliance With Distribution System Regulations Approved

At its April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting the Steering Committee approved policy #3 Compliance with Distribution System Regulations. This policy describes the requirements and consequences for participating utilities that received regulatory violations. The following excerpt is from policy #3:

### Policy

*Participating distribution systems shall attain compliance with applicable regulations. Specifically, systems shall be in compliance with all health-based drinking water regulations that directly apply to distribution system operations.*

### Approach

*The scale and complexity of drinking water distribution systems enhance situations that may result in regulation infractions. The Partnership for Safe Water wants distribution system operators to use the optimization tools to assess violation causes and to develop operational improvements to prevent violation re-occurrence. Therefore, it is counterproductive to suspend systems from the program upon receiving a notice of violation of a health-based regulation.*

*Systems that violate health-based regulations, but are fully committed towards making necessary improvements, will enter a two-year (starting the month following the violation) targeted optimization program that relies on water system personnel's use of the Partnership self-assessment process to evaluate the cause and determine an action plan to prevent a re-occurrence. Validated repeat violations following the execution of the action plan will generally result in suspension from the Partnership."*

## JOIN US!

### Participate in the Distribution System Optimization Program

The Distribution System Optimization Program has a total of 123 participating systems as of July 2, 2012. All size systems are represented from serving a few thousand to multi-millions. You can join this unique effort to improve the delivery of drinking water by optimizing system operations. The Partnership provides guidance and tools for systems to conduct voluntary self-assessment of the distribution system operation.

The process identifies areas for improvement and prioritizes performance improvement factors that should provide the greatest benefit. Awards are provided for reaching various levels of optimization. Recognition from the Partnership for Safe Water signifies that system operators are committed to excellence. Applications to join the Partnership for Safe Water can be found on the program website at [www.partnershipforsafewater.org](http://www.partnershipforsafewater.org); or call Tom Schippert at (303) 347-6169.

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