



Northampton, Bucks County,
Municipal Authority

111 Township Road,
Richboro, PA 18954
www.nbcmatoday.org

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The Authority

NORTHAMPTON, BUCKS COUNTY, MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY NEWSLETTER

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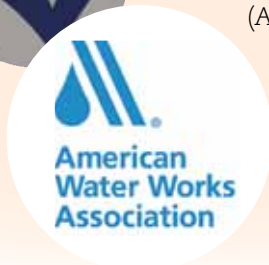
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Attention: Sewer-Only Customers

Sanitary Sewer-Only customers of the Authority have the option to have a water meter installed on their private well to determine sanitary sewer bills, in lieu of a fixed rate billing method.

Please contact the Authority during normal business hours (Monday – Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM) for more details about this option.

Executive Director receives "Public Officials" AWWA Certification



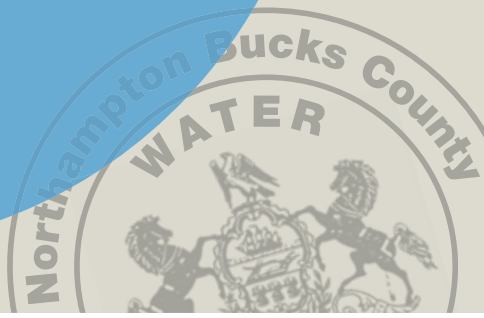
Thomas A. Zeuner, Executive Director of the Authority received the ACE Public Officials Certification from the American Water Works Association (AWWA) hosted in Dallas, Texas in June 2012. The AWWA is the international non-profit scientific and educational society dedicated to the improvement of drinking water and supply.





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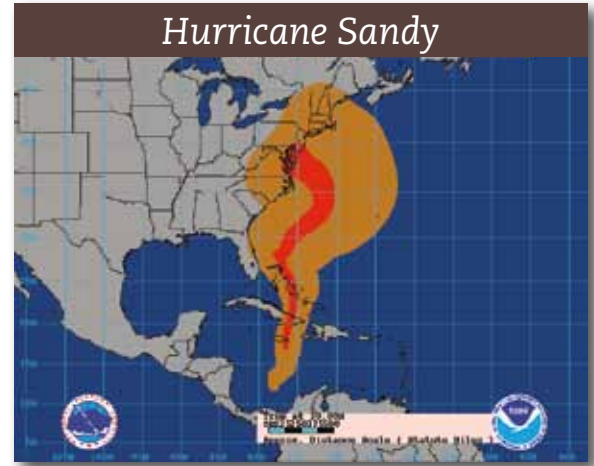
Who Needs 13 Million Gallons of Water in a Hurricane?

Leonardo da Vinci said: "Water is the driving force of all nature." We tend to agree. And at the Authority we believe preparation to handle nature's disasters is paramount.

A top priority here is to always ensure a continuous supply water and sewer service to our customers. So in late October when the weather forecasters warned of Hurricane Sandy's arrival in our area, the Authority implemented our "Storm Preparation Plan" to maximize our storage capacity prior to the storm event.

"Our system operates at satisfactory levels during normal conditions; the Authority uses on average 2.3 million gallons of water per day providing service to customers," said Thomas A. Zeuner, Executive Director, at NBCMA. "However, in storm preparation, to continue expected service levels, we executed our System Control and Data Acquisition system (SCADA) to adjust the above-ground storage tank levels and the run/stop times. This allowed us to fill the storage tanks completely overnight and begin the storm with at least 13 million gallons of water in storage capacity – sufficient for at least 5 days of normal operation."

In summary, the Authority's water and sanitary sewer operations performed to expectation. The systems



performed as designed without incident or challenges to quality or capacity issues. Both water and sanitary sewer systems performed at 100% efficiency during the emergency situation. There was no interruption in quality service to any of our customers. The water and sanitary sewer systems system switched back to commercial power from standby generator power on October 31, 2012.

Committed to helping in our community, the Authority also availed itself to any Northampton resident who had a private well that was inoperable due to the loss of electrical power to fill personal containers at the Authority administrative offices as a courtesy.

Important Increase for Sanitary Sewer Processing

The Authority has been adversely impacted by significant cost increases imposed by Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority (BCWSA). Since 2006, the BCWSA has increased our sanitary sewer processing costs on average 15.64% per year.

During the past six years, the Authority has aggressively endeavored to control these escalating costs through investment in our infrastructure and cost reduction initiatives. Historically, these programs have been effective in reducing cost, which has enabled the Authority provide reasonably stable sanitary sewer rates.

In brief, our costs to process sewage through BCWSA have more than doubled since 2006. We regret the Authority could no longer absorb all of these costs without an

increase to our ratepayers. At the Authority's October 2012 public meeting, a comprehensive rate analysis was presented by Keystone Alliance Consulting of Ambler, PA. Then in November, the Authority Board approved a 25% rate increase for sanitary sewer services. The rate increase took effect November 1, 2012 with the increase impacting bills mailed on February 1, 2013.



This rate increase was necessary to maintain the quality of service, reliability, and infrastructure required to deliver quality service.

Water Agreement Guarantees Quality Water at Stable Rate

The Authority has a commitment from Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority (BCWSA) to provide public water at a stable rate which will not be increased for the next three years.

Thanks to a long-term (30-year) wholesale water agreement with the BCWSA ratified in 2011. This water agreement provides a guaranteed long-term quality and quantity of public water to the community of Northampton Township. Currently 60% of our public water is acquired by the BCWSA water agreement and 40% from Northampton ground water wells located throughout the community.

This combination of traditional and innovative water treatment allows Forest Park to produce the safest, highest quality water possible.

We expect our strategy to provide a foundation for stable water rates without the need for rate increases. It is projected that any future increases will be substantially less than cost of living increases.

The agreement eliminates the "Wholesale Water Tapping Fee" previously imposed by the BCWSA for each new connection to the system.

Wholesale water acquisition today originates from the City of Philadelphia. Under the terms of this long-term agreement, once the transmission infrastructure is completed, wholesale water for Northampton will originate from the Forest Park Water Treatment facility in Chalfont, PA. Forest Park is a state-of-the-art water treatment facility that combines conventional treatment processes with advanced techniques, including ozone disinfection and membrane filtration technology. This combination of traditional and innovative water treatment allows Forest Park to produce the safest, highest quality water possible.

The Authority will endeavor to maintain current rates for the coming years, and of course we will continue to deliver the best quality and service customers have come to expect and deserve.



Authority Achieved EPA Compliance Ahead of Schedule

To improve drinking water quality and provide additional protection from disease-causing microorganisms, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued the Ground Water Rule (GWR).

The GWR provides increased protection against microbial pathogens. In 1996, Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) to require the EPA take a targeted risk-based approach to require ground water systems that are identified as being the highest risk of contamination to take action to protect public health.

What does that mean? Well, to achieve the drinking water reliability of 99.99 percent inactivation or removal of viruses (identified as 4-log regulatory requirement), the Authority implemented additional controls (continuous chlorine residual control), by amendment to well flow rates and duration via the SCADA (System Control and Data Acquisition) system, continuously monitoring systems to ensure compliance.

Accomplished! In cooperation with the Authority's consulting engineer, Pennoni Associates, we are in full compliance with requirements, and our compliance implementation was ahead of the regulatory deadline requirement.



Technology for Conservation and Leak Detection

Several years ago the Authority upgraded to Neptune 900i water meters, which utilize the latest technology in electronics. It was an important investment because the meters can provide enhanced diagnostics to the user, and so allows the Authority to help our customers with early detection of intermittent or continuous water leaks in their systems. The same diagnostics can help our customers promote conservation, and so prevent higher costs that would result from unwanted water leaks.







Neptune R900i® Radio Frequency Meter

Water costs money... don't waste it!

A dripping faucet or fixture can waste 3 gallons a day... a total of 1095 gallons a year.

	U.S. Equivalent	Metric Equivalent
Fluid oz.	8 fl. drams (1.804 cu. inches)	29.573 milliliters
Pint	16 fl. oz. (28.875 cu. inches)	0.473 liter
Quart	2 pints (57.75 cu. inches)	0.946 liter
Gallon	4 quarts (231 cu. inches)	3.785 liters

Waste per quarter at 60 psi water pressure

Diameter of stream	Gallons
 1/4"	1,181,500
 3/16"	666,000
 1/8"	296,000
 1/16"	74,000

A continuous leak from a hole this size would over a three month period, waste water in the amounts shown above.

Approved 5-Year Strategic Plan Outlines Requirements, Resources, and Impacts

It takes much planning to achieve the necessary sanitary sewer/water improvements and maintenance activities that allow the Authority to meet the needs of our community. During the Authority's November public meeting, the 5-Year Strategic Plan was approved by the board.

Decisions about improving the Authority's infrastructure must be made not only on the basis of need, but also on the basis of availability of resources and long-term impact on the community.

A long-range forecast, the Plan provides policy makers and the community

with a strategic approach to the implementation and administration of improvements and maintenance projects. It identifies the Authority's infrastructure needs, skill set staffing requirements, development objectives, regulatory requirements, and appropriate allocation of resources. A guide for success, the Plan identifies the Authority's infrastructure, establishes priorities, and provides for an allocation of resources to meet key objectives.

Approval of this 5-Year Plan sets the strategy for continued maintenance and improvements to best serve the Authority's customers.

