



# 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.*

## Inside this issue:

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Distribution System Program Update | 2 |
| Upcoming Events                    | 3 |
| Treatment Tips                     | 4 |
| Welcome New Members                | 5 |



For the latest information on the Partnership, visit the website - [www.partnershipforsafewater.org](http://www.partnershipforsafewater.org)

## Partnership Member Utilities Affected by Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee and Drought in South

Many Partnership utility members have been affected by Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee as well as the drought in Texas and have struggled to keep systems running to provide water to their customers.

### Irene's Aftermath: The scramble to restore service

Source: *AWWA Streamlines*

Scores of [Northeastern water utilities](#) affected by Hurricane Irene's vicious winds and flash floods rallied to stabilize systems and water pressure, notify customers to boil water, set up water distribution systems and restore safe drinking water.

### Storm floods kill Vermont water plant manager

Raging flood waters spawned by Hurricane Irene's destructive path through Vermont took the life of Rutland Water Treatment Plant Manager [Michael J. Garofano](#), 55, Sunday as he attempted to check water utility intake pipes near the city's reservoir.

### Tropical Storm Lee's remnants bring fresh flood worries to East

Source: *The Wall Street Journal*

WINDHAM, N.Y. — Northeastern residents still weary from the flooding wrought by [Hurricane Irene](#) braced Wednesday for the leftovers of Tropical Storm Lee, which brought welcome moisture to farmers in parched parts of the South on its slog northward.

### Utilities Show Strains from Heat, High Demand

[Drought 2011](#)

Source: *AWWA Texas Section H2O*

In August, 764 of the state's water systems had implemented either mandatory or voluntary restrictions on customer water use, and that number was expected to continue to climb.

### Texas gets even drier in 'unprecedented' [drought](#)

Source: *MSN*

State sees driest 10 months on record; drought spreads to Corn Belt

### Moving water from flood to drought

Source: [BC Water News](#)

## Distribution System Optimization Program Status Update

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The new distribution system optimization program is now open to all utilities. Utility members are starting to collect their baseline disinfectant residual performance data and should be submitting this data to AWWA soon.

This program uses the same proven system as the 15-year old treatment plant program. Awards are given for completing the self-assessment and implementing performance improvement action plans. These recognition awards are useful to utilities to demonstrate their commitment to excellence.

A PEAC-D committee has been formed and so far they have been involved in reviewing the pressure performance assessment software. The group will soon begin developing the utility self-assessment report and reviewer guidelines.

### Coming Soon!

- Self-Assessment report guidelines
- PEAC-D report review procedures
- Revised disinfectant residual data collection software
- Revised pressure performance software
- Instructional webcasts on software use
- Tips from Charter members

Visit the Partnership for Safe Water website for additional information and to join this valuable program. Utilities can join the program any time during the year and the fee is pro-rated accordingly [www.partnershipforsafewater.org](http://www.partnershipforsafewater.org)

The Water Research Foundation has two projects that are each following up to develop more specifics on a metric that had been recommended as in 4109 as an appropriate means to measure degree of optimization of your distribution system.

Project 4321 – Pressure Management: Baseline to Optimized Utility Case Studies. This project is doing case studies, tracking costs and difficulties, of taking existing distribution systems and optimizing them as per the optimization criteria in Project 4109 for pressure. This project is a direct result of Project 4109 recommendations regarding pressure optimization. American Water is doing this work

Project 4374 - Main Breaks: Current Knowledge and Research Roadmap. This project is to create a comprehensive source of information on main breaks, primarily in North America, both in terms of assembling pertinent data from the many attempts to quantify the main break rate, as well as for specific materials and sizes of pipe, and once having assessed the state of the science, suggest further follow-up research as may be appropriate to address major knowledge gaps. This project is a partial result of 4109 recommendations regarding main breaks and leaks. The National Research Council of Canada will be doing this work.

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## July AWWA Journal article mentions new Partnership Distribution System Optimization Program – David LaFrance

“To help utilities optimize operations and enhance water quality in their distribution systems, the Partnership for Safe Water (PSW) launched a new program this year. PSW’s original goal when it began operation in 1995 was to help utilities improve water quality by optimizing treatment plant operations. Now, it has leveraged the proven approaches from that program and applied them to distribution system operations.” See the [complete article](#).

## The 2011 Pennsylvania Partnership for Safe Water Program Summit

Focused on treatment and distribution system optimization

October 11-12, 2011

Hollywood Casino

Grantville, PA

[Register Now!](#)

**Don't miss this event**

Sponsorship and Vendor Opportunities

8 PA DEP Contact Hours (Total Conference)

View the [entire summit program](#).

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### 2011 Water Quality Technology Conference

[November 13 - 17, 2011](#)

Phoenix, Arizona

This event features the latest in water quality technology and services including water quality issues, laboratory techniques, analytical methods, and treatment processes.

### 2012 AWWA Annual Conference

[June 10 - 14, 2012](#)

Dallas, Texas

Join thousands of water professionals who will gather at ACE12 in Dallas, TX.

ACE12 Attendee Registration Now Open

For a complete list of upcoming AWWA events, visit the AWWA events [webpage](#).

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### Web Site Coming Soon!

The newly formed Partnership for Safe Water Rocky Mountain Alliance will have a web site up and running soon. The Alliance is comprised of water utilities from the Rocky Mountain region. The goal of the group is to provide resources for Partnership members, promote treatment excellence and assist utilities moving forward in the Partnership self-assessment program.

For more information or to join this group, please contact Kevin Linder at 720-859-4701 or by email at [klinder@auroragov.org](mailto:klinder@auroragov.org).

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### AWWA Section Services

*Each one of AWWA's sections is a community. Through involvement in one of AWWA's 43 sections, water professionals can take advantage of local educational programs, network with peers, influence state or provincial legislation and regulations, and participate in the local and international organization.*

*Sections conduct annual conferences and have provided recognition to Partnership award-winning utility members. The Partnership appreciates the efforts of all AWWA sections in providing this recognition to our members! [List of AWWA Section annual conference meeting dates](#).*

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## Treatment Tips

By Mike Barsotti, Program Effectiveness Assessment Committee –Treatment (PEAC-T) Chair

The Partnership for Safe Water program offers the Phase IV - Excellence in Water Treatment Award to utilities that want to demonstrate an advanced level of optimization within their treatment facility. Utilities that are in the process of preparing a Phase IV application are asked to register with Debby Qualls at the Partnership program office in Denver at [dqualls@awwa.org](mailto:dqualls@awwa.org). There are quite a few Utilities that are engaged in preparing their Phase IV application. The Phase IV application materials are available at the [Partnershipforsafewater.org](http://Partnershipforsafewater.org).

**QUESTION:** Why is it a good idea to provide information in my Phase IV submittal that my utility has successfully maintained the Phase III “areas of strength” as current “areas of strength” for Phase IV?

**ANSWER:** The Phase IV procedures require utilities to demonstrate that the optimization areas that had been previously assessed as **less than** “areas of strength” under the Phase III self-assessment process have been moved to “areas of strength” under Phase IV. There are fourteen optimization areas, and depending on the assessment each area received under the Phase III process, a utility preparing for a Phase IV submittal may be required, at a minimum, to demonstrate anywhere from one (1) to fourteen (14) of these areas as “areas of strength.”

During a Phase IV review, a major assessment component that the PEAC-T Phase IV review team considers is that actual operational practices and conditions in place at a utility applying for Phase IV demonstrate that all fourteen optimization areas are actual “areas of strength.”

As part of the Phase IV submittal, a utility is only required to demonstrate that those optimization areas that were not assessed as “areas of strength” under Phase III have been brought up to an “area of strength” under Phase IV. However, PEAC-T review teams look favorably for information within a Phase IV report that describes how the optimization areas that had been previously assessed as “areas of strength” under Phase III continue to be “areas of strength” under Phase IV.

**TIP:** Keep in mind when preparing your Phase IV submittal that it is a good idea to strive to persuade the PEAC-T review team that your utility has successfully maintained the Phase III “areas of strength” as current “areas of strength” for Phase IV. This tip is a recommendation and not a requirement. Including this information will go a long way in demonstrating a positive, reliable effort at developing and maintaining Phase IV strengths and the advanced level of optimization that exists at a Phase IV “Excellence in Water Treatment” Award Facility.



*Mike Barsotti has been PEAC-T Chair since November 2009. Contact him at [mikeb@cwd-h2o.org](mailto:mikeb@cwd-h2o.org) for any questions regarding Partnership Phase IV Tips.*

## Welcome New Members

**Treatment Program New Members:**  
Metropolitan Water Board, New York

**Distribution Program New Members:**  
North Table Mountain, Colorado  
Powdersville, S. Carolina  
Plainview Water District, New York

## Partnership Current Member Status

| Treatment Program Members             | Phase III Directors Award Plants | Phase IV Excellence Award Plants |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 225 Utilities<br>413 Treatment Plants | 197                              | 9                                |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <b>Distribution Program</b> Charter Members | 80 |
|---|----|

## Treatment Program Annual Reports Now Overdue!

Your annual report for the period 6/1/2010–5/31/2011 was due in June. If you have not already done so, please submit your report to Debby Qualls by email at [qualls@awwa.org](mailto:qualls@awwa.org).

All plants should submit this report every year regardless of the phase or award status of the plant. Annual reports must include a statement confirming that the plant has not received a notice of violation since the last report. This statement should be submitted in the cover letter submitted with the data.

## Data Collection Software Treatment Program Update

Partnership members have experienced difficulty using the Partnership's treatment program data collection software with Microsoft Excel 2007 or 2010. The Partnership data collection software version 4.1 has been revised. Version 4.2 will be distributed to all members by the end of this year.

New features in this upgrade will allow users to 'Save File for AWWA'. This function allows user to save the worksheet instead of the entire Excel workbook. The 'Save File for AWWA' file should be submitted with annual reports. Please contact Debby Qualls at [dqualls@awwa.org](mailto:dqualls@awwa.org) or Bill Lauer at [blauer@awwa.org](mailto:blauer@awwa.org) with questions.

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## The Partnership is an alliance of six drinking water organizations.

