
2022 INSIGHT financial survey deadline extended to December 9

November 21, 2022 at 12:17 PM

At members' request and to help ensure the most robust participation in AMWA's 2022 INSIGHT (<https://www.amwa.net/insight>) financial information survey, AMWA has extended the survey deadline to Friday, December 9.

AMWA urges members to take advantage of this benefit by completing the survey before the deadline. Only members that submit their updated financial information will have access to the 2022 database and dashboard, so there is a tangible benefit to participation. Filling out the form will allow members access to the INSIGHT database and dashboard. Water utility systems can:

1. Compare their financial data (rates, CIP budgets, revenue sources) to their peer utilities within their state and country-wide;
2. Make the case for affordability programs or rate hikes with their governing body; and
3. Export the pre-made charts and graphs for use in strategic planning, communications tools, meetings with constituents, local leaders, and more.

AMWA estimates the time commitment for those utilities who have completed it in the past to be about two to three hours. It will take eight to ten hours for new survey participants to complete, but it will be worth the investment.

Every survey is essential to the success of one of AMWA's most valuable management resources for members. More collected data creates a more useful database for members to use in benchmarking efforts, identifying water sector trends, and developing financial reports.

Utilities planning to take advantage of the extended deadline should email Antoinette Barber (<mailto:barber@amwa.net>) if they have not already.

Save the dates of March 6-8 for AMWA 2023 Water Policy Conference

November 21, 2022 at 12:22 PM

Water system executives will get a first-hand policy look from Capitol Hill insiders at the AMWA 2023 Water Policy Conference (<https://www.amwa.net/conference/amwas-2023-water-policy-conference>) in the nation's capital from March 6 to 8. Biden Administration officials and members of Congress will provide insights on current federal priorities, including:

- Tackling PFAS and other emerging contaminants;
- Replacing lead service lines;
- Protecting utilities against increasing security threats;
- Addressing climate change and environmental justice; and
- Making other critical investments.

Participants will have the opportunity to discuss the impact a divided Congress will have on the Biden Administration and expectations for water regulation and legislation.

AMWA will share program details and registration information in the upcoming weeks.

AMWA requests workable cyber incident reporting rules

November 21, 2022 at 12:26 PM

AMWA last week submitted comments

(<https://www.amwa.net/testimonycomments/comments-cyber-incident-reporting-request-information>) to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) that offered guideposts for how the agency can make upcoming critical infrastructure cyber incident reporting rules “as workable and beneficial as possible.” Under legislation approved (<https://www.amwa.net/article/congress-approves-cyber-incident-reporting-legislation>) by Congress earlier this year, CISA is required to propose cyber incident reporting rules for covered critical infrastructure entities by early 2024.

In September, CISA released (<https://www.amwa.net/article/cisa-seeks-perspectives-cyber-incident-reporting-rules-launches-listening-sessions>) a Request for Information (RFI) that sought stakeholder perspectives to inform the development of the regulatory proposal. AMWA's comments in response to the RFI – which were informed by input from the association's Regulatory and Security committees – recommended approaches to defining key terms in the statute like “covered entity” and “covered cyber incident,” and suggested what information should be included in the RFI. Comments should be submitted to CISA

within 72 hours of a reasonable belief that an attack has taken place. On this point, AMWA noted that much information about a cyber incident and its perpetrator “will not be readily available to the victim ... within the first 72 hours of the realization that an attack has taken place.” Therefore, the association recommended that the initial report only be required to include information readily available “with a reasonable degree of accuracy.”

AMWA further recommended that sector information sharing and analysis centers like WaterISAC be “clearly and unambiguously” recognized in the regulation as being allowed to submit an incident report on behalf of a covered entity. AMWA noted that WaterISAC can be a liaison to provide these reports because it “maintains positive working relationships with DHS, EPA, and other regulators and stakeholders, while also regularly interfacing with community water systems.”

CISA’s regulation will ultimately determine which critical infrastructure entities are subject to the reporting requirement, but AMWA anticipates that many large drinking water systems will likely be covered. The association’s comments did not attempt to draw the line at where coverage should begin but did say that CISA should define “a service population threshold, above which a community water system shall generally be considered a covered entity,” thereby giving water systems some degree of certainty about their status.

After CISA proposes its cyber incident reporting rules in early 2024, the agency will be required to finalize them by late 2025.

AMWA encourages EPA to consider unintended consequences in comments on developing lead and copper rule

November 21, 2022 at 12:35 PM

On November 15, AMWA submitted comments (<https://www.amwa.net/testimonycomments/comments-epa-ej-considerations-icri>) outlining environmental justice (EJ) concerns for EPA to consider as it develops the proposed Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI). The letter outlines that EPA must consider all complications related to full lead service line replacement as it develops the proposed rule.

The comment responds to a White House announcement (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/12/16/fact-sheet-the-biden-harris-lead-pipe-%20and-paint-action-plan/>) of its intention to “use every tool at its disposal to eliminate all lead service lines” in the next 10 years, including by “encouraging full lead service line replacement and strongly discouraging partial lead service line

replacement.” EPA subsequently concluded an ongoing review (<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/12/17/2021-27457/review-of-the-national-primary-drinking-water-%20regulation-lead-and-copper-rule-revisions-lcrr>) of the LCRR and announced its intention to “immediately begin development” of further revisions that would be known as the LCRI. Among the revisions that EPA intends to propose as part of the LCRI are requirements that “would result in the replacement of all LSLs as quickly as is feasible.”

In the comments, AMWA asked the EPA to recognize, consider, and address the potential hurdles associated with full lead service line replacements should they be mandated as part of a proposed LCRI rule and to provide support for community water systems to address these challenges.

Climate alliance hosting international webinar on novel climate adaptation approach

November 21, 2022 at 12:41 PM

The Water Utility Climate Alliance (WUCA) will host a webinar on a novel climate adaptation position from Sydney Water in Australia on December 5, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. ET. AMWA invites members and subscribers to attend the event.

The presentation will highlight Sydney Water's decision to plan for the most plausible climate change future and design by adapting to the Representative Concentration Pathway 4.5 as a standard requirement. Penny Joseph, Head of Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation at Sydney Water, will present. Attendees will hear about and be able to discuss methods, tools, and examples of Sydney Water's approach to adaptation.

Members may invite staff working on climate change adaptation and sustainability to join the webinar. Please contact Jessica Evans (<mailto:evans@amwa.net>) for the webinar link to attend.

AMWA office closed on Thursday and Friday in observance of Thanksgiving

November 21, 2022 at 1:10 PM

AMWA will be closed on Thursday and Friday in observance of Thanksgiving. The

association wishes members and partners a happy and safe Thanksgiving!

AMWA will not publish the Monday Morning Briefing on November 28, but the weekly newsletter will return to inboxes on December 5.

AMWA is hiring a legislative assistant

November 21, 2022 at 1:13 PM

Legislative Assistant

AMWA

Washington, DC

Drinking Water Quality Division Director

Seattle Public Utilities

Seattle, Washington

Water Planning and Program Division Director

Seattle Public Utilities

Seattle, Washington

Utility Financial Rate Analyst

City of Loveland

Loveland, Colorado

Post a job or view listings today! (<https://jobs.amwa.net/jobs>)

Source URL: <https://www.amwa.net/monday-morning-briefing/november-21-2022>