

Authority View

A Publication of The Association of Environmental Authorities

Spring Conference 2014: "Get Plugged In"

Topics Include Wastewater Management Plans, Trenton Update, Manager in Training, NYC Biosolids Master Plan, Food Waste Recycling --plus the Wave Awards

"When you belong to AEA, you are plugged in," one executive director recently said when asked why he values AEA. This comment inspires the theme of the spring conference, March 11-12 in Atlantic City -- "get plugged in."

The conference brings together colleagues from across the state and gives attendees opportunities to solve problems, make connections to others, and learn about important resources. After the kick-off lunch and opportunity to speak with exhibitors, the meeting is called to order at 1 p.m. The legislative update, the first presentation of the session by Dave Smith of Princeton Public Affairs Group will answer questions such as does Trenton's current pre-occupation with the George Washington Bridge mean legislative gridlock? How could it (if at all) affect AEA members? What is the legislative "outlook" for the new session -- the 216th--of the NJ Legislature?

Wastewater Management Planning is the topic for one of two sessions, to run concurrently, following the legislative update. A representative of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection will discuss the status of the

WMP process and the sewer service area submittals. Then, Keith Mahoney and Anthony Fiore from the New York City Department of Environmental Protection will discuss the city's biosolids management plan, which seeks to address the short and intermediate term needs and long-range planning for sustainable, resilient biosolids treatment and management. Janet Pellichero, the Princeton recycling coordinator, will tell attendees how Princeton turns food waste into compost and reduces the amount of ordinary trash its residents produce.

The second concurrent session Tuesday afternoon will provide an overview of publicly owned water, wastewater and solid waste in New Jersey and will be perfect for lower and middle-level staff who aspire to management positions and for commissioners -- new or those who just want a refresher. How do public owners deliver service? How did the current system of both

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AEA's New Board Members

by Tracy Ecclesine Ivie

Four people have recently joined the AEA board, bringing with them a total of more than 105 years of experience. They include two executive directors, Mike Gianforte, Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority, and Joe Rizzuto, Mount Holly Municipal Utilities Authority, along with Scott Conklin, regulatory compliance manager, Ocean County Utilities Authority, and Frank Lorito, assistant superintendent, Parsippany-Troy Hills Sewer Utility. All will be serving three-year terms on the board. For a closer look at their backgrounds and thoughts about AEA, read on.

Scott Conklin, Ocean County Utilities Authority



Scott Conklin

as a Marine Corps sergeant and has a master's degree in civil engineering,

With about 250 employees, OCUA is one of the larger authorities in the state, and a longtime AEA member. Scott Conklin, who served

is the regulatory compliance manager at OCUA, where he has worked since 1998. He has been on several AEA committees, including conference, legislative and air pollution, which he chaired for about a year.

Conklin says he learned a lot from other committee members, many of whom were at high levels in their organizations. "You get to meet the top people that maybe you normally wouldn't interact with, and you get to see how they do things so you can take that back with you and maybe change a few things."

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2014 Leadership Team

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A few weeks ago Karen from AEA e-mailed me to remind me that my first official president's message should be due for the AEA Newsletter. I pondered long and hard as to what nuggets of AEA wisdom I could impart on the AEA masses. Would it be earth shattering news about the upcoming March conference? Maybe a bulletin on what's new and exciting at AEA. Would it be a report on the Herculean efforts of the many AEA committees? How about what is trending with our state and federal partners. I just couldn't decide what important glimmers of information I would be able to fit in the limited space of a newsletter column. So I settled on the following.

A warm thank you to all of those who make AEA possible and function as well as it does, providing the many valuable services to all of us. In particular I would like to thank Peggy, Karen, my fellow board members, all the committee chairs and members, our regular and municipal members, our associate members, our state and federal partners and the members of our home agencies' that make it possible to participate in all that AEA does. Most importantly I would like to thank all of you for the humbling vote of confidence you have shown in me by electing me to be your president. I look forward to meeting and working with each and every one of you over the course of the year. It is your efforts that will assist me to continue



Jerry Cevetello

to make AEA the premiere organization that it is. My tenure as President would be much less effective without each and every one of your contributions. Thank you for your continuing support and if I can be of assistance please let me know. Hope to see you in Atlantic City at our March 11 & 12 conference.

Mount Laurel Customers Aid Sewer Repair by Reducing Water Use



Final adjustments to complete the sewer main repair

Mount Laurel residents who responded to requests to curb their water use actually helped to mitigate the repair

of a leaking 24-inch sewer force main. Early in the morning, Jan. 9, Mount Laurel MUA crews detected

the leak near Hartford Road and Route 38. Over the next thirty-six hours, they worked to repair the leak which required complete shutdown of the line. 80% of the sewage generated within Mount Laurel normally flows through this main. Mount Laurel MUA personnel notified the DEP of the situation and, through the press and reverse 911 notifications, asked residents to use less water. The decreased flow into the sewers from reduced usage helped to reduce spill volume. "We thank all who curbed their water usage to allow us to make this repair," said Executive Direction Pam Carolan. The public was also assured that drinking water was at no time compromised and that this leak and repair involved only the sewer lines.

Spring Conference

Continued from page 1

municipal providers and utilities authorities evolve? What are key differences between the two segments of the public side? Attendees will hear a panel of three discuss these and related questions. The panelists will be Pat Matarazzo, a veteran of municipal wastewater operations and AEA Life Member, Sky Morehouse, P.E., a commissioner for AEA member organization, Stony Brook RSA, and George Tyler, an attorney with AEA associate member firm Tyler and Carmeli. Following that, Ray Ferrara, vice president/principal of AEA member firm Kleinfelder will discuss how the NJ Pollutant Discharge Elimination System works—its origins and how it has evolved. Then, Maria Mento, executive vice president and CFO at Atlantic County UA, and a representa-

tive of the Department of Community Affairs will offer a primer on utilities authority budgets and public contracts law. Following the afternoon's meetings, there will be a reception, starting at 4:30. On Wednesday, the morning session will open with an AEA Committee Round-up. Chairs of AEA committees – Legislative, HR, Water and others—will talk about what their committees do. Michael M Mandzik Jr, Director, Energy Procurement Advisory Services at T&M Associates, and Phillip T. Golden, Director of Risk Management & Product Development & General Counsel at EMEX will discuss commodities markets, which have a big impact on utility operations. Then, Craig D. Powell Advanced Solutions Architect, of Verizon Wireless will discuss emerging wireless tech-

nologies and how they can be applied in facilities.

Next up and concluding the conference will be the AEA Wave Award Luncheon. Nearly two dozen nominations were submitted this year, and the chosen nominees will be presented with their awards at the luncheon. It will also be the premiere of a new video, featuring familiar AEA faces discussing the value of AEA membership.

New feature

This year's Exhibit Hall will feature a special program called "Attendee Connection." Participating registrants who visit every exhibitor will be eligible to enter a drawing for a Kindle Fire. The drawing will be held at the Wave Award Luncheon on March 12.

AEA's New Board Members

Continued from page 1

One of his goals is for middle managers to have more of a presence in AEA. "They might not have the knowledge and experience base, but the only way they're going to get that is to interact and share with the top people."

He says that because many utilities and authorities are managed by people who started their careers in the 1970s, a large employee turnover is taking place. "There is now a whole new set of people out there – a different age group – a different technology group. Those are the folks that I feel if AEA wants to be successful, needs to tap into."

Mike Gianforte, Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority

Mike Gianforte has been an advocate of the AEA since 1995, when he started at Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority. A professional engineer, he worked in the industry for about a decade before that.



Mike Gianforte

When he joined Two Rivers – called Northeast Monmouth County Regional Sewerage Authority at the time – new board members made drastic changes and were looking to cut any "frivolous" expenses. AEA membership was almost chopped, says Gianforte, noting that once board members realized the benefits of the association, "a couple of commissioners went from being some of the biggest detractors to the guys that said, 'When's the next meeting?'"

Gianforte has served on the preparedness committee and says that AEA conference calls during Hurricane Sandy were invaluable. "AEA was critical in our recovery and survival

during those first few weeks, and ever since," he says.

Gianforte also praises AEA for retaining professionals to help with a permitting issue that affected at least a half dozen utilities authorities, which saved significant money and time by splitting the costs.

As for AEA's future direction, he says, "I'd like to have them continue to do the good things that they do. Right at this moment, I don't see anything that strikes me as lacking. ... I'm glad I was asked to be on the board and I hope I can contribute as much as I've seen other people contribute. I'm excited about it."

Joe Rizzuto, Mount Holly Municipal Utilities Authority

With a degree in biology, Joe Rizzuto started as a lab technician at Evesham Municipal Utilities Authority fresh out of college in 1993. He stayed there 20 years, rising to executive director in



Joe Rizzuto

2010 before becoming MHMUA's executive director in January 2013.

Rizzuto really enjoys AEA meetings and conferences.

"The knowledge base of the speakers they provide at these conferences is tremendous. I've gained a lot of knowledge from the presentations, and in talking with other AEA members," he says.

Rizzuto was asked to speak on the panel, "So You Want to Be an Executive Director," at several conferences. He believes that the sessions provided exposure to AEA for many people who had not attended previous conferences in addition to teaching them about the responsibilities of executive directors.

The job is never boring, he says. "There's always something new, whether it's a water main break or a sewer main break – under conditions that aren't the same every single time. ... I think it keeps the interest level high."

He feels that many people stay in the industry because it's so rewarding to protect the environment and safeguard water quality. Part of that mission is the daily challenge of meeting or exceeding permit requirements. "It gives you great satisfaction when you do meet those goals," he says. "That's something you can take home with you every single day."

Frank Lorito, Parsippany-Troy Hills Sewer Utility



Frank Lorito

An industry veteran for almost 35 years, Frank Lorito is a "hands-on" kind of guy who has done just about every job involved with sewer

and water purification. He spent three years at Two Bridges Sewerage Authority before joining Parsippany-Troy Hills as an operator in 1983, where he worked the midnight shift, running incinerators and doing plant work. He moved to daytime work when the incinerator upgraded its monitoring system in the mid-1990s.

When the incinerator closed about 10 years ago, he became assistant superintendent of the sewer utility, where he checked pump stations and replaced sewer lines and trenches, among other things. Lorito believes his diverse background has helped him in supervising employees. "You know what the other people can do, because you've already done it."

He says the AEA was very helpful to Parsippany-Troy Hills when there were statewide issues about incinerators. He and his boss attended several meetings and were able to resolve their problems. As the AEA's only municipal board member, Lorito feels privileged to represent other municipalities and hopes to contribute his expertise wherever possible. He particularly enjoys the camaraderie between members and says because of AEA, his township helped several municipalities during Hurricane Sandy by taking their sludge.

Lorito is looking forward to serving on a committee and being assigned new responsibilities. "I am very honored. I was surprised. I will try to do my best as a board member," he says.

Be sure to look for Scott, Mike, Joe, Frank and all the officers and directors on the AEA board at the conference. They would like to meet you and hear your thoughts. Look on page 2 for a current list.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

This is the time of year when new commissioners begin their terms. I would like to welcome them and wish them success. A reminder to executive directors—our commissioners' handbook is available on the Member Content side of our website, aeanj.org. If you prefer CD format, contact AEA for a copy.

One of the unique values that AEA offers the public clean water and solid waste sector is involvement of commissioners. Commissioners attend our events, especially our conferences, they participate in our committees, commissioners contributed to the development of our Commissioners Handbook, and many are connected to AEA through this newsletter and E-news. At the November conference, nineteen commissioners completed a survey that we handed out. (To those commissioners, thank you!) Our goal in general was to get to know commissioners/board members better, to understand more about what our commissioners knew about AEA, and to begin to understand how AEA can support them.

Nearly all have attended AEA events before. We asked them whether AEA conferences provided topics of interest (which I admit is a bit like asking the choir member if he likes to sing), and all but one respondent agreed that they do. The one who did not agree is a new commissioner who indicated he did not know.

I am glad to say that all but one had read this newsletter before. So thank you to all the executive directors who make sure Authority View gets to their boards. It is a showcase for the talent of members. Those who advertise value the fact that AV goes to decision-makers – not only EDs but also boards and managers.

When we asked the commissioner if they had read E-News, about half said yes. That's encouraging considering E-News is a new offering. (The distribution tripled in size in the last year!) While Authority View is focused on articles that provide case histories, overviews and analysis, E-News, which is distributed about every two weeks, focuses on the more immediate types of information – conference and other AEA events, and issues and regs that are of immediate concern. We also include "News Links of Interest" which passes on news specifically about clean water and solid waste matters in NJ. We hope executive directors will forward E-News, print it out and include in board members' packets, or urge their boards to subscribe. (Contact AEA with any email addresses you wish to have added. We always respect the wishes of those who do not wish to receive E-News—by providing an unsubscribe link at the bottom of E-News.

The survey respondents told us that they would consider attending a two-hour event for commissioners, but that they would be more likely to do so if it was convenient to where they live. We asked them which topics were of interest to them. Twelve said "role and responsibility of commissioners," but the topic of greatest interest was "long-range planning for water and wastewater utilities." Fifteen of the nineteen said they were interested in that. Nine who completed the survey said they were interested in "better understanding of how water, sewer and/or solid waste systems work."

About half indicated that they would be interested in having a presentation at their meeting about AEA's work on behalf of utilities. Anyone else



Peggy Gallos

interested in this should contact me to set it up.

I hope to do more surveying and listening this year, to commissioners/board members in particular, and I welcome the involvement and feedback from that important segment of our membership.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy Gallos".

About This Newsletter

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Board Responsibility and Accountability

The Board has the ultimate responsibility of insuring that the Authority acts properly and lawfully. The words “responsibility” and “accountability” are gaining significance as courts and legislatures are taking an increasing role to ensure that Boards and individual Members are properly executing their powers. Board Members should never act as a “rubber stamp” for management decisions but must exercise their own well-reasoned and prudent judgment with respect to matters brought before them.

Specific Duties of a Board Member

Attendance at board meetings (participation here as a policy maker and planner is the most important part of the job).

Attend regularly and be on time.

Become well informed (in advance) on all agenda items.

Contribute your knowledge and express points of view based on experience.

Consider other points of view, make constructive suggestions, and help the Board make group decisions reflecting the thinking of the total group.

During the meeting, stick to the agenda. Wait until the Chairperson asks for discussion of subjects not on the agenda before bringing up new business.

If aimless discussions arise on a subject that requires further study or research, stop them with a motion that a study committee be appointed. This is one of the best methods for moving a meeting along and adjourning at a reasonable hour.

Attend the meetings of Standing Committees and any special or ad hoc committees to which you are appointed.

Assume leadership roles as requested or appointed by the other Board Members (such as Committee Chairperson, elected Officer, etc.).

Represent the Authority at community events, organizations and with private individuals. Speak proudly and positively.

Be informed about Authority programs, policies and services. Tour the facilities.

Educate yourself about the utility system and the needs of the community.

Become conversant on the key issues challenging the Authority by attending AEA Conferences and reading the newsletter “*The Authority View*”.

Communicate the Authority’s position on pending state legislation by writing and talking with state legislators in the Authority’s service district. A critical function of a Board Member is the networking and contacts, especially with locally elected or states officials, he or she brings to the board, to let them know the authority’s and/or AEA’s position.

Note: Always consult your authority attorney with any specific questions or concerns.



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Public Websites Are Up and Running

by Leslie G. London, Esq.

We will soon be approaching the one-year anniversary of the effective date of P.L. 2011, Chapter 167, which requires all State, regional, environmental and local authorities, boards and commissions, to maintain an internet website or webpage on the website of another governmental entity. The New Jersey Legislature mandated this requirement in response to a critical report by the New Jersey State Comptroller in February 2011, which found that a significant number of New Jersey's local agencies failed to take basic steps to keep the public informed of their operations and finances. At the time of the Comptroller's report of its review of the State's 587 local authorities, 3 percent posted their financial reports, 8 percent posted the minutes, schedule and agenda of their public meetings, and 36 percent did not operate a website at all. Those local authorities that had a website failed to include basic and significant information. The report concluded that transparency was sorely lacking at local authorities and recommended that all local authorities establish a website or webpage to provide an appropriate level of transparency to the public whom they serve.

Consistent with the State Comptroller's recommendations, P.L. 2011 Chapter 167 mandates the disclosure and posting of very specific information by local authorities, boards and commissions on its own website or the webpage of another governmental entity. The information must include at a minimum:

1. A description of the entity's mission and responsibilities;
2. The budget once adopted for the current fiscal year and the immediately prior three fiscal years;
3. The most recent Comprehensive

Annual Financial Report or other similar financial information;

4. The annual audit for the most recent and immediately prior three consecutive fiscal years;
5. The entity's rules, regulations and official policy statements;
6. Notices of all public meetings, setting forth the time, date, location and agenda of the meeting as required under the Open Public Meetings Act;
7. The minutes of each meeting including all resolutions for the current fiscal year and the approved minutes of meetings for at least three prior consecutive fiscal years;
8. The name, mailing address, electronic mail address and phone number of every person who exercises day-to-day supervision or management over some or all of the operations of the entity; and
9. A list of any business, firm, consultant (including engineers, auditors and attorneys) advisors, corporations or other organizations which received any payment of \$17,500 or more during the preceding fiscal year, for any service whatsoever rendered to the public entity.

A recent cursory review of the websites of approximately 50 local environmental authorities reveals that the vast majority are in full compliance with the posting of these requirements. Several websites however, did not include all of the required information, and in some cases, although the information was posted, it was not easily found, without searching throughout the website. All in



Leslie G. London, Esq.

all, however, P.L. 2011, Chapter 167 appears to have achieved its goal of making available to the public, a much more extensive amount of information about the operations and finances of local authorities, boards and commissions.

Mission Statement

At AEA's annual planning session in January it was decided our mission statement needed to be revised to better articulate who we are. Our revised mission is as follows:

AEA is an association of publicly owned government agencies and private-sector businesses that provide or support clean water, solid waste and environmental stewardship in New Jersey. The mission of AEA is to deliver information, education and advocacy programs and services that help member organizations provide excellent service to ratepayers and help the public understand and value the work of its members.

Recent Cases Impact Authority Practices

by Leslie G. London, Esq.

Decisions in two recent New Jersey cases have the potential to impact certain practices followed by authorities involving the fees charged to the public for bid specifications and the provision of agenda attachments, appendices, and other reference documents to the public prior to a public meeting.

In David W. Opderbeck v. Midland Park Board of Education, Law Division, Bergen County, Docket No. BER-L-8571-13, decided on December 24, 2013, the Court held that, absent a claim of an exemption, privilege or some other particularized reasons under the Open Public Records Act ("OPRA"), the Open Public Meetings Act ("OPMA") or the common law right of access, all attachments, appendices and other documents referenced in the agenda for a public meeting, must be made available to the public contemporaneously with the distribution of these documents to the members of the public entity.

In this case, Opderbeck, a resident of Midland Park and a parent of children in the Midland Park public schools, made several unsuccessful requests to the Midland Park Board of Education to receive a copy of attachments referenced in the agendas for board meetings when they were made available to the board members. Opderbeck also made a subsequent request that the board adopt a policy to provide such attachments, which was rejected. Opderbeck filed an action requiring the provision of the attachments.

The board argued that the OPMA only required that written notice of the "time, date, location, and to the extent known, the agenda of any meeting be published forty-eight (48) hours in advance" and that OPRA exempts from disclosure, "pre-decisional advisory, consultative, or deliberative materials." The board also relied on Attorney General Formal Opinion, 1976-19, which said that supplemental

materials given to board members to inform their decision-making need not be included in the agenda. The Court held that providing the attachments to an agenda are an integral element necessary to understand the agenda, and the failure to provide the attachments renders an agenda virtually meaningless and incomprehensible. This is inconsistent with the goals of the OPRA, OPMA and the common law right of access, which favors transparency, the Court said. The Court did recognize that certain documents which qualify for an enumerated exemption or privilege under the OPRA, OPMA or the common law right to access, may not have to be produced. However, the Court ruled that all other attachments and documents, not privileged or exempt, must be produced electronically and made available with the agendas.

In Ernest Bozzi v. City of Atlantic City, Rhonda Williams, RMS and William M. England, P.E., City Engineer, App. Division, Docket No. A-0532-12T decided on January 7, 2014, the Appellate Division held that the bid specifications in question were "government records" subject to OPRA's fee limits for duplication and therefore, a flat standard fee could not be charged to the public for a copy of the specifications.

In this case, Bozzi requested a copy of bid specifications from the Atlantic City Clerk for certain HVAC maintenance services. He was directed to the City Engineer's office, where he was told that an OPRA form was not necessary. He was charged a flat standard fee of \$25 for a copy of the 69-page bid specifications. Bozzi paid the fee, but subsequently filed an action with the Court claiming that the City had violated OPRA, since OPRA limited copying costs of public documents to five cents per page. He sought a refund, counsel fees and costs.

The Law Division held that the bid specifications were subject to the

copying costs under OPRA and therefore, the flat \$25 fee charged by the City violated OPRA. Bozzi was awarded counsel fees and the City was restrained from imposing a flat fee for bid specifications. The City appealed.

On appeal, the City argued that Bozzi could not seek relief under OPRA because he failed to submit a written OPRA request for the bid specifications, which was a basic procedurally necessary element of an OPRA claim. The City also argued that the provision of bid specifications is governed by the Local Public Contracts Law (the "LPCL"), not OPRA. The City cited to the provision in the LPCL for competitive contracting that permits a contracting unit to charge the greater of \$50 or the cost of reproducing the documentation for a request for proposal.

The Appellate Division held that a written record request is necessary in order for OPRA to apply and for relief to be granted under that statute. Since Bozzi did not submit a written OPRA request, the Appellate Division reversed the Law Division determination that the City violated OPRA, and vacated the award of counsel fees to Bozzi. The Appellate Division also held that the bid specifications here were government records subject to OPRA and they were not subject to OPRA's "advisory, consultative or deliberative material" exemption, as argued by the City. The Appellate Division acknowledged the provision in the LPCL cited by the City that permits a contracting unit to impose a fee for reproducing documents as overriding OPRA's payment provisions, but said that LPCL provision was specific only to competitive contracting proposals and could not be applied generally to all contract proposals. The Appellate Division also found no other provision in the LPCL that permits the charging of a fee for such specifications that would override OPRA's fee limits.

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Pictures from our Annual Meeting



AEA Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and Peggy Gallos at the 2014 planning session.



Stefani Schwartz talks about In the Door and Out: Best Practice for Hiring, Firing and Discipline.



Karen and board member Tim Shea take a break from scanning badges to pose for the camera.



Attendees wait patiently for the program to begin.



The Up the Creek MUA made another appearance. Cast include first row (l to r) Cathy Callow, Rich Brand, Fletcher Platt and Justin Flancabaum; second row (l to r) Neil Goldfine, Maria Mento, Joe Maraziti, Tom Horn, Sue Brasefield, Bernie Bujak and Gary Nucera.



Kevin Harold of NJ Spotlight addresses attendees on The Evolution of Public Policy Journalism.

ing and 2014 planning session.



The Directors and staff of AEA pose for a group photo.



Michele Putnam prepares to answer a question.



Peggy shares a smile with (l to r) Miguel Salinas, Jim Wanchow and Fran Bonoccorso.



Sue Hartman, Joe Rizzuto (m) and Rick Eustace enjoy conversation at the opening reception.

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Recent Cases Impact Authority Practices

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Consequently, the Appellate Division held, had Bozzi submitted a written OPRA request for the bid documents, the fee that would be charged for duplication, would be the fee within the limits in OPRA. The Court recognized that bid specifications may not be the type of "government record" the Legislature had in mind when adopting OPRA, but any exception to OPRA's fee limits for the provision of such documents, would have to come from the Legislature, not the Courts.

Based on these recent cases, authorities may now receive requests from the public, citing to Opderbeck, for copies of documents referenced in the agenda to be made available electronically, when they are available to the authority's members. However, it is important to remember that the Court did not make a blanket ruling requiring that all documents be provided. If a document falls within one of the exemptions or privileges under OPRA, OPMA or the common law right to access, the docu-

ments will not have to be produced. Also, as stated in Bozzi, if an OPRA request is made for bid specifications, they are to be produced, and the amount to be charged for a copy, is as set forth in OPRA, unless there is another applicable statutory provision that specifically permits the charging of a different fee for such bid specifications.

About the Writer: *Leslie G. London is a member in the law firm of McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC, which is a long-time member of AEA.*



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Engineering Sustainable Solid Waste Management Solutions for New York City

by Charles Palaia



Charles Palaia

With 8.2 million residents and over 52 million visitors annually, New York City produces nearly 50,000 tons of municipal refuse and recyclables each day. The City of New York Department of Sanitation (DSNY) collects refuse from every residential household, public school and building as well as many of this city's large institutions providing curbside or containerized collections up to three times a week. The remainder of the waste, predominantly business and construction waste is collected by a wide array of private hauling companies.

Historically, a network of marine transfer stations (MTS) was used as discharge destinations for DSNY collection trucks in the Bronx, Manhattan, Queens and Brooklyn. Refuse was dumped directly into open hopper barges and then transported to the Fresh Kills landfill on Staten Island. Refuse which originated on Staten Island was trucked directly to Fresh Kills.

With the closure of the Fresh Kills landfill in 2001, the City transitioned to a primarily truck-based disposal program. Utilizing a series of land-based transfer stations, the refuse is transferred to semi-trucks for shipment to one of a number of disposal sites in neighboring states. While this truck-based system met the City's immediate need for an alternative waste disposal program, it was intended only as a temporary solution. It was recognized from the onset that operating and maintenance costs, along with rising fuel prices and the need to transport refuse to increasingly distant disposal sites

as local landfills reach capacity would make the system economically infeasible. Triple-bottom line analysis showed that this mode of disposal also added to traffic congestion and contributed to increased deterioration of city streets, bridges and highways.

Finding a Sustainable Solution:

In order to mitigate the increasing costs and traffic issues, the City engaged a team led by Greeley and Hansen to investigate possible long term solutions to replace the truck-based system. The team conducted a series of feasibility studies showing that the City's existing marine transfer station network could be effectively converted to containerize the refuse for shipment by barge to an intermodal port facility where it could be off-loaded to rail, ship or barge for transport to remote disposal sites.

Containerization processes using mechanical compactors, a process already employed at the Staten Island Transfer Station, were investigated as well as a top-loading container process which allows non-compacted material to be placed into larger containers. The studies determined that the top-loading process allowed a higher net payload per container translating to significant annual savings in container handling and transport costs. Further, eliminating the mechanical compaction equipment reduces the projected operation costs and potential for mechanical breakdown.

Facilities using the top-loading process would incorporate a three level design

where the collection vehicles enter on the highest level and tip their loads to a loading floor below. The waste would then be sorted, processed and loaded through openings in the floor into waiting containers on the pier level below. Containers would be unloaded from barges at the pier level, have their lids removed and be placed under the openings in the loading floor to receive the waste. Once full, the containers would be re-lidded, weighed and placed back onto the barge for transport to the intermodal facility.

Four sites were ultimately selected by the City for conversion to this new process; North Shore MTS in Queens, Hamilton Avenue MTS in Brooklyn, East 91st Street MTS in Manhattan and Southwest Brooklyn MTS. The historical throughput capacity of the existing stations was used as a baseline for the new facilities. The facilities maintain the original transfer station wastesheds, ensuring environmental justice goals were attained to ensure fair share of waste management throughout the city.

The Greeley and Hansen led design team created a typical transfer station design which could be adapted to accommodate each of the individual sites. This typical design creates uniformity between the sites reducing the projected maintenance requirements. Further, this uniformity allows for standardization of training procedures allowing staff from one MTS to work at any of the other three without significant site specific training.

Continued on page 14

Solid Waste Management Solutions for New York City

Continued from page 13

The New Process in Action:

Collection vehicles entering the tipping floor level of the facility are met by radiation detection equipment and an automatic high-speed rollup door. Once inside the facility the trucks are weighed at an automated weigh station before overhead lights direct them to the appropriate dumping bay. Truck crews dump their payload of refuse over the backing log to the loading level below and exit the facility stopping at a second automated weigh station on their way out.

Tipped material dumped from collection vehicles above is processed and sorted on the loading floor. With an expansive floor area, the loading floor provides ample space for DSNY workers running wheel loaders to organize, sort and remove any unauthorized wastes. Materials can be piled on either side of the floor to handle diurnal variations in the rate of incoming vehicles. Opposite the tipping area are four slot openings in the floor. Once the materials have been processed, they are pushed into these slots and fall into containers waiting below. A digital readout on the wall behind each of the slots allows the operator to know how much material has been loaded and a tamping excavator tamps the material into the containers for optimal loading.

The containers are handled on the pier level, the lowest level of the facility. Empty containers are unloaded from moored barges by a pair of rail mounted gantry cranes. Containers are placed either onto the pier for storage or onto one of four automated shuttle cars which transport the container into the building. Once inside the empty containers are brought to an un-lidding/re-lidding area where their lids are removed by an automatic spreader assembly overseen by two operators. Once the lid has been removed, the shuttle car moves the container under the slot opening in the loading floor.



North Shore Marine Transfer Station, Queens, NY

The state-of-the-art shuttle car system works in conjunction with the gantry cranes and lidding system for a near completely automated process capable of transporting a container loaded with municipal solid waste. Each shuttle car is an autonomous unit riding on railroad style rails recessed into the pier deck. Each unit incorporates an electrically driven gear reduced drive system, on-board container weighing system and a laser range finding and obstacle detection system. Designed for rigidity and durability, the shuttle cars are capable of sustaining impact loads of 5 tons of waste being dumped into the containers from a height of 15 feet. Complete cycle times for a container to be unloaded from a moored barge, loaded onto a shuttle car, unlidded, loaded, relidded and loaded back onto a barge is anticipated to be less than 15 minutes.

The marine transfer stations will use custom fabricated sealable 62 cubic yard containers incorporating a unique lid securing method. Container lids are secured with a specially designed twist lock mechanism similar to that used on gantry cranes to lock onto and pick up containers. When a container is moved into position to have its lid removed or reinstalled, an electrically driven automatic lidding spreader is lowered onto the lid. This lidding spreader locks

onto the lid and turns the twist locks releasing it from the container. The lid is then hoisted from the container and held for re-lidding back onto the same container from which it was removed. Re-lidding with the original lid is critical since both containers and lids can become warped or distorted through use, creating difficulty installing a lid onto a different container.

Marine Transfer Station Program Projections:

The four sites selected for the conversion to the new process will significantly reduce truck traffic within the City and in surrounding areas of New Jersey. Semi-truck traffic reductions will also be felt in adjacent states where many of the disposal sites are located. Maintaining the original transfer station wastesheds allows the collection trucks servicing those areas significantly shorter trips to deliver their loads. Taking into consideration the varying nature of the composition of municipal solid waste, it is anticipated that each container will hold a load of approximately 22 tons or roughly equivalent to one semi-truck load. Barges transporting 48 containers at a time will be used to move the containers to the intermodal facilities each day. Transferring the containers to rail, ship or barge will conserve semi-truck miles in transporting

the material to the final disposal sites. All together, the savings in combined vehicle miles traveled by collection trucks and semi-trucks is projected to be in the millions of miles.

Construction at the first two stations, North Shore MTS and Hamilton Avenue MTS is anticipated to be completed in early 2014. Construction at East 91st Street MTS is underway with work scheduled to begin at Southwest Brooklyn MTS in early 2014. Once completed, the City of New York will have a long term, sustainable solution for the management of its municipal solid waste.

***About the writer:** Charles Palaia is a mechanical engineer for Greeley and Hansen LLC, and has been working on the DSNY marine transfer station program for six years.*



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Biosolids Management and Odor Control

by Howard Matteson, CDM Smith and Tom Horn, Lambertville MUA

The Lambertville Municipal Utilities Authority (LMUA) and CDM Smith consulting engineers developed an odor control/biosolids management plan that guided operational and capital improvements at the community's wastewater treatment plant – and significantly reduced odor complaints. Senior Project Manager Howard Matteson of CDM Smith and LMUA Executive Director Thomas F. Horn explain how their efforts mitigated the unintended consequences of stored solids.

Odor is a daily fact of life for wastewater treatment facilities in which on-site personnel are accustomed to tolerating most odors as a passing nuisance. Oftentimes, the strength of a given odor falls on the scale between “doesn’t smell” and “kinda smells,” with the basic premise being that some odor can always be detected. However, the general public does not share that tolerance for even the slightest odor emitted by wastewater treatment facilities located near residential or commercial neighborhoods.

Faced with this problem, the Lambertville Municipal Utilities Authority (LMUA) and consulting firm CDM-Smith developed an odor control/ biosolids management plan (OC/ BMP) that has significantly reduced odor complaints reported at the Lambertville wastewater treatment plant in New Jersey. The five-phase plan called for addressing physical and operational aspects of the treatment plant and collection system.

The LMUA plant is located on the banks of the Delaware River in Hunterdon County, about a half-mile from downtown Lambertville, and a quarter mile from residential neighborhoods that include homes, shops, and restaurants. In years past, the LMUA would be inundated with complaints when the wind blew odors in the direction of homes and business. At least that is the way it used to be.

Originally built in the 1950s, the treatment facility utilized an anaerobic digester for sludge treatment. The facility was expanded in the



Howard Matteson



Tom Horn

1980s to accommodate flows from Stockton, New Jersey and New Hope, Pennsylvania. The expanded plant included a belt filter press (BFP) to process sludge from aerobic and an-

LAMBERTVILLE MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY ODOR CALL SUMMARY May, 2012

Total Calls 13

Date	Time of Call	Day of week	Location	Odor Type: Sewage, Cabbage, Rotten Eggs, Other	Duration	Strength: 1-5 1=Weak 5=Strong	Temp	Wind Speed	Wind Direction	Clear v. Raining	Constant or Intermittent
5/1/2012	1540	Tues	Inn of the Hawk	Sewage		1	73		calm	Cloudy	I
5/3/2012	1533	Thur	10 Raritan Pointe	sewage	all day	2	62	0	calm	Overcast	C
5/3/2012	1630	Thur	Inn of the Hawk	Sewage		2	63	0	calm	Overcast	C
5/3/2012	1700	Thur	74 S. Union St	bad odor	all day	2	63	0	calm	Overcast	C
5/4/2012	1923	Fri	Cavallo Park	sewage		1	77	0	calm	Clear	I
5/9/2012	1005	Wed	Inn of the Hawk	Smelly		1	66	0	calm	Overcast	I
5/11/2012	1115	Fri	River Walk	Sewage		2	66	4	WNW	Clear	I
5/12/2012	1620	Sat	216 S. Main St	Sewage		2	81	1	W	Clear	I
5/12/2012	2013	Sat	74 S. Union St	Sewage		2	72	0	calm	Clear	I
5/12/2012	2029	Sat	Bridge St	Sewage		2	70	0	calm	Clear	I
5/16/2012	955	Wed	Inn of the Hawk	Sewage		1	74	0	calm	Hazy	I
5/16/2012	1715	Wed	6 Raritan Pointe	Mild odor		1	85	0	calm	clear	I
5/17/2012	1958	Thur	Inn of the Hawk	Sour		1	67	0	calm	Clear	I

Odor Complaint Spread Sheet

aerobic digesters. In the early 2000s, LMUA converted the existing anaerobic sludge digester to a sludge storage tank and discontinued use of the aerobic digesters. Odor control using granulated carbon was installed at this time for the sludge storage tank and the BFP room.

LMUA subsequently installed a variety of odor control measures to address complaints from the surrounding area.

By 2008, much of the facility's equipment, installed in the early 1980s, needed to be replaced. Concurrent with, and related to LMUA's odor problems, various processing systems required nearly constant maintenance. Working with CDM Smith, LMUA secured funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 to address many of the equipment replacement needs.

During routine maintenance on the carbon odor control system, LMUA found that the primary carbon bed on its largest unit was badly rusted, and would likely need to be replaced. LMUA asked CDM Smith to evaluate options to the existing carbon based system in lieu of straight replacement. CDM Smith prepared an analysis of LMUA's odor generation potential and concluded that a biotrickling filter/biofilter offered a reasonable alternative to carbon.

At the same time, CDM Smith noted that LMUA's practice of combining primary and secondary sludge in the sludge holding tank (for storage), coupled with long sludge-holding times, was an aspect of LMUA's operations that needed to be looked at more closely. CDM Smith and LMUA recognized that separating the sludges and minimizing holding time would benefit the biofilter by reducing the amount of odorous compounds it treats, and would minimize odor generation potential at the plant. These few critical areas ended

up being the focus of LMUA's odor control strategy.

OC/BMP underway

As the authority's ARRA project was almost completed, CDM Smith's review of alternatives to carbon for odor control was underway. With new equipment in place, LMUA had fewer maintenance issues to contend with and was able to focus on mitigating odors. Consequently, LMUA and CDM Smith developed an odor control/biosolids management plan (OC/BMP) to help guide the authority's activities and expenditures, with no increase in user rates as mandated by LMUA board members.

To facilitate implementation of the OC/BMP, the program was broken into five major phases. Each major phase took advantage of benefits from the preceding phases and made it easier for LMUA staff to implement and manage the plan. By phasing the implementation, the authority was able to fund the work from existing revenues and reserves.

Phase 1 – Replacing odor control:

Once LMUA discovered the need to replace the carbon-based odor control system, CDM Smith was asked to evaluate alternatives.

Three types of odor control systems were considered: carbon adsorption, biofiltration, and chemical scrubbers. CDM Smith concluded that a biotrickling filter followed by a biofilter was the best option for LMUA, and offered the lowest long term costs, especially when considering the reduction in operation and maintenance costs over the life of the unit.

In the biofiltration process, odorous air is passed through an organic and/or inorganic media that supports a population of microorganisms. The pollutants in the air stream are absorbed onto the media, where microorganisms feed on them in an aerobic environment. While the biological reactions are complex, simpler and less odorous compounds are formed in the process. Nutrients, to support biological growth, may be available in the organic media or may have to be supplied if inorganic media is used. The air must be warm and should be humidified for effective biofiltration.

Two discrete biological processes take place during the biofiltration process. H₂S is converted to sulfuric



New Biofilter/Biotrickling Filter Installation

acid, and organic compounds are oxidized H₂S removal will cause the pH of the media to drop, eventually inhibiting the oxidation of organics. The media has a finite life and must be replaced after either the pressure drop increases to a point where the fan will not properly operate or the environment becomes unfit for microbial growth. The environment of the media can be optimized by monitoring critical nutrients for sustained growth and maintaining the system pH. Typically, inorganic media comes with a 10-year warranty and organic media needs to be replaced every three to four years.

Continued on page 18

Biosolids Management and Odor Control

Continued from page 17

LMUA procured and installed a biotrickling filter/biofilter following the recommendation of CDM Smith. The authority was able to partially fund the purchase and installation of the biotrickling filter/biofilter with funds remaining under the ARRA loan, and a unit was installed in late 2011. The biofilter/biotrickling ductwork was installed to integrate with the relocation of the sludge storage in later phases of the OC/BMP.

Phase 2 – Concrete repair: CDM Smith and LMUA recognized that in order to further mitigate odor generation potential, the primary and secondary sludges should be separated while they were stored prior to treatment with the belt filter press.

CDM Smith performed a structural assessment of the tanks in early 2011 and found the interior coating was in poor condition and a number of unsound concrete locations and numerous horizontal and vertical cracks that appeared to be due to shrinkage and/or construction joints.

CDM Smith recommended removal and replacement of unsound concrete, repair of cracks using polyurethane chemical grout injection, and application of a structural high build epoxy polymer coating for concrete protection.

Based on CDM Smith's recommendation, LMUA proceeded with the tank repairs. The authority combined this work with the procurement and installation of the biotrickling filter/biofilter, paying for it, in part, with funds remaining under the ARRA loan. This work was also completed in 2011.

Phase 3 – Concrete dividing wall construction: As part of CDM Smith's prior analysis, LMUA knew they needed to separate primary and secondary sludges to minimize odor generation potential. As part of the work associated with the concrete rehabilitation, the authority constructed a dividing



Rehabilitation of the new sludge storage tank. Note: new dividing was in the foreground.

wall within the new sludge storage tank, creating two separate compartments within the tank. The new compartments provide enough volume for several days of sludge storage. LMUA combined this work with the procurement and installation of the biotrickling filter/biofilter, and the concrete repair work. It was partially paid for with funds remaining under the ARRA loan. Similar to Phases 1 and 2, this work was also completed in 2011.

Phase 4 – Cover installation: In order to mitigate odor generation potential, LMUA has contained the new sludge storage tanks with an aluminum cover. The ductwork for the biofilter/biotrickling filter was arranged to integrate easily with the new aluminum cover installed under this phase.

Phase 5 – Ancillary equipment installation: The last phase of the BMP included the installation of mechanical and electrical ancillary equipment to support the new sludge storage tankage. This included a new BFP sludge feed pump, refurbishment of an

existing blower, submersible mixer for the primary sludge compartment, and modifications to existing piping and associated instrumentation and controls. LMUA staff completed most of this work with some assistance from contractors. This work was completed in July 2013 and the new facilities placed in operation at that time.

Concurrently, LMUA staff with assistance from consultants and contractors worked on other operational and evaluation tasks to help alleviate complaints concerning odors. These tasks were completed during the period of December, 2011 through April, 2013. The tasks included inspection of sewer lines in the area where we received the majority of odor complaints, monitoring the sewer system for pH levels, sulfide concentrations, hydrogen sulfide concentrations, and flow levels. These analyses helped in determining the condition of the sewer system and possible sources of odors. The LMUA also began chemical addition to the BFP sludge stream and to the sewer system for hydrogen sulfide control. The last tasks were installation of rubber

mats over areas of the treatment plant where it was believed odors could be released, covering the grit and screening dumpster for odor containment, construction of a wall in the BFP area to separate it from garage for improved odor control and reduced corrosion, and increased sludge processing to reduce holding times in the sludge holding tanks. Although minor in nature, these tasks helped in the LMUA's effort to reduce sources of odors and, with them, complaints.

As mentioned above, the LMUA was dealing with complaints due to odors prior to the major ARRA project to replace old equipment. Even with the

tion with ongoing operations to try to ascertain possible sources.

In addition to this, the LMUA attended meetings of the City of Lambertville Council periodically to keep them apprised of the status of our efforts. At other times, we provided written updates on the status of the work underway and odor complaints. We also met with those citizens with the most complaints to personally update them on our work. Lastly, the LMUA issued press releases at major milestones to keep our customers apprised of our efforts.

The OC/BMP has had the desired effort. In November, 2011, the LMUA received 25 calls complaining about odors. These continued through the first half of 2012 as the LMUA work on the OC/BMP and other tasks to address odors. The number of calls lessened in the

Tracking odor complaints and ensuring that the effected neighborhoods were kept informed of the OC/BMP status was an important part of LMUA's ongoing community relations. Admitting problems in the beginning of this program went a long way in gaining assistance from them as we completed our work.

In conclusion, the LMUA addressed and reduced complaints through prudent planning and efficient use of funds. Implementing the OC/BMP has addressed (and reduced) odor complaints from the community, and demonstrated that effective capital planning and project execution can support operational improvements and reduce long-term costs, all while maintaining rates paid by existing users.

LMUA recognizes that odors are a fact of life for wastewater treatment facilities, but they also recognize odors should not be a fact of life for the community or a nuisance issue that negatively affects residents' quality of life. The OC/BMP represents their proactive approach to dealing with this issue and is only one element in their ongoing work to minimize odor generation throughout their facility. The OC/BMP shows that development and execution of a well thought out strategy can have a positive impact on the facility, and also the entire Lambertville community.

Portions of this article were originally published in Water World, November/December 2012.

About the writers: Howard Matteson, PE, BCEE, is a senior project manager of CDM Smith and is located in Edison, New Jersey. Thomas F. Horn, PE, is the executive director of the Lambertville Municipal Utilities Authority, based in Lambertville, New Jersey.

LAMBERTVILLE MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY Odor Call Summary							
Total # of Calls		146					
2011		2012		2013		2014	
Month	# of Calls	Month	# of Calls	Month	# of Calls	Month	# of Calls
		January	19	January	0	January	0
		February	8	February	1	February	0
		March	22	March	0	March	
		April	17	April	1	April	
		May	13	May	1	May	
		June	3	June	0	June	
		July	8	July	0	July	
		August	1	August	0	August	
		September	6	September	0	September	
		October	5	October	0	October	
November	25	November	3	November	1	November	
December	11	December	1	December	0	December	
Total per Year		36		4		0	
Thomas F. Horn, P.E. Executive Director							

Odor Call Summary Sheet (2011-2014)

equipment replacement and other odor control measures, the LMUA continued to receive complaints from the nearby community. These continued complaints lead to the implementation of the OC/BMP.

Even though the LMUA has kept records of odor complaints in the past, the LMUA Commissioners wanted a more in depth report so we could track odor complaints by time and location while comparing weather conditions and LMUA staff responses. A copy of the log for one month is shown in Figure 2. An LMUA staff responded to every call concerning odors and visited the site of the complaint. The caller was contacted to collect information on the odor type, duration and strength. We correlated this informa-

second half of 2012 and ceased almost entirely in 2013. Figure 5 shows the tabulation of complaints.

Summary

In response to elevated odor complaints from the community, LMUA and CDM Smith developed an OC/BMP to guide operational and capital improvements at the Lambertville wastewater treatment facility. The OC/BMP was divided into five manageable phases with associated tasks completed primarily by LMUA staff being completed concurrently. ARRA funding was used for part of the improvements, and LMUA funded the remaining costs out of savings (e.g. elimination of costs for carbon replacement) and the existing capital fund.

AEA Forms IT Committee

Technology has become part and parcel of our everyday lives and routines. We have come to rely, with a good measure of success, on all different sorts of devices to streamline our personal lives. Unfortunately, unlike in our personal lives, the technological solutions offered to assist us in streamlining our daily operations and improving our abilities to service the public in an efficient and modern fashion cannot be purchased at the local Best Buy or Staples. Rather the process of choosing and selecting vendors and equipment to introduce automation, communications, GIS capabilities, SCADA transmissions, amongst other modern day essential capabilities, are often times a trial and error process which can include wasted time and public resources.

By forming an IT Committee we will be able to share our experiences, both failures and successes, thereby allowing us to streamline the modernization of our facilities and organizations. All of the AEA Committees on matters such as emergency preparedness, Human Resources, legislation, the water committee, etc., have proven to be invaluable resources to our members in providing practical applications to our organizations. Justin Flanca, executive director of Lakewood MUA has no doubt that the IT Committee will assist us in continuing to be leaders in our industry.

***Editor's note:** AEA recently held a manager's breakfast on IT issues. The session was well received and generated great input from the attendees as well as*



Dave Stupar of the Ocean County UA presents several IT topics during AEA's manager's breakfast.

thought provoking discussion. Anyone interested in serving on this committee should contact Peggy or Karen.

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Utility Management Conference

March 11-12. Agenda, registration and other details available. Registration info. Exhibitor info.

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AEA Part of NJ Spotlight Event

AEA President Rick Dovey joined three other panelists on June 14 to discuss water infrastructure at an event organized by NJ Spotlight.

Watch the video—Rick Dovey discusses the threats to water and sewer funding and the value of public ownership of water/sewer utilities.

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South Monmouth Regional Sewerage Authority, an AEA member organization located on the coast, has adopted an innovative way to protect against recurring damage to their pumping stations by creating a mobile enclosure that can be removed from harm's way prior to a major storm. The U.S. EPA has posted a video about this approach, one of only two projects of this kind.

Check out this humorous but instructive video: **The Poop Cycle: What Happens When You Flush**

Local MUA Finds a Local Solution. When Lakewood Township MUA wanted to institute automatic meter reading, it ran into an unexpected problem – the meters they wanted to use violated religious laws by which many of its customers live. "It's what we do here," says Justin. "One of the benefits of having a local utilities authority as your water and sewer provider is that we're local, we're here -we're proud that we're able to solve a problem for our customers."

Bergen County Utilities Authority Announces 2014 Tires/Electronics/Mobile Paper Shredding Collection Schedule. The Bergen County Utilities Authority (BCUA) will once again conduct Tire Recycling, Mobile Paper Shredding, and Electronics/Computer collections. Find out more.

The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission Announces: A Brand-New Adventure with Messy Marvin And Pollution Prevention Penny! In a FREE two-part program, students will learn about the Passaic River, the wildlife around the river and what they can do to help keep our river clean. Find out more



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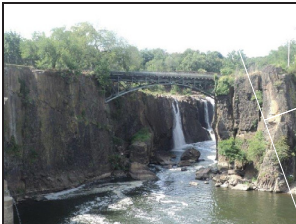
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