

Rennaker, Joanne (DEQ)

From: Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 6:31 PM
To: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ); Wyant, Dan (DEQ); Pallone, Maggie (DEQ); Sygo, Jim (DEQ)
Subject: Fwd: Alert about Soon-to-be Published Associated Press Story on Aging Water Infrastructure
Attachments: AWWA Alert on AP Story.docx; ATT00001.htm; Response to AP (9-24-15)2.docx; ATT00002.htm

FYI.

Stephen Busch, P.E.
 Lansing and Jackson District Supervisor
 Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance
 MDEQ
 517-643-2314

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Benzic, Richard (DEQ)" <BENZIER@michigan.gov>
Date: September 24, 2015 at 6:27:52 PM EDT
To: "Bloemker, Jon (DEQ)" <BLOEMKERJ@michigan.gov>, "Busch, Stephen (DEQ)" <BUSCHS@michigan.gov>, "Donaldson, Kristina (DEQ)" <DONALDSONK@michigan.gov>, "Lachance, Amy (DEQ)" <LACHANCEA1@michigan.gov>, "Thomas, Chuck (DEQ)" <THOMASC3@michigan.gov>
Cc: "Philip, Kris (DEQ)" <PIILIPK@michigan.gov>, "Butler, Sonya (DEQ)" <BUTLERS2@michigan.gov>, "Fitzner, Wendy (DEQ)" <FITZNERW@michigan.gov>, "Green, Kelly (DEQ)" <GreenK1@michigan.gov>
Subject: FW: Alert about Soon-to-be Published Associated Press Story on Aging Water Infrastructure

FYI. Note that Flint and Detroit are some of the utilities that are reportedly going to be mentioned in this story. They probably got the same alert from AWWA so I don't know that you need to make them aware, but it wouldn't hurt to touch base with them.

The AWWA Alert is using this issue as an opportunity to promote WIFIA. The ASDWA response (second attachment) provides some anticipated questions and answers AND promotes the SRF programs as a possible solution.

ASDWA also suggests each state insert some state specific SRF details (see below) that I am hoping we can provide.

What is being done in my state to address the problem?

Suggest providing your state's figures on SRF funds expended, loans made, and compliance problems addressed. Suggest also mentioning assistance to water systems in

preparing projects for funding so they can take advantage of available monies – as well as state technical assistance to operate and maintain their facilities.

Some of this info was included in the DEQ Update presentation made at the UP Rural Water Conference, the Fall UP Water Institute and the Michigan Section AWWA Annual Conference, and will likely be in the DEQ Update at the four Fall Regional Meetings in October.

You may want to share this info with your staff that could receive calls.

Richard

From: Taft, Jim [<mailto:jtaft@asdwa.org>]

Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 9:56 AM

To: Jim Taft

Subject: Alert about Soon-to-be Published Associated Press Story on Aging Water Infrastructure

Good morning State Drinking Water Administrators –

We wanted to share this AWWA alert with you (our thanks to AWWA), along with some suggested talking points, for your consideration and use, as you interact with your local press and other stakeholders.

The Associated Press has apparently been working on a drinking water study for several months and is expected to release, some time on Friday, a multi-media news package about the state of drinking water infrastructure, quality, and supply. While we're not able to see and react to the article yet, we believe it will speak to the magnitude of the infrastructure gap in this country and the state of aging and decaying infrastructure -- that is largely hidden from the public. We believe it will also address the issue of appropriated but unspent funds (i.e., ULOs) as well as touch on contaminated sources of drinking water. To prepare for questions that may arise in your states, we've prepared the attached set of Qs and As.

Please let us know if you have any questions on these materials or need more background information. Thank you.

Jim Taft

Executive Director

Association of State Drinking Water Administrators

1401 Wilson Blvd.; Suite 1225

Arlington, VA 22209

jtaft@asdwa.org

Phone: [703-812-9507](tel:703-812-9507)