



American Water Works
Association

New York Section



2021 New York State Joint Water and Wastewater Virtual Legislative Forums Water and Wastewater Utility Challenges

Actions Requested:

- **Provide grants and financial assistance for utilities to remove lead service lines and treat for emerging compounds such as Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and 1,4-Dioxane.**
- **Prioritize water and wastewater infrastructure financing.**
- **Utilize the sponsor agencies as key resources for guidance on water and wastewater issues.**

Water Challenges

Emerging Contaminants: PFAS & 1,4-Dioxane

- Recently, two PFAS, PFOA and PFOS, and 1,4-Dioxane were regulated in NY drinking water. Both PFAS and 1,4-Dioxane are highly resistant to degradation and are not removed during conventional water and wastewater treatment processes. Although, PFOA and PFOS are effectively removed by Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filters, their replacement compounds (short-chain PFAS) featuring similar toxicity, are not removed as effectively by GAC. In case of 1,4-Dioxane, expensive advanced oxidation processes are required to remove it from waters.

Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR)

- Given the extremely complex regulatory structure of the LCRR, water systems are facing a tremendous burden in understanding its requirements and implementing successful strategies to ensure compliance. We ask that legislators keep this in mind when considering other legislation on lead in drinking water and reach out directly to the Section for input on how any proposed legislation could negatively impact compliance with the LCRR.

Wastewater Funding Priorities - State & Federal

- Nutrients of concern, Phosphorous and Nitrogen, often require very expensive tertiary treatment process in water resource recovery facilities. These issues yield TMDL and tertiary treatment programs, which create huge and complex financial burdens on public utilities. The water sector needs grants and forgivable loans. Water and wastewater local stakeholders typically must meet at least 75 to 80% of costs for compliance. The financial burden on local communities is enormous.

Impacts of COVID-19 on Water & Wastewater Utilities

- Many water and wastewater utilities lost revenue during this pandemic, and may not fully recover financially for a decade. These utilities need to be prioritized for funding upgrades and legislation to offset the lost revenue. These services are necessary for not only public health but also for economic recovery and future growth to all communities served.

Contact Information

New York Section American Water Works Association | www.nysawwa.org

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About the New York Section American Water Works Association

Established in 1914, the New York Section American Water Works Association is part of the largest nonprofit, scientific and educational association dedicated to managing and treating water, the world's most important resource. With approximately 50,000 members, AWWA provides solutions to improve public health, protect the environment, strengthen the economy and enhance our quality of life.

New York Rural Water Association | www.nyruralwater.org

Contact: Jamie Herman, Chief Executive Officer at herman@nyruralwater.org

About the New York Rural Water Association

The New York Rural Water Association (NYRWA) is a nonprofit incorporated in 1979, and is a state affiliate of the National Rural Water Association. Our mission is to provide our 1500+ water and wastewater utility system members with the expertise and training necessary to meet present and future challenges and to represent our members interests at the local, state and federal levels. NYRWA provides on-site technical assistance and emergency response as well as classroom training for the rural water and wastewater utilities in NYS who provide service to communities with a population of 10,000 or less.

New York Water Environment Association, Inc. | www.nywea.org

Contact: Patricia Cerro-Reehil, Executive Director at pcr@nywea.org

About New York Water Environment Association, Inc.

Founded in 1929 by professionals in the field of water quality as a nonprofit educational organization, NYWEA has over 2,500 members statewide and hosts several technical conferences each year for environmental engineers, scientists, public officials and others who work in water and wastewater quality management. NYWEA is a member association of the Water Environment Federation. NYWEA publishes Clear Waters, a quarterly educational trade magazine, administers wastewater operator training certification. NYWEA has seven regional chapters, 14 college student chapters and is a Member Association of the international Water Environment Federation.



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