



## Association of Environmental Authorities of New Jersey

Monday, February 15, 2020

### Virtual Utility Management Conference

March 9 and 10, 2021

*TCHs pending*



This year's Virtual Conference is coming, and it coincides with AEA's 50th Anniversary, so it's going to be something special. Make your plans now to join AEA for the kick off of our 50th anniversary at the utility management conference on March 9 and 10. Topics to be presented include:

- 50th Anniversary Presentation
- Managing through a Crisis
- Top HR issues
- Improving your Utility with Innovative Technologies

And more. Videos from the Wave Award recipients will be presented.

[Sponsorship Form](#)

Full details are still to come. Check back later for registration information.

## The Bright Side of the Horrifying Story About a Hacked Water Treatment Plant

The cyberattack that led to the near-poisoning of the water supply in Oldsmar, Florida, is, at once, both the most terrifying and most reassuring type of hacking story—terrifying because

of how severe the consequences almost were and reassuring because, ultimately, there were no consequences at all. Local officials announced that someone had infiltrated the computer systems that controlled Oldsmar's water treatment plant and increased the level of lye, or sodium hydroxide, in the water by a factor of 100, a change that could have poisoned the city's water supply had it actually been carried out. The good news is that no extra lye was ever added to the city's drinking water. The change in chemical levels was immediately detected and fixed by a city employee before it could go into effect.

[For the full story, read the full article here](#)



## NJPDES Fee Schedule to be Posted

The DEP said it expects to post the annual NJPDES fee notice on its website soon, and it plans to hold a stakeholder meeting on them on March 18.

DEP also told the Clean Water Council this week that they were moving ahead once more with a revamping of the NJPDES fee structure.

However, any changes to the fee rules DEP may propose would not be for this coming year's fees.

## Water Sector Unites to Urge Governor to Prioritize its Workers for Vaccine



AEA together with AWWA-NJ, the NJ Water Association and NJ WEA, wrote to Gov. Phil Murphy last week, urging him to prioritize its workers to category 1B of vaccine distribution.

Currently they are in the 1C category.

The letter, similar to one AEA sent in November, reminds the Governor of the crucial work our members have been doing throughout the pandemic and that vital water, wastewater and solid waste services have been delivered without interruption despite the challenges posed by COVID.

The letter states in part:

"It's estimated that New Jersey has approximately 40,000 essential workers within the... sector. Given the increasing vaccination infrastructure, it's estimated that a coordinated prioritization of the sector would only take a matter of a few days for each of the required doses. The ROI is significant when considering the vital role that the water resources sector has in literally keeping New Jersey going!"

The work was coordinated through the Water Sector Security Working Group.

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## Visit AEA's Career Center

Job listings for the public water / wastewater industry. AEA members may submit listings for free. [Check our job listings now.](#)

## NEWS LINKS

AEA gathers news relevant to our industry and archives it in one convenient place for you. [Go there now.](#)

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