



## Association of Environmental Authorities of New Jersey

Thursday, May 7, 2020

### WaterNow Alliance Accepting Spring 2020 Applications for Project Accelerator

WaterNow is now accepting applications for the spring 2020 cycle of Project Accelerator, which offers cities and water agencies the opportunity to jumpstart a sustainable water project with free program and technical assistance.



Project Accelerator awardees receive:

- Tailored support for your program, including research, program design, evaluation metrics and training
- Access to a broad network of water sector experts for your program and financing needs
- Up to 250 hours of professional support for 6-9 months (valued at \$25,000)

Do you need help advancing an innovative water program or project that could provide real benefits for your community? [Complete an application at this link](#)

Two projects will be selected to receive Project Accelerator support, and the deadline to apply is June 19, 2020.

**Cornell Study: Public Ownership**

# Can Safeguard Communities, Be More Affordable

A new paper out of Cornell University has shown that access to water is a public health necessity, and municipalities that own their utilities are more likely to protect residents and low-income households in particular from water shutoffs.

The paper finds that **public ownership of water utilities is a key factor in protecting residents** from shutoffs, and in meeting environmental and equity goals such as water resource management.

"What we were curious about was whether public ownership matters. Most cities in the U.S. have publicly owned water utilities," Warner said. "There's some debate in the scholarly literature about privatization, some saying that it would cost less, **but that has not borne out.**"

The research was funded in part by a 2014 Foundational Agricultural Economics and Rural Development grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative.

[Visit this site](#) for a more comprehensive article and links to the study.



## Complimentary Webinar

### Air Permitting & Compliance Topics in NJ

Hosted by Trinity Consultants

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

1:00 pm EST/EDT

Trinity Consultants invites you to join them for this complimentary webinar in which they will provide important updates on air permitting and compliance topics in New Jersey. They will also provide a perspective and guidance on some best practices to minimize potential risk of non-compliance during these uncertain times.

A brief federal regulatory update will also be provided. [Register at this link.](#)

## AEA Members: Share This Message About Keeping Wipes Out of the Pipes!

To assist members during the COVID19 emergency, AEA has made available its second public information video. This video reminds the public of "best practices" when it comes to wipes. It asks the public to make sure they don't flush wipes and instead to put them into the trash. Please [follow the link](#) to view or watch below. Feel free to mention this

in your social media, post on your website, and let your boards and staff know it is available.



Keep Wipes Out of the Pipes\_

## USEFUL INFO FROM MAY 6 AEA CHECK-IN MEETING

Thirsy-seven executive directors, engineers and others from AEA organizations, plus a few guests, participated in **AEA's sixth COVID19 check in** Zoom meeting on May 6. If you haven't participated, you might want to consider contacting Karen Burris about doing so. The check-in is a forum for **exchanging news and strategies**. Non-AEA public municipal water and sewer utilities are invited to participate.

Here are highlights from this most recent call:

- Brian Brach of Manasquan River SA provided a link the **Biobot study of COVID RNA in wastewater** in case anyone was interested in being a future sample collection point. If you are interested contact Brian or Karen for the link.
- Brian also noted that AEA is talking with Moonshot Missions about collaborating as we begin work to launch the **NJ Peer-to-Peer network**. Thirteen AEA utilities have volunteered act as helping utilities to other NJ utilities that need advice or information.
- Joe Kwiatkowski of Trinity Consultants announced a **free webinar** on air permitting and compliance matters taking place May13. [Here is the link.](#)
- AEA will be posting a new **"call for abstracts"** form for presentation proposals.

- Bill Gettings of Hazen discussed a draft of a new graphic template for a "**Safe Work Place**" that he and colleagues from Hazen are developing for AEA members. The customizable template will be available to members next week. There will be three versions: wastewater, drinking water and landfill.

## News Links

We gather industry news from throughout the state so you don't have to! Explore the following headlines and more at this news link

- [The Road Back: Restoring Economic Health Through Public Health](#) - Gov. Murphy's re-opening plan for New Jersey
- [The Financial Impact of the COVID-19 Crisis on U.S. Drinking Water Utilities](#)
- [Covid 19 coronavirus: Warning after coronavirus found in Dutch sewage water](#)
- [Coronavirus traces found in Massachusetts wastewater at levels far higher than expected](#)
- [NJ DEP adopts new protections for 600 miles of rivers and streams](#)

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