



Association of Environmental Authorities of New Jersey

Monday, October 19, 2020



Governor Bans Shutoffs of Drinking Water Due to Nonpayment Until March 15

Last week Governor Murphy announced an Executive Order prohibiting water systems from shutting off the water

service to residential customers for non-payment through March 15. The order covers accounts that primarily serve residential customers. The EO will also require reconnection of any service shut off for non-payment since March 16, 2020, except in the cases of public health and safety. The EO does not cover sewer utilities.

About half of AEA drinking water members, that provide water to about one million people in New Jersey, do not shut off the supply of drinking water to a home in the event of non-payment as a matter of policy.

As a matter of public health, our members that have shut off policies suspended this activity voluntarily at the outset of the pandemic. Our private/corporate purveyor drinking water colleagues also suspended shut offs voluntarily until Oct. 15.

There has been scant indication that anyone was continuing to do shutoffs, or leaving people without water, during the pandemic. Staff from DEP and BPU have indicated they have not received complaints of drinking water service shut offs for non-payment during the pandemic. Nor have cases like this come up at weekly cross-sector online pandemic-response meetings involving utilities and relevant State agencies.

AEA members are hometown utilities, accessible to customers. This gives them the ability to respond directly to individual financial hardships of customers by waiving interest charges on overdue bills and refraining from lien enforcement. While the Governor's announcement said, "customers who are able to do so will be urged to continue to make payments," some members have expressed worry that mandatory no-shutoffs give cover to people who are able to pay their bills but choose not to. The financial implications of no-shutoff policies become more severe as the pandemic and its economic impacts continue.

The Governor's EO suggested that those in need of financial assistance reach out to their utility directly.

American Water Works Association Offering Free Training

Join a FREE instructor-led online course for small systems delivered by AWWA Sections. Each online course is two to three hours a day for two days. Workshop participants will receive dedicated follow-up technical assistance and helpful documents from AWWA.

Workshops are made possible through the collaboration of AWWA, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Partnership for Safe Water.

Up to 6 CEUs may be available in your state. Workshops include Cybersecurity & Assessing Funding, Setting Effective Rates & Accessing Funding, and Water Loss Control, Optimizing Performance & Accessing Funding to Improve Small Systems

[Learn more and register here](#)

Virtual Annual Meeting & Conference **Thursday & Friday, Nov. 12 – 13, 2020**

Thursday 2.5 wtchs / 3 wwtchs
Friday 1.5 wtchs / 2 wwtchs
*(Attendance each day for the entire day
required in order to receive credit)*



Like many other associations, AEA is going virtual because of the pandemic. On Nov. 12 and 13, we'll be online, but we will still be on top of the ESSENTIAL information you, providers of such an ESSENTIAL service, need to navigate challenges and provide great service.

Note: *You will not be able to access the Zoom meeting without first registering. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.*

TCH credits for operators will be offered both days at a fee of \$99 for the first 2 registrants and \$50 for each additional

registrant from the same organization.

Introduce More of Your Folks to AEA!

Our low, \$25 non-TCH rate is a great way to introduce commissioners, administrative staff, operations professionals, and consultants to AEA.

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

[Agenda \(draft\)](#)

[On-line registration](#)

[Registration form](#)

[Sponsor Form](#)

AEA Proposed Slate

Each year, an annual meeting is held at the November conference of AEA. This year's meeting will be held virtually on Thursday November 12, 2020 at 9:00am. Voting delegates will be asked to approve the slate presented by the nomination's committee. Each member organization annually selects (or reconfirms) its voting delegate at the time it renews its membership. The voting delegate is usually the executive director or similar administrative person.

AEA officers by tradition serve for two years, but voting delegates are asked to vote on the slate each year. Voting delegates are also asked to vote on members of the Board of Directors. Board members may serve two consecutive three-year terms. During the virtual meeting voting delegates will be instructed to use the raise hand feature to approve the slate.

2021 Slate of Officers and Directors

President

Justin Flancbaum, Lakewood Township MUA

1st Vice President

Richard Brand, East Windsor MUA

2nd Vice President

Steve Specht, Brick Township MUA

Treasurer

Brian Brach, Manasquan River RSA

Past President

Dave Harpell, Jackson Township MUA

Authority Member Director

Bernie Bujak, South Monmouth RSA

Mike Wynne, Hanover SA

Associate Member Director

John Scheri, Mott MacDonald

[Register Here](#)

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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