

February 28, 2017 – VOLUME 14, ISSUE 2

## ACPPA, Allies Join to Brief Congressional Staff on Concrete Industry Priorities

ACPPA and other members of the North American Concrete Alliance (NACA) joined forces Feb. 3 to hold a congressional staff briefing on concrete industry priorities.

Participating in the meeting were volunteer leaders and senior staff from the [Portland Cement Association](#), [National Ready Mixed Concrete Association](#), [American Concrete Pumping Association](#), [Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute](#), [National Concrete Masonry Association](#), [Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute](#), [National Precast Concrete Association](#), [American Concrete Pipe Association](#), and ACPPA.



*Christian A. Klein (third from right at table) represents ACPPA during Feb. 3 NACA congressional briefing.*

PCA President Jim Toscas, whose organization runs NACA and took the lead in organizing the briefing, started the session with background on the coalition, the importance of concrete as a fundamental building block of civilization and NACA's policy priorities (infrastructure, regulatory, etc.). Then representatives from the various NACA member groups provide background on their sectors and organizations' legislative agendas.

Speaking for ACPPA, Christian Klein, the association's counsel and registered lobbyist, described concrete pressure pipe as "one of those products that's ubiquitous but which you've probably never thought about," pointing out that 90 of the 100 largest metropolitan areas in North America use concrete pressure pipe in their water and/or wastewater systems. "In fact, it's used here in the DC area, so if you drank a cup of coffee, brushed your teeth, or took a shower this morning, it's a good bet the water came through concrete pressure pipe," Klein said.

Klein highlight chronic underinvestment in water infrastructure, pointing out that not only do older systems need to be replaced, but we also need to expand capacity to ensure safe drinking water and sanitation for a growing population.

"As we've seen so vividly in Flint, Michigan, when water infrastructure fails, the public health, social, and economic consequences are enormous ... and people suffer," Klein said.

He highlighted key parts of ACPPA's legislative agenda: increasing investment through the [Safe Drinking Water](#) and [Clear Water](#) State Revolving Funds, creating new funding mechanisms – like a Clean Water Trust

Fund – and looking for opportunities to use the tax code to attract new private investment, for example by lifting the volume cap on private activity bonds for water projects.

ACPPA will continue to coordinate with its NACA allies in the weeks and months ahead to promote our common interests on Capitol Hill. 

### ACPPA Goes “Beyond the Runway” with Airports-led Initiative

In February, ACPPA joined Airports Council International – North America’s (ACI-NA) “Beyond the Runway” coalition. The coalition brings together a wide variety of industry stakeholders seeking to ensure that airports remain strong economic engines and job centers in their local communities.

To learn more and see the other organizations going “beyond the runway,” visit:

[www.aci-na.org/beyondtherunway](http://www.aci-na.org/beyondtherunway)



### ACPPA Joins with Allies to Protect Municipal Bonds

Tax-free municipal bonds fund approximately [75 percent of America’s transportation and water infrastructure investment](#), so it’s no surprise that organizations representing state and local governments and the construction industry – including ACPPA – are working together to convince Congress not to mess with a century-old, well-proven infrastructure financing tool.

The major concern is that as Congress pursues tax reform, almost every provision in the tax code – including the exemption for interest on municipal bonds (also known as “Munis”) – is on the table. That fear has a sound basis given that the tax reform blueprint released by House Republicans last June would eliminate all individual deductions except those for mortgage interest and charitable giving.

It’s with that threat in mind that municipal bond supporters came together in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 24 at the offices of the [U.S. Conference of Mayors](#) to rally support, share intelligence, and coordinate advocacy efforts.

Speaking at the meeting, Columbia, S.C. Mayor Steve Benjamin called municipal bonds, “the original public-private partnership”, adding that “the idea that citizens might want to join together to invest in infrastructure for the common good and receive some benefit is as American as apple pie.”

Benjamin briefed the group on a meeting he and other mayors had with Donald Trump late last year during which the then-president elect gave a clear commitment that the tax-exempt status of Munis would not be threatened in Trump administration. Even so, there’s growing concern that municipal bonds are in the cross hairs on Capitol Hill.

Also speaking at the Feb. 24 meeting was Matt Chase, executive director of the [National Association of Counties](#), who told the group that eliminating the tax exemption for Munis would increase interest costs \$500 billion over 10 years for public entities. In other words, although the federal government might gain some additional revenue, cities, counties and states would have to pay more to borrow and those costs would inevitably be passed on to local residents.

While many in Washington are waking up to the threat, ACPPA members can be proud that their association was ahead of the curve on this issue. The tax agenda adopted by the association's Board in 2014 specifically called on Congress "to reject changes to 'tax favored bonds' ... that would make it more difficult to attract new capital for infrastructure projects."

More information about the fight to save Munis is at <http://www.naco.org/resources/oppose-efforts-eliminate-or-limit-tax-exempt-status-municipal-bonds-0>.

As ACPPA continues to advocate on this issue, we welcome input from members. One key to protecting Munis will be to localize the issue and provide concrete (no pun intended) examples of where ACPPA members have provided pipe for projects financed by municipal bonds to help underscore the local social and economic benefits. *Send your examples to ACPPA's lobbying team at [caklein@potomac-law.com](mailto:caklein@potomac-law.com).* 

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# Pressure Pipe Post

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ACPPA's Monthly Source for Industry News

February 2017

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To keep members aware of the activities of government and standards organizations, we regularly sweep public databases and publications for the industry-specific terms indicated below. We then provide our members with links to documents identified in the search. Please note that in some cases the URLs may link to subscription-only databases. The purpose of this service is to identify emerging threats and trends as well as opportunities for collective action by ACPPA.

## **NEWS RESULTS**

### **Coal Ash/Fly Ash**

#### **New Use for Paper Industry's Sludge and Fly Ash in Plastics**

02/27/2017 <http://www.environmentguru.com/pages/elements/element.aspx?id=4588117>

VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland examined, as part of the EU's Reffibre project, whether new industrial applications could be developed for various types of sludge and fly ash generated by the paper and board industry.

#### **Concrete Substitute, a University of Arizona Startup, Brings Advantages**

02/21/2017 <https://uanews.arizona.edu/story/concrete-substitute-ua-startup-brings-advantages>

Lighter, stronger and less expensive than concrete, Acrete uses three times as much waste and converts it into useful building material.

#### **Coal Ash Bill Goes to Governor Without Important Moratorium Provision**

02/21/2017 [http://pilotonline.com/news/government/virginia/coal-ash-bill-goes-to-governor-without-important-moratorium-provision/article\\_7acb13cc-8019-5db5-b4ad-9c7e163671fe.html](http://pilotonline.com/news/government/virginia/coal-ash-bill-goes-to-governor-without-important-moratorium-provision/article_7acb13cc-8019-5db5-b4ad-9c7e163671fe.html)

A bill that would have made Dominion Virginia Power reassess its coal ash waste storage sites before closing them has made it to the governor's desk – without its key provision.

#### **Engineers in Gaza Convert the Rubble of War into Concrete for Rebuilding**

02/20/2017 <http://mondoweiss.net/2017/02/engineers-concrete-rebuilding/>

An all-female team of engineers in Gaza have invented an affordable new way to produce concrete from the leftover rubble of homes destroyed during the last war in Gaza. And the four women behind the project—Nour Buhaisi, Aya Abu Hashish, Rahma Ashour, and Angham Elmadhoun—are challenging stereotypes along the way.

**Closing Coal Combustion Residual Ponds**

02/20/2017 <http://www.power-eng.com/articles/print/volume-121/issue-2/features/closing-coal-combustion-residual-ponds.html>

Coal combustion residual have historically been managed either in ponds (wet storage) or landfills (dry storage). Management in ponds is particularly prevalent in the eastern U.S., where ponds ranging in size from ten acres to several hundred acres have been in operation for decades.

**Infrastructure Policy****Capitol Hill Holds Briefing with NACA**

02/27/2017 [http://www.concreteconstruction.net/business/capitol-hill-holds-briefing-with-naca\\_o](http://www.concreteconstruction.net/business/capitol-hill-holds-briefing-with-naca_o)

Members of the North American Concrete Alliance (NACA), representing 11 cement- and concrete-related associations, and the Congressional Cement Caucus met on Capitol Hill on February 5, 2017. The purpose was to brief the 115th Congress on the state of the concrete and cement industry and infrastructure priorities.

**Major Surgery, Not Band Aids, Needed to Fix Michigan's Crumbling Infrastructure**

02/17/2017 [http://www.mlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2017/02/major\\_surgery\\_not\\_band\\_aids\\_ne.html](http://www.mlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2017/02/major_surgery_not_band_aids_ne.html)

Governor Snyder's recently released 21st Century Infrastructure Commission's report confirmed, in spades, what many of us already knew; Michigan's transportation, water, energy and communications infrastructure is in very bad shape.

**Youngstown Sewer Bill Increase Funding New Plant, Water Line Projects**

02/17/2017 <http://wytv.com/2017/02/17/youngstown-sewer-bill-increase-funding-new-plant-water-line-projects/>

Sewer bills for people in Youngstown are up four percent. Mayor John McNally said upgrading waste water plants and replacing water lines are requested by the Environmental Protection Agency.

**Youngstown Council Members are Concerned About the City Spending Water and Sewer Money on Economic Development**

02/16/2017 <http://www.vindy.com/news/2017/feb/16/water-fund-use-for-city-projects-examine/>

City council members say they have some concerns with how Youngstown uses water and wastewater funds for economic development projects.

**Manatee County to Consider Raising Water Rates**

02/06/2017 <http://www.heraldtribune.com/news/20170206/manatee-county-to-consider-raising-water-rates>

Water and wastewater customers of Manatee County's utility system are likely to see their rates increase by 4 percent as of April 1 and by another 4 percent as of April 1, 2018. It raised rates 4.75 percent on Jan. 1, 2015 and again on Jan. 1, 2016.

**Leaky Pipe Problems Pose Risk to Florida Homeowners Insurance**

02/03/2017 <http://www.tampabay.com/news/politics/stateroundup/leaky-pipe-problems-pose-risk-to-florida-homeowners-insurance/2311955>

Florida's homeowners' insurance landscape has been treated gently by Mother Nature in the last decade, but the industry sees demons approaching that are increasing the cost and reducing access to affordable property insurance, especially in South Florida.

**Water & Wastewater****Water Conservation Efforts to Continue Despite Rain**

02/27/2017 <http://pasoroblesdailynews.com/water-conservation-efforts-continue-despite-rain/67743/>

Update from Paso Robles Mayor Steve Martin: Well, it didn't take long, but some folks say they have had enough rain already. The good news is our lakes are filling, the streams are running and aquifers are benefitting. Scientific folks say, however, it will take several wet winters to fully restore the aquifers and it's likely the State of California will keep conservation mandates in places for a while.

**Sewer History Provides Perspective**

02/27/2017 [http://www.mswmag.com/editorial/2017/03/sewer\\_history\\_provides\\_perspective](http://www.mswmag.com/editorial/2017/03/sewer_history_provides_perspective)

Over the past 20-plus years, Jon Schladweiler, the historian of the Arizona Water Association, has researched, collected and archived sanitary sewer system materials.

**Line Break Causes Damage at Plant**

02/22/2017 <http://www.tribtoday.com/news/niles-times/2017/02/line-break-causes-damage-at-plant/>

A water main break that went unnoticed for several days caused damage at the construction site of the waste water treatment plant, which is being upgraded, according to city officials.

**[Washington] Homeowners Blame Urban Development, County for Lake Serene Flooding**

02/22/2017 <http://q13fox.com/2017/02/22/homeowners-blame-urban-development-county-for-lake-serene-flooding/>

The homeowners around the lake are being told to pick up 22 percent of the \$800,000 cost of an emergency fix to drain the lake that's currently flooding into many of the backyards and basements of those around Lake Serene.

**[Missouri] What's Going On? BPW Installing New Sewer Line in Western Hannibal**

02/22/2017 <http://www.hannibal.net/news/20170222/whats-going-on--bpw-installing-new-sewer-line-in-western-hannibal>

For the past week, Board of Public Works personnel have been installing over 300 feet of new sewer line in western Hannibal.

**[California] East Bay Drinking Water Reservoirs Reach Full Capacity**

02/20/2017 <http://richmondconfidential.org/2017/02/20/east-bay-drinking-water-reservoirs-reach-full-capacity/>

The East Bay Municipal Utility District's recent announcement that its drinking water reservoirs have reached full capacity might sound alarming after the spillway crisis in Oroville, but staffers say that is actually good news. It means a steady water supply to over a million of its customers in the East Bay, including Oakland and Richmond.

**The Lurking Monster in New York's Underground Infrastructure**

02/16/2017 <http://blog.timesunion.com/tedisco/the-lurking-monster-in-new-yorks-underground-infrastructure/2168/>

Many of our towns and cities have underground infrastructure that's over 100 years old with some as old as the Civil War.

**[Michigan] Residents Suing City Over Basement Backups**

02/14/2017 <http://www.candgnews.com/news/residents-suing-city-over-basement-backups-99339>

When the rain fell July 8 and Aug. 15-16, it didn't just keep people indoors — it wreaked havoc in some residents' basements.

**Workforce Development****[Ohio] Progress: Employment Rises at Major Industries**

02/26/2017 <http://thecourier.com/local-news/2017/02/26/employment-rises-at-major-industries-2/>

Employment grew or remained stable at most of Hancock County's major industries last year, and more of the same is forecast for 2017.

**Students to Progress in STEM Competition**

02/22/2017 [http://www.dailyitem.com/news/local\\_news/students-to-progress-in-stem-competition/article\\_1658a18c-15fd-5ac5-854d-68f1f7d04d38.html](http://www.dailyitem.com/news/local_news/students-to-progress-in-stem-competition/article_1658a18c-15fd-5ac5-854d-68f1f7d04d38.html)

Teams of students from Sunbury Christian Academy, Lewisburg Area High School and the STEM Magnet Program at Bloomsburg University, competed against one another Tuesday morning during the Governor's PA STEM Competition at the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit in Montandon.

**REGULATORY RESULTS****Water Infrastructure****Department of the Interior | Public Meeting | Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act; Indian Dam Safety**02/02/2017 <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-02-02/pdf/2017-02201.pdf>

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Office of Trust Services, Division of Water and Power, will be conducting a public meeting by teleconference to obtain input from landowners served by Indian dams on the implementation of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act with regard to Indian dam safety.

**Water Supply****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | Extension of Public Comment Period | Proposed Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project; Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement; Extension of Public Comment Period**02/28/2017 <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-02-28/pdf/2017-03747.pdf>

On January 13, 2017 NOAA published a notice in the Federal Register to solicit public comment on the joint draft environmental impact report and environmental impact statement (EIR/EIS) that analyzes the potential effects on the physical and human environment related to a proposed reverse osmosis desalination facility project within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary boundaries. This document extends the public comment period for the draft EIR/EIS until March 29, 2017.

**Environmental Protection Agency | Petition; Reasons for Agency Response | Fluoride Chemicals in Drinking Water; TSCA Section 21 Petition; Reasons for Agency Response**02/27/2017 <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-02-27/pdf/2017-03829.pdf>

The TSCA section 21 petition was received from the Fluoride Action Network, Food & Water Watch, Organic Consumers Association, the American Academy of Environmental Medicine, the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology, and other individual petitioners. The TSCA section 21 petition requested that EPA exercise its authority under TSCA section 6 to “prohibit the purposeful addition of fluoridation chemicals to U.S. water supplies.” After careful consideration, EPA has denied the TSCA section 21 petition for the reasons discussed in this document.

**Environmental Protection Agency | Notice of Availability | Environmental Impact Statements**02/24/2017 <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-02-24/pdf/2017-03689.pdf>

Section 309(a) of the Clean Air Act requires that EPA make public its comments on EISs issued by other Federal agencies. EPA’s comment letters on EISs are available at: <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/eisdata.html>.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers | Correction & Comment Period Extension for Proposed Rule | Use of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Reservoir Projects for Domestic, Municipal & Industrial Water Supply**

02/07/2017 <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-02-07/pdf/2017-02415.pdf>

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is correcting a notice of proposed rulemaking that appeared in the Federal Register of December 16, 2016 and extending the comment period on this rulemaking.

**LEGISLATIVE RESULTS**

**Water Infrastructure**

**H.R. 875 | Introduced by Rep. Newhouse, Dan (R-Wa.) | Bureau of Reclamation Water Project Streamlining Act**

02/17/2017 <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/875>

This bill sets forth provisions governing feasibility studies for water projects initiated by the Department of the Interior under the Reclamation Act of 1902 (project studies).

**H.R. 1068 | Introduced by Rep. Pallone, Frank, Jr. (D-N.J.) | Assistance, Quality, and Affordability Act of 2017**

02/15/2017 <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1068>

To enable needed drinking water standards, reduce lead in drinking water, plan for and address threats from climate change, terrorism, and source water contamination, invest in drinking water infrastructure, increase compliance with drinking water standards, foster greater community right to know about drinking water quality, and promote technological solutions for drinking water challenges.

**Water Supply**

**S. 451 | Introduced by Sen. Cardin, Benjamin (D-Md.) | A bill to amend the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 to reauthorize grants for and require applied water supply research regarding the water resources research and technology institutes established under that Act.**

02/27/2017 <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/451>

As of Feb. 28, the text of the bill had not been submitted to the Library of Congress. Go directly to the Congress.gov bill page for more information.

