

March 30, 2017 – VOLUME 14, ISSUE 3

New Reports Underscore Economic, Human Value of Water and National Investment Needs

If the United States government adequately invested in the restoration and maintenance of American water and wastewater infrastructure, the resulting economic activity would generate more than \$220 billion. The figure, which includes the sustainment of 1.3 million American jobs over the next decade, headlined a recently-released report from the Value of Water Campaign.

“The Economic Benefits of Investing in Water Infrastructure,” which was released in March and builds on a 2014 report on the water utility sector, reviewed the projected capital needs of water-related utilities. It assessed the needs of the nation’s 52,000 drinking water systems and 16,000 centralized wastewater treatment plants, many of which have been in operation for a century or more.

“The reason for the surge in nationwide replacement needs can be explained by the timing, lifespan and design of investments in water infrastructure over the last century,” the report said. “With a lifespan of 75 to 100 years, much of the nation’s underground pipes are due for replacement.”

Closing that gap – which would require tripling current investment levels – would produce direct, indirect and induced economic activity resulting in the substantially-multiplied economic and employment figures described in the report. It would also save American businesses nearly \$100 billion per year over the next decade and considerably more after that, when the advanced age of water systems would begin to catch up with decaying infrastructure.

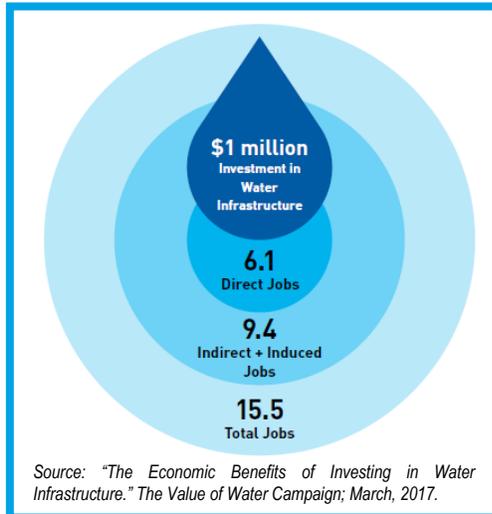
Realizing these benefits would mean reversing recent trends in water infrastructure investment. The federal government’s contribution to water spending has fallen over the past 30 years, demanding higher and higher levels of local investment – more than doubling costs between 1977 and 2014.



Value of Water CAMPAIGN

The Value of Water Campaign educates and inspires the nation about how water is essential, invaluable, and in need of investment. Spearheaded by top leaders in the water industry, the Value of Water Campaign is building public and political will for investment in America’s water infrastructure.

thevalueofwater.org



Reinjecting federal dollars into these utilities will alleviate the cost burden on communities while putting residents to work: Direct support for water and wastewater projects produces stable employment with an average wage of \$63,000 per year. In addition to construction and maintenance work, every \$1 million of capital investment in water infrastructure is estimated to generate 15 to 18 jobs economy wide.

"Water infrastructure is fundamental to our nation's economic health," the report concluded. "By keeping water infrastructure in a state of good repair, we strengthen our economy."

To read the full report, visit: thevalueofwater.org/resources.

In a related development, a new [infrastructure report card by the American Society of Civil Engineers](#) released in March gave the nation's infrastructure an overall grade of "D+" and underscored investment needs across the board, particularly in the area of water infrastructure. The report card graded infrastructure in 14 different categories. Rail scored the best with a "B," transit scored the worst with a "D-." Drinking water scored a "D" and wastewater a "D+."

"The quality of drinking water in the United States remains high, but legacy and emerging contaminants continue to require close attention," ASCE said. "While water consumption is down, there are still an estimated 240,000 water main breaks per year in the United States, wasting over two trillion gallons of treated drinking water." The report card cited an American Water Works Association statistic showing an estimated \$1 trillion needed to maintain and expand U.S. service demands over the next 25 years.



In a more [extensive study](#) accompanying the report card, ASCE detailed the basis for its assessment and recommend several steps to address the crisis. ASCE's recommendations echo many of those for which ACPPA has advocated in recent years, including reinvigorating the State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) through permanent reauthorization of the Safe Drinking Water Act and tripling the amount of annual appropriations, fully funding the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) at its authorized level, preserving tax exempt municipal bond financing and creating a federal Water Infrastructure Trust Fund while lifting the state cap on private activity bonds for water infrastructure projects.

Both new reports will help support advocacy in the coming weeks on both water investment and infrastructure more broadly. ACPPA members are encouraged to share them internally and externally to help build visibility for needs and support for action. 

NACA Fly-In is Important Industry Advocacy Opportunity

ACPPA is a leading member of the North American Concrete Alliance, a coalition managed by the Portland Cement Association (PCA) and made up of major concrete industry trade associations with common interests in infrastructure, regulatory and workforce issues. On May 9 and 10, NACA is hosting a Washington, D.C. Fly-In to give members of the various NACA trade associations an opportunity to come to the nation's capital and personally advocate for industry priorities.

The Fly-In will kick off on the afternoon of Tuesday, May 9 with policy briefings, a reception and dinner. Attendees will spend Wednesday, May 10 on Capitol Hill engaging with lawmakers and congressional staff. For ACPPA members attending the event, ACPPA will help coordinate meetings on Capitol Hill and with allied industry associations.

More information about the NACA Fly-In is at www.cement.org/about/events/flyin. ACPPA members interested in participating should register on the site (there's no charge to attend) and send an email to ACPPA counsel and lobbyist Christian Klein at cklein@potomac-law.com.

White House Education & Workforce Policy Outlook: Heavy Praise, Skinny Budget

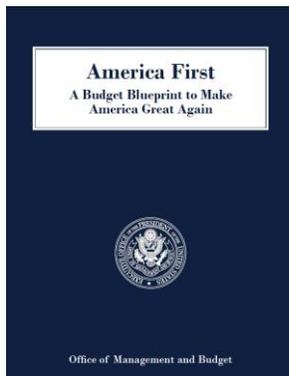
President Trump's administration is taking ideological shape in Washington. Even as hundreds of presidentially-appointed positions remain unfilled and the signature legislative effort to repeal and replace Obamacare has fallen flat in Congress, the White House has generally outlined key policy initiatives including regulatory reform and military investment.

Restoring and protecting American jobs was a central tenet of the president's 2016 campaign and workforce issues have remained at least in sight during the early days of the administration. During his well-reported meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Trump described skills training as "very important." Opening a [roundtable discussion](#) with Merkel and a group of American and German business leaders, Trump specifically highlighted apprenticeships: "Companies across the [United States] have a chance to develop vocational training programs that will meet their growing needs and to help us achieve greater prosperity," the president said. "The German apprenticeship model is one of the proven programs to developing a highly skilled workforce...And we need that because we're training people as the jobs are pouring back in."

The relationship between job growth, performance and education is clear. Considering the White House's infrastructure goals – generating up to \$1 trillion in funding through a mix of public and private investment – ACPPA and its industry allies have highlighted the need for well-trained technicians and specialists to perform the actual work needed on roads, bridges, water mains, treatment facilities, ports and waterways. In addition to apprenticeships, members of the president's cabinet have underscored the value of industry sector partnerships, aligning curriculum with employer demand and bolstering job training programs.

The White House [website's issue page on jobs](#) uses workforce growth as the unifying thread connecting the administration's other policy goals, specifically tax reform, and relates it to Trump's well-publicized business acumen: "As a lifelong job-creator and businessman, the president also knows how important it is to get Washington out of the way of America's small businesses, entrepreneurs and workers."

All of these initiatives, as general expressions of policy, are consistent with industry demands for better skills-based training. As reported in [Actionline last September](#), the House-passed “Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act” ([H.R. 5587](#)) would have codified many of these requirements. Unfortunately, that bill to modernize and reform the federal government’s primary vehicle for investment in career technical education was never taken up in the Senate. Early indications are that the 115th Congress’ effort to reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Act will pick up where the 114th left off – good news for businesses in need of technical skills (see the story above for the skills impact of infrastructure investment).



However, it’s not clear what resources would be made available to support a full reauthorization of Perkins or even maintain existing programs; on March 16, President Trump released his budget blueprint for FY 2018. The “skinny budget” – limited in detail but promising a more-comprehensive update later this spring – cuts \$2.5 billion in funding from the Department of Labor and another \$9 billion from the Department of Education.

Though presidential budgets are not legally binding and Congress has the final say in authorization and appropriations, Trump’s blueprint would stretch existing workforce programs and threaten education resources. According to a report from Democratic staff for the House Appropriations Committee, the White House proposal would cut job training and employment services provided under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act by 35 percent. The reductions in WIOA, which passed in 2014 with large bipartisan majorities in both houses of Congress, could threaten access to employment services for millions of Americans. On the education side, the president’s budget preserves the Pell Grant program for higher education assistance and bolsters investment in school choice programs but threatens resources for working adults and lower-income students.

There are plenty of workforce and training policy questions unanswered. ACPPA members, their suppliers and industry partners must drive the debate at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue on skills development. 🌐

Pressure Pipe Post

ACPPA's Monthly Source for Industry News

March 2017

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 ACPA.

NEWS RESULTS

Clean Water

Effort to Replace Pipes to Flint Homes Off to Slow Start

03/19/2017 <http://www.kwqc.com/content/news/Effort-to-replace-pipes-to-Flint-homes-off-to-slow-start-416560633.html>

Retired National Guard Brig. Gen. Michael McDaniel, who is heading the pipe replacement program, says he has an optimistic goal of 2019 for all lead piping to be replaced in the neighborhoods.

Flint to Stay on Detroit Water Through New Pipeline

03/16/2017 <http://www.phcnews.com/content/flint-stay-detroit-water-through-new-pipeline>

Genesee County is planning to build a connector to the Karegnondi Water Authority pipeline in order to start treating Lake Huron water and allow the city of Flint to continue receiving Detroit water.

Coal Ash/Fly Ash

UA Partners to Make Concrete out of Coal Byproduct

03/28/2017 http://www.tucsonsentinel.com/local/report/032717_ua_coal_concrete/ua-partners-make-concrete-out-coal-byproduct/

The University of Arizona has partnered with a private manufacturing firm to create a more eco-friendly version of concrete.

Coal Ash: 'Why in the World Would We Be Importing It?'

03/27/2017 http://phoenix.edgemedianetwork.com/business/corporate/news/212659/coal_ash:_why_in_the_world_would_we_be_importing_it

Shipping containers full of coal ash from China, Poland and India have come into the U.S. through the Port of Virginia as foreign companies find a market for the same industrial waste that America's utilities are struggling to dispose of.

Dominion Violated Clean Water Act in Chesapeake, Judge Rules

03/23/2017 http://pilotonline.com/news/local/environment/dominion-violated-clean-water-act-in-chesapeake-judge-rules/article_1f3e5082-78bf-53fa-8dd3-05e7bd6ad529.html

A federal judge ruled Thursday that Dominion Virginia Power has violated the Clean Water Act because arsenic from a coal ash-storage site in Chesapeake made its way into the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River.

Researcher Tests Fly Ash for Stronger Concrete

03/15/2017 <http://www.environmentguru.com/pages/elements/element.aspx?id=4644607>

Portland cement has been around for more than 250 years as the binding material for concrete, mortar and stucco, but a Missouri University of Science and Technology researcher is studying ways to make concrete without the traditional material.

Fly Ash Helps Create a New Building Material

03/02/2017 <http://www.nssga.org/fly-ash-helps-create-new-building-material/>

A new concrete substitute called acrete was created by using a large amount of fly ash.

Infrastructure Needs & Investment**Closing the Water Infrastructure Gap Could Save the U.S. Economy \$94 Billion**

03/27/2017 http://www.sustainablebrands.com/news_and_views/leadership/sustainable_brands/closing_water_infrastructure_gap_could_save_us_economy

A new study by the International Renewable Energy Agency has made a convincing case for transitioning to a low-carbon economy, demonstrating how embracing renewable energy could result in economic gains of \$19 trillion and the creation of six million new jobs. Now, a report by the U.S. Water Alliance has revealed how closing the water infrastructure funding gap could give the US economy a major boost.

[New Jersey] Butler Will Use Federal Grant to Replace Water Main

03/27/2017 <http://www.dailyrecord.com/story/news/local/2017/03/27/butler-will-use-federal-grant-replace-water-main/99688728/>

Butler will use a federal grant to replace a Hasbrouck Avenue water main that has already been repaired numerous times.

Engineer's Report gives American Infrastructure Poor Grades

03/26/2017 <http://northiowatoday.com/2017/03/26/engineers-report-gives-american-infrastructure-poor-grades/>

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) recently released its 2017 Infrastructure Report Card, with many segments and sectors of the nation's infrastructure received near-failing grades, including our drinking water and wastewater systems. This year's report card graded drinking water a D and wastewater a D+.

[New York] Maspeth Sewer Upgrades get Fast-Forward by DDC

03/24/2017 http://www.timesledger.com/stories/2017/12/calamusave_2017_03_24_q.html

The city Department of Design and Construction has agreed to expedite a sewer upgrade project in Maspeth which has been the cause of mounting concern for the past three years. Calamus Avenue is now the site of potholes, uneven sidewalks, flooding and disruptions in bus service now that the work has begun.

[Nebraska] They Dug for a New Water Main and Found a Dump

03/13/2017 http://journalstar.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/they-dug-for-a-new-water-main-and-found-a/article_acd1279d-e29a-5b8e-a0de-524915d612a3.html

Usually when K2 Construction crews are drilling to put in pipe, the reamer that bores through the ground comes back muddy, from the dirt mixed with the water used for the boring.

[Rhode Island] Big Dig Ready to Start

03/09/2017 <http://www.johnstonsunrise.net/stories/big-dig-ready-to-start,122554>

With the Citizens Bank campus construction project moving on schedule, work to extend sewer and water lines to the site will soon begin, and on March 2 the Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC) held a public forum to provide project details and address residents' concerns.

[Michigan] Sinkhole Draws More Attention Toward Stormwater Management in Clinton River Watershed

03/06/2017 <http://www.candgnews.com/news/sinkhole-draws-more-attention-toward-stormwater-management-clinton-river-watershed-99836>

The Clinton River watershed is important and it must be maintained. That is the message being delivered by the nonprofit Clinton River Watershed Council, which works to protect, enhance and celebrate the river, its watershed and Lake St. Clair.

As Pipes Break, Another Infrastructure Need Comes into Focus

03/04/2017 <http://flatheadbeacon.com/2017/03/04/pipes-break-another-infrastructure-need-comes-focus/>

Since the beginning of January, the City of Kalispell has responded to three broken water mains and one leak. Officials say the breaks – two of which flooded parts of Second and Fourth avenues on subsequent days in January – are due to the ground moving as it freezes and thaws. Whitefish had a similar break last week, which forced city officials to issue a temporary advisory for residents to boil their water.

[Illinois] Pressurized Pipe Relocation Finished Ahead of Schedule

03/01/2017 http://www.pwmag.com/water-sewer/pressurized-pipe-relocation-finished-ahead-of-schedule_o

In 2014, the Illinois Tollway Authority kicked off a \$2.5 billion project to widen and/or rebuild 62 miles between Rockford, the state's third-largest city, and the world's fourth-busiest airport outside Chicago.

Pipes & Pipelines

Department of Commerce Seeks Input on Pipelines Made in America

03/16/2017 <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2017/03/department-commerce-seeks-input-pipelines-made-america>

Today in the Federal Register, the Department of Commerce is requesting input on the use of American-made materials in construction and maintenance of American pipelines. President Trump has issued a clear call for American pipelines to be made with American steel, and it is critical that industry, including pipeline owners, operators, manufacturers, distributors, and their suppliers, provide guidance.

More than a Pipe Dream: Inside the Complex Process of Pipeline Construction

03/02/2017 <http://www.constructiondive.com/news/more-than-a-pipe-dream-inside-the-complex-process-of-pipeline-construction/437188/>

Construction of oil and gas pipelines has always been a contentious issue for environmental groups. One of the most high-profile instances involved the 800-mile Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, also known as the Alyeska pipeline, which broke ground in the mid-1970s and was, in large part, a response to the 1973 oil crisis. More than 17 billion barrels later, there hasn't been the pipeline disaster that critics predicted, but other pipeline accidents have continued to plague the sector and draw controversy.

REGULATORY RESULTS

Coal Ash/Fly Ash

Environmental Protection Agency | Final Rule | Approval and Revision of Air Plans; Arizona; Regional Haze State and Federal Implementation Plans; Reconsideration

03/15/2017 <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-03-15/pdf/2017-05167.pdf>

The Department of Commerce hereby publishes a list of scope rulings and anticircumvention determinations made between January 1, 2016, and March 31, 2016, inclusive. We intend to publish future lists after the close of the next calendar quarter.

Drought

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | Notice | National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) Executive Council Meeting

03/29/2017 <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-03-29/pdf/2017-06226.pdf>

The National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) Program will hold an organizational meeting of the NIDIS Executive Council on April 20, 2017.

Pressure Pipe**Department of Commerce | Notice | Scope Rulings**

03/15/2017 <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-03-15/pdf/2017-05167.pdf>

The Department of Commerce hereby publishes a list of scope rulings and anticircumvention determinations made between January 1, 2016, and March 31, 2016, inclusive. We intend to publish future lists after the close of the next calendar quarter.

LEGISLATIVE RESULTS**Water & Sewer****H.R. 1673 | Introduced by Rep. Conyers, John, Jr. [D-Mich.] | Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity, and Reliability Act of 2017**

03/23/2017 <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1673?>

To establish a trust fund to provide for adequate funding for water and sewer infrastructure, and for other purposes.

Water Infrastructure**H.R. 1647 | Introduced by Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-Ore.] | Water Infrastructure Trust Fund Act of 2017**

03/22/2017 <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1647?>

To establish a Water Infrastructure Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 535 | Introduced by Sen. Thune, John [R-S.D.] | A bill to amend the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act to make applicable to the State of South Dakota a provision relating to certain Bureau of Reclamation permit fees.

03/06/2017 <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/535?>

Section 3601 of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (Public Law 114–322) is amended by inserting “or the State of South Dakota” after “North Dakota”.

Water Supply**H.R. 1654 | Introduced by Rep. McClintock, Tom [R-Calif.] | Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act**

03/21/2017 <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1654?>

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to coordinate Federal and State permitting processes related to the construction of new surface water storage projects on lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture and to designate the Bureau of Reclamation as the lead agency for permit processing, and for other purposes.

S.677 | Introduced by Sen. Barrasso, John [R-Wyo.] | Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act

03/21/2017 <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/677?>

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to coordinate Federal and State permitting processes related to the construction of new surface water storage projects on lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture and to designate the Bureau of Reclamation as the lead agency for permit processing, and for other purposes.

H.R.1663 | Introduced by Rep. Wittman, Robert J. [R-Va.] | Water Resources Research Amendments Act

03/21/2017 <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1663?>

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.

