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## Q&A with Robert Haller, Executive Director Canadian Water and Wastewater Association



**Actionline:** Tell us a little bit about your organization. Who are your members and what services does the Canadian Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) provide?

**Haller:** CWWA is THE national voice for the municipal water and wastewater sector in Canada. While many regulations concerning water and wastewater are at the provincial level, there is a lot going on at the national level. The federal government sets the drinking water guidelines and has recently passed new wastewater effluent regulations under the [Fisheries Act](#). There are many other federal regulations concerning water related to food processing, agriculture and environmental protection. And of course, we are reliant on federal funding to support infrastructure renewal.



Our membership includes 'corporate' members from municipalities across Canada, provincial and regional water associations and private sector companies that support municipal utilities.

CWWA advocates on behalf of the water and wastewater industry to the federal government and provides input to the government from our expert members through several technical committees.

We coordinate the [National Water & Wastewater Conference](#) every fall. This event brings together all aspects of our industry under one tent with specific focus on utility leadership. We also host the [Window On Ottawa](#) every spring as an everything-you-ever-wanted-to-know-about-water/wastewater-at-the-federal-level event. In addition to these events, CWWA coordinates a number of professional workshops for our industry.

CWWA communicates the most relevant information to our members through a monthly e-bulletin newsletter (available to members and non-members for free) as well as a semi-annual magazine and regular Communiqués offering greater detail on the issues of the day.

**Actionline:** What is the status of municipal water and wastewater services in Canada? What factors are affecting current conditions?

**Haller:** We are confident we are providing the safest drinking water in the world and we are working hard to protect our environment. But we are all concerned with our ability to finance infrastructure renewal for

growth and pay the costs to meet new regulation standards. The most recent [Canadian Infrastructure Report Card](#) suggests there are hundreds of billions of dollars in deficits to deal with our infrastructure needs. But don't panic! We believe that proper asset management can assist with setting priorities while new technology can lead to better solutions for the future that reduce energy consumption and reduce waste.

**Actionline:** How have Canadian interests pursued or supported public/private partnerships (P3s) for funding or financing water infrastructure projects?

**Haller:** These are being promoted in Canada, but they are only available for projects over \$100 million...so this shuts out all small and medium sized communities and projects. These are more often supported by provincial loan programs. While P3s seem more popular in other sectors, we are starting to see them at play on some major water/wastewater projects here in Canada (Saint John, New Brunswick; Regina, Saskatchewan, Victoria, British Columbia).

**Actionline:** What are CWWA's top policy priorities, what was the status of those priorities pre-election (i.e., how were you doing with the Harper government?) and what approach are you expecting the new government to take towards those issues?

**Haller:** While we were pleased with the former conservative government's efforts at infrastructure funding, we were concerned that they refused to set priorities or conditions upon access to grants...leaving this to the local level. This seems to leave water/wastewater in a difficult position to compete for funds locally.

We were excited to hear the liberal government's election pledge to triple infrastructure funding and Mr. Trudeau specifically mentioned water. Our task now is to communicate with the new government as it implements its infrastructure plan to ensure that water and wastewater projects are seen as a priority and pushed from a national level.

**Actionline:** What do you see as the biggest risks and opportunities (policy, macroeconomic, demographic, etc.) for Canadian water and wastewater over the next five years and how is your organization going to address those challenges?

**Haller:** Our greatest challenge now is to get the local decision makers, supported by the general public, to select water/wastewater projects as their priorities. We are working on national programs to build the appreciation for water and its importance to a community's health and economy. We are educating the public on what needs to be done and what will happen if we do not act in time and systems fail. Our newest publication, "Public Attitudes 2015" is a guide for municipalities to promote these messages and build the local support they need to invest in water/wastewater infrastructure.

For more, visit our [website](#). Thanks for your interest in CWWA!

*ACPPA would like to thank Robert Haller for taking the time to share his insights. The views expressed in this interview are Mr. Haller's and do not necessarily reflect the positions of ACPPA.*

## **Highway Bill Conference Negotiations Commence**

As Congress breaks for Thanksgiving, the hard work continues for conferees appointed to negotiate differences between the House and Senate surface transportation reauthorization bills.



While there are several variances between the House-passed STRR Act and the Senate approved DRIVE Act, lawmakers in both chambers and from both sides of the aisle are confident an agreement will be reached in short order. The most difficult issue is the final bill's duration and investment amounts, as some conferees are advocating for a longer authorization at current funding levels and others are urging a program size increase for a shorter time period.

Both the STRR Act and the DRIVE Act include provisions to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank. The STRR Act also contains a construction industry supported provision that increases the air mile radius from 50 to 75 miles for the transportation of construction materials and equipment to satisfy the 24-hour reset period under federal hours of service rules.

Additionally, the Senate's DRIVE Act reverses a bar on using tax-exempt financing (such as private activity bonds) to partially fund water projects that also receive Water Infrastructure Financing & Innovation Authority (WIFIA) assistance. Since WIFIA loans are only able to fund up to 49 percent of a project, local communities are left with a significant barrier to acquiring the remainder of the financing, hindering the program's usefulness in providing capital to rebuild the nation's water and wastewater infrastructure. ACPPA and the Sustainable Water Infrastructure Coalition, of which the association is an active member, [strongly support](#) this provision.

The fate of the WIFIA modification, the hours of service provision, the overall funding levels, and the reauthorization's duration rest in the hands of the conference committee. Expect a final agreement prior to Dec. 4 as the current highway program extension expires and Congress must turn its attention to an omnibus government funding package before Dec. 11.

## **White House Rejects Keystone XL Application**



On Nov. 6, President Obama announced his rejection of TransCanada's application to build the Keystone XL pipeline. After seven-years of extensive review and administrative foot dragging, the announcement was an unsurprising, but disappointing, end to an industry-wide effort to approve the massive cross-border construction project.

The proposed 1,179-mile pipeline would have carried 800,000 barrels of oil from Canadian oil sands in Alberta to American refineries. Its construction was expected to support tens of thousands of jobs and stimulate economic growth across its physical route while benefiting U.S. businesses up and down the energy supply chain.

The project was expected to create 42,000 jobs, pump \$2 billion into the pockets of American workers and solidify North American energy independence. To the construction equipment industry it represented a natural step in the continuing effort to bolster North American economic growth and improve our physical infrastructure.

## **Bonus Depreciation, R&D Tax Credit Caught Up in Year-End Extenders Drama**

The conventional wisdom in the nation's capital is that lawmakers are still on track to ink a final deal before years' end to reinstate and possibly extend expired business tax provisions, including 50 percent bonus depreciation and the research and development (R&D) tax credit. However, with just six weeks left in the year, pressure is mounting on House and Senate tax committee leaders to roll up their sleeves and get a deal done.

With the leadership of the House Ways & Means Committee definitively resolved (the House GOP conference gave Rep. Kevin Brady (R-Texas) the gavel earlier this month) negotiations can finally get underway. The House will likely push for several extenders – including bonus depreciation and the R&D tax credit – to be permanently restored. However, the Senate Finance Committee's consensus bill would simply extend all of the 50 plus expired tax provisions for 2015 and 2016.

It's currently uncertain how differences will be resolved. An extenders package could move on its own, be attached to an omnibus spending bill that needs to be approved by Dec. 11, or be part of an even bigger year-end package that includes a highway bill.

With these important capital investment incentives hanging in limbo, ACPPA is continuing to urge Congress to reinstate bonus depreciation and the R&D tax credit immediately.

## **Congressional Budget Deal Temporarily Postpones Contentious Fiscal Debates**

On Oct. 30, the Senate passed a two-year funding deal, restoring certainty to the federal budget process and temporarily delaying further stalemate-inducing deficit debates that have plagued Congress since 2008.



The Senate's approval follows similar action by the House. Negotiated between congressional leadership and the White House, the [accord](#) raises the federal debt ceiling until March 2017, increases domestic and defense program funding by more than \$80 billion, and raises spending caps imposed by 2011 Budget Control Act through September 2017. It also includes entitlement reforms to Social Security Disability Insurance and prevents Medicare B premiums from increasing.

While a congressional spending spree is unlikely as much of the funding will go toward defense programs, lawmakers will have an opening to enact targeted increases for worthwhile initiatives. Delaying the next round of budget and debt ceiling fights until after the 2016 presidential election presents an opportunity for lawmakers to restore cuts to key federal infrastructure programs, such as the Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, which have been reduced by nearly 30 percent since 2010.

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# Pressure Pipe Post

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ACPPA's Monthly Source for Industry News

November 2015

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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**

### **Underground Infrastructure**

#### **Dark Water Rising**

11/02/15 <http://americacityandcounty.com/operations-management/dark-water-rising>

Buried underneath America's homes, businesses and schools there's a problem steadily growing. It threatens our economy, our safety and our way of life. The problem is mounting, there are few actively working to solve it, and in many cases, we don't know where it is until something goes wrong.

#### **Geospatial Corporation Named Google for Work Partner**

11/04/15 [http://thenumbers.marketplace.org/publicradio/news/read/30953746/geospatial\\_corporation\\_named\\_google\\_for\\_work\\_partner](http://thenumbers.marketplace.org/publicradio/news/read/30953746/geospatial_corporation_named_google_for_work_partner)

Geospatial has developed GeoUnderground, the Company's powerful cloud-based GIS platform. GeoUnderground, which is provided to our clients as a SaaS (Software as a Service), eliminates the need for expensive software, hardware and technical expertise. GeoUnderground speeds time to knowledge by allowing users to be up and running in a matter of minutes, not weeks or months for one low monthly subscription fee.

#### **City Pipes Weather Storms Better**

11/10/15 [http://www.kilgorenewsherald.com/news/2015-11-11/Front\\_Page/City\\_pipes\\_weather\\_storms\\_better.html](http://www.kilgorenewsherald.com/news/2015-11-11/Front_Page/City_pipes_weather_storms_better.html)

The rush of recent rainfall hasn't ravaged the City of Kilgore's pipelines as badly as the spring's non-stop showers. The city's aging underground infrastructure is awash with faults, fractures and failures – to the ongoing frustration of water department workers and, occasionally, TCEQ.

### **LCDU Stepping Up Waterline Replacements**

11/11/15 [http://www.gazettenews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=27346:lcdusstepping-up-waterline-replacements](http://www.gazettenews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=27346:lcdusstepping-up-waterline-replacements)

Randy Rothlisberger, sanitary engineer for the Lake County Department of Utilities addressed the department's capital improvements plan for this year following approval of two new projects by the Lake County Board of Commissioners Nov. 5. Three waterline projects were completed this year, three are in progress, and three more will be started soon.

### **Missouri American Water Co. Upgrading Lines in Joplin**

11/13/15 [http://www.joplinglobe.com/news/local\\_news/missouri-american-water-co-upgrading-lines-in-joplin/article\\_ec248267-d9f9-5044-a20c-0d0b4f4860eb.html](http://www.joplinglobe.com/news/local_news/missouri-american-water-co-upgrading-lines-in-joplin/article_ec248267-d9f9-5044-a20c-0d0b4f4860eb.html)

Water pipes and booster stations that were put in the ground in the 1950s to serve Joplin are being replaced to help the Missouri American Water Co. keep up with growth.

### **National Engineering Firm Devoted to Fixing America's Failing Infrastructure**

11/17/15 [http://pubmemo.com/i/other-tidbits/science/2015/national-engineering-firm-devoted-to-fixing-americas-failing\\_2254059.html](http://pubmemo.com/i/other-tidbits/science/2015/national-engineering-firm-devoted-to-fixing-americas-failing_2254059.html)

For 40 years, RJN Group, a national wastewater collection systems engineering firm located in the Chicago suburb of Wheaton, IL, has thrived. More specifically, it has led the way with innovative wastewater infrastructure solutions, helping to solve the nation's aging infrastructure problems.

### **Mojave Water Company Upgrades Facilities and Offers Lucrative Assets for Development**

11/19/15 <http://www.wflx.com/story/30558934/mojave-water-company-upgrades-facilities-and-offers-lucrative-assets-for-development>

The Mojave Water Company, an upgraded, automated water facility, provides a commercial and industrial source for clean, fast water source in Yucca, Arizona. The facility sits on a tract of land now available for development or purchase.

## **Water**

### **EPA to Issue Final Water Effluent Rule for Steam Electric Power Plants**

11/02/15 <http://www.elp.com/articles/2015/11/epa-to-issue-final-water-effluent-rule-for-steam-electric-power-plants.html>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will publish in the Nov. 3 Federal Register its final rule, promulgated under the Clean Water Act, strengthening the technology-based effluent limitations guidelines and standards for the steam electric power generating industry.

### **Experts: Water Health Dangers Don't Subside in Flint**

11/05/15 <http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/politics/2015/11/05/experts-water-health-dangers-subside-flint/75255704/>

Local health officials and the federal government are warning Flint residents that the danger from their tap water has not subsided even though the city has reconnected to Detroit's water system.

### **Global Water Technologies Locates in 16 Tech District of Indianapolis**

11/09/15 [http://thenumbers.marketplace.org/publicradio/news/read/30985167/global\\_water\\_technologies\\_locates\\_in\\_16\\_tech\\_district\\_of\\_indianapolis](http://thenumbers.marketplace.org/publicradio/news/read/30985167/global_water_technologies_locates_in_16_tech_district_of_indianapolis)

Global Water Technologies has taken an initial step to support the 16 Tech district by locating an office at 1100 Waterway Boulevard, in a planned innovation community just northwest of downtown Indianapolis.

### **Documents Show Flint Filed False Reports about Testing for Lead in Water**

11/12/15 [http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2015/11/documents\\_show\\_city\\_filed\\_fals.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2015/11/documents_show_city_filed_fals.html)

As concerns about Flint's water quality were mounting earlier this year, the city disregarded federal rules requiring it to seek out homes with lead plumbing for testing, potentially leading the city and state to underestimate for months the extent of toxic lead leaching into Flint's tap water.

### **Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre Heads Underground to Inspect Sewer Repair Work**

11/12/15 <http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/arts-and-life/life/greenpage/montreal-mayor-denis-coderre-heads-underground-to-inspect-sewer-repair-work-346838742.html>

Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre is heading below ground to inspect sewer repair work that has made it necessary to discharge of eight billion litres of raw sewage into the St. Lawrence River.

### **Fly Ash**

#### **Fly Ash Makes a Rock-Hard Roadbed on North Main**

11/05/15 <http://www.pratttribune.com/article/20151105/NEWS/151109708>

Dust is flying on North Main as crews prepare the roadbed surface for 24 feet of new concrete. The source of the dust is fly ash, a by-product from coal fire energy plants that turns into a very hard surface when mixed with dirt and water.

### **Concrete and Plastic Pipe**

#### **Working Together for Greater Acceptance of Plastic Pipe**

11/01/15 <http://www.phcnews.com/content/working-together-greater-acceptance-plastic-pipe>

The Plastics Pipe Institute Inc. (PPI) is a nonprofit trade association that has been representing the plastics piping industry for well over six decades. It is a channel for information sharing, issue resolution, idea exploration, and guidance in laying the groundwork for usage and advancements of plastics infrastructure systems for the future.

### **Condition of 85-Year-Old Reinforced Concrete Pipe Allows Reuse in Other Projects Following Street Reconstruction**

11/05/15 <http://cenews.com/article/10217/storm-drain-service-life>

In the spring of 2015, the City of Marshfield, Wis., began an extensive street reconstruction program in the heart of downtown. The \$2.9 million project, awarded to Earth, Inc. of Arpin, Wis., includes pavement, streetscaping, and utility improvements to six blocks of Maple Street and adjacent streets between 6th St. and Veteran's Parkway.

### **AWWA Comment Period on ANSI/AWWA C217-16, Microcrystalline Wax and Petrolatum Tape Coating Systems for Steel Water Pipe and Fittings**

11/06/15 <http://www.awwa.org/home/awwa-news-details/articleid/3895/awwa-comment-period-on-ansi-awwa-c217-16-microcrystalline-wax-and-petrolatum-tape-coating-systems-for-steel-water-pipe-and-fittings.aspx>

AWWA solicits public comments on all proposed new AWWA Standards, and on all proposed revisions, reaffirmations, or withdrawals of existing AWWA Standards. The referenced standards project is being considered for approval and the publication of this notice begins AWWA's 30-day public comment period.

### **Three Benefits of Using High Performance Durable Concrete in Construction**

11/07/15 <http://bizcovering.com/business/three-benefits-of-using-high-performance-durable-concrete-in-construction-2/>

High performance durable concrete or HPD concrete is made by lowering the water and cement ration to 0.35 or lower. Often silica fume is added to prevent the formation of free calcium hydroxide crystals in the cement matrix, which might reduce the potency of the cement aggregate bond.

## **REGULATORY RESULTS**

### **Steel Pressure Pipe**

#### **International Trade Commission| Notice| Welded Stainless Steel Pressure Pipe From India**

11/20/15 <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-11-20/pdf/2015-29608.pdf>

On the basis of the record 1 developed in the subject investigations, the United States International Trade Commission determines, pursuant to the Tariff Act of 1930 ("the Act"), that there is a reasonable indication that an industry in the United States is materially injured by reason of imports of welded stainless steel pressure pipe from India...



**Energy and Emissions**

**Environmental Protection Agency| Final Rule| Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Steam Electric Power Generating Point Source Category**

11/3/15 <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-11-03/pdf/2015-25663.pdf>

This final rule, promulgated under the Clean Water Act (CWA), protects public health and the environment from toxic metals and other harmful pollutants, including nutrients, by strengthening the technology-based effluent limitations guidelines and standards (ELGs) for the steam electric power generating industry. Steam electric power plants contribute the greatest amount of all toxic pollutants discharged to surface waters by industrial categories regulated under the CWA.

**Environmental Protection Agency| Final Rule| National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Major Sources: Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Boilers and Process Heaters**

11/20/15 <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-11-20/pdf/2015-29186.pdf>

This action sets forth the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) final decision on the issues for which it granted reconsideration on January 21, 2015, that pertain to certain aspects of the January 31, 2013, final amendments to the "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Major Sources: Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Boilers and Process Heaters" (Boiler MACT).

**LEGISLATIVE RESULTS**

**Coal**

**S.2238| Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]| Keep It in the Ground Act of 2015**

11/04/15 <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2238/text?>

To prohibit drilling in the outer Continental Shelf, to prohibit coal leases on Federal land, and for other purposes.