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Senators Introduce Water Utility Workforce Bill

Senators Shelly Moore Capito (R-W.V.) and Cory Booker (D-N.J.) have initiated an effort to shore up the water utility sector workforce. [The Innovative Water Workforce Development Act](#) (S. 2346), which the senators introduced earlier this year, would establish a competitive grant program to help develop the next generation of water utility workers.

According to the senators, over the next decade approximately 37 percent of water utility workers and 31 percent of wastewater utility workers will retire, figures that far exceed the 23 percent nationwide replacement need of the total workforce.

“The water utility sector is facing unprecedented workforce replacement needs, with one out of every three workers set to retire over the next decade,” Senator Booker said. “We need to build a pipeline of workers that will be ready to take over when the current generation retires. Jobs in the water and wastewater sector can pay more than three times the minimum wage – our bill will make sure they’re available to more people.”

“Today, skilled workers in the water utility management field are retiring at a higher rate than they’re being hired. This is particularly true in rural communities like those in West Virginia,” Senator Capito said. “I was proud to join Senator Booker in introducing this bill, which will help provide essential job training that will build the next generation of water utility employees. With a skilled water management workforce, we can improve and maintain healthy communities”

The Capito-Booker bill would:

- Authorize the EPA and the United States Army Corps of Engineers to establish a competitive water utility workforce development grant program.
- Support public water and wastewater utilities that are facing challenges such as a high retiring workforce rate or are located in areas with high unemployment.
- Provide support for targeted internship, apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship and post-secondary bridge programs.
- Encourage grant recipients to collaborate with labor organizations, community colleges and other training and education institutions to provide on-the-job training and other skill development to ensure post-secondary success.
- Provide support for K-12 and young adult education programs in order to increase awareness about opportunities for employment in the water utility sector.

Advocates for the legislation are suggesting that it could be added to Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) authorization bill expected to move through Congress this summer. ACPPA is reviewing the legislation and welcomes member feedback on concrete pressure pipe industry workforce needs that could be addressed by this effort. 🌐

Make Your Voice Heard on the Hill at the 2018 NACA Fly-In

With infrastructure and workforce issues front and center on Capitol Hill, this is critical time for industry leaders to engage with lawmakers in support of our industry's legislative agenda. The best opportunity is [the North American Concrete Alliance \(NACA\) Fly-In](#) on April 24 & 25, 2018. There is no cost to register for conference, which will include Hill meetings, briefings, lunch speakers and receptions. (NOTE: Last month's Actionline incorreccted reported the dates for the conference as April 17 & 18. We apologize for the error.)

ACPPA is a leading NACA member and we want our industry to be highly visible at the conference. All ACPPA members are encouraged to send at least one senior team member to the event. ACPPA will coordinate lobbying visits for members who attend the conference. To learn more and register, click [here](#).

For more information, contact ACPPA general counsel & registered lobbyist Christian Klein at christian.klein@potomac-law.com or 703.599.0164. 🌐

Pressure Pipe Post

ACPPA's Monthly Source for Industry News

March 2018

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

Infrastructure Issues

[Ontario] Report Finds Patchwork Water Infrastructure Standards

03/26/2018 <https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/associations/2018/03/report-finds-patchwork-water-infrastructure-standards>

A new report prepared for the Ontario Sewer and Watermain Construction Association (OSWCA) has found a hodgepodge of standards among municipalities in cataloguing, inspecting and renewing underground water infrastructure.

New Hope for Water Infrastructure Funding

03/23/2018 <https://www.wateronline.com/doc/new-hope-for-water-infrastructure-funding-0001>

America has very frightening water problems. The country's resources are inadequate in many states. Water quality is so poor in some areas that citizens are in danger. Another Flint, MI, could occur at any time. Water pipelines passed their anticipated life expectancy decades ago in about 80 percent of the country. If ever we should be focusing on water infrastructure, it is now.

Iowa Falls Officials Mull Water Rate Increase

03/20/2018 http://www.timescitizen.com/news/iowa-falls-officials-mull-water-rate-increase/article_32410d62-2c43-11e8-ada9-470563395633.html

There's a good chance that Iowa Falls residents and businesses will see an increase in their water rates this year.

Australian Firm Completes Project with Southern Nevada Water Districts

03/19/2018 <https://www.reviewjournal.com/business/australian-firm-completes-project-with-southern-nevada-water-districts/>

Two summers ago, RedEye was just one of 57 companies that submitted a proposal to provide a water technology solution to Nevada. Fast forward to today and the company has completed a pilot program with the Las Vegas Valley Water District and the Southern Nevada Water Authority, and it has three full-time employees in its first U.S. office in Las Vegas.

Op-ed: While Mexico Plays Politics with Water, Some Cities Flood, Others Go Dry03/15/2018 <http://www.publicnow.com/view/90627DB2A70CA83A0FBF15B903A305F41BE46B5C>

When Cape Town acknowledged in February that it would run out of water within months, South Africa suddenly became the global poster child for bad water management. Newspapers revealed that the federal government had been slow to respond to the city's three-year drought because the mayor belongs to an opposition party.

Caterpillar Foundation Launches Value of Water Campaign to Help its Partners Address Poverty03/14/2018 <https://www.webwire.com/ViewPressRel.asp?ald=221454>

To raise awareness of the value of water and the impact of the global water crisis on community health, education and economics, the Caterpillar Foundation, together with its global partners, today launched the Value of Water campaign. The Caterpillar Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Caterpillar Inc., is on a mission to empower 50 million people around the world to rise out of extreme poverty by 2020.

Trump Touts Tariffs, but Will They Cure the Import Problem?03/10/2018 <http://www.post-gazette.com/business/pittsburgh-company-news/2018/03/10/Trump-touts-tariffs-but-will-they-cure-the-import-problem/stories/201803110037>

When U.S. Steel announced Wednesday it was calling back 500 workers to restart a blast furnace at its Granite City, Ill., mill, the news was hailed as evidence of the restorative powers of the across-the-board penalties President Donald Trump is slapping on steel and aluminum imports.

From the Bottom of the Manhole to the Top of the Industry03/06/2018 <https://trenchlesstechnology.com/in-depth-bill-shook-2018-trenchless-technology-person-year/>

In 1991, Larry Kiest Jr. attended the first-ever No-Dig Show in Kansas City, hoping to check out the latest offerings in underground construction equipment and technology. At one point during the week, he picked up a brochure from an exhibitor with a system for manhole rehabilitation. He found it interesting but really didn't give it much thought.

Water and Wastewater Pipeline Infrastructure Opportunities03/02/2018 <https://www.wateronline.com/doc/water-and-wastewater-pipeline-infrastructure-opportunities-0001>

There is little doubt that America's infrastructure is aging, and in some cases, operating well beyond its originally intended lifespan. With labor costs representing up to half of the cost of pipe replacement, the key to cost-effective water and wastewater utility strategies revolves as much around labor-saving installation efficiency as it does around the physical performance of a particular material.

Materials & Resources

[North Carolina] Groundwater Radiation at Duke Energy Coal Plants Raises Concerns

03/27/2018 <http://bpr.org/post/groundwater-radiation-duke-energy-coal-plants-raises-concerns>

Recently released data from Duke Energy is raising new concerns about contaminated water at the Asheville coal plant and others around the state.

[New York] Groups Want Environmental Assessment Before Huntley Redevelopment

03/26/2018 <http://insurancenewsnet.com/oarticle/groups-want-environmental-assessment-before-huntley-redevelopment>

Coal piles, ash ponds and fly ash landfill remain on the site, likely containing arsenic, cadmium, chromium, mercury and other toxins that have the potential to leach into the soil, groundwater and Niagara River if the site isn't properly remediated, environmental advocates said.

The Future of Recycling: Critical Raw Materials from Waste

03/25/2018 <http://www.publicnow.com/view/62C4EA2C8305D02649D2EF663FE250679CB3F4F9>

The use of waste materials is a new resource for critical raw materials and poses an opportunity to recycle waste materials and provide self-sufficiency for the European Union.

A Low-cost, Sustainable Material for Reducing Air and Water Pollution

03/20/2018 <https://insights.globalspec.com/article/8284/a-low-cost-sustainable-material-for-reducing-air-and-water-pollution>

Activated carbon has long been the material of choice for reducing wastewater and air pollution. A new class of low-cost and sustainable hybrid materials developed by a research team in Italy could possibly displace this gold standard adsorbent. The material is synthesized inexpensively from solid wastes and a naturally abundant polymer and is more effective in controlling air and wastewater pollutants.

[Wisconsin] Health Risk or Nuisance? Questions Surround Oak Creek Power Plant's Impact on Neighbors

03/19/2018 <http://wuum.com/post/health-risk-or-nuisance-questions-surround-oak-creek-power-plants-impact-neighbors>

Along the shore of Lake Michigan, a coal-burning power plant occupies more than 1,000 acres of land in Oak Creek. Joe Dubanewicz, who lives nearby, has been wondering about the plant, so he reached out to WUWM's Beats Me with his concerns.

Five Ways Jobsites are Getting Greener

03/13/2018 <https://www.environmentguru.com/pages/elements/element.aspx?id=6268412>

The search for engineering efficiency can go beyond designing greener equipment in more environmentally friendly manufacturing plants. There are plenty of improvements that can be made on the jobsite when working with off-highway equipment in the construction and related industries.

Environmentalists Accuse EPA of Gutting Obama-era Safeguards on Coal Ash Disposal

03/07/2018 <https://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/story/news/politics/2018/03/06/environmentalists-accuse-epa-gutting-obama-era-safeguards-coal-ash-disposal/399351002/>

The gooey, grayish-black sludge that spilled across the Tennessee landscape set in motion a chain of events that would eventually result in the first-ever federal regulations for the storage and disposal of ash from coal-fired power plants.

Water & Wastewater**[Michigan] Report: Corrosion Caused ‘Catastrophic’ Water Main Break**

03/26/2018 <http://www.candnews.com/news/report-corrosion-caused--catastrophic-water-main-break-107224>

That’s pretty much the long and the short of a report released recently by the Great Lakes Water Authority explaining the cause of a water main break that occurred last fall and left thousands of people without water for nearly a week.

[Washington, D.C.] New Sewage-Storing Tunnel to Transform Polluted Anacostia River

03/25/2018 <https://www.chesapeakebaymagazine.com/baybulletin/2018/3/25/new-sewage-storing-tunnel-to-transform-polluted-anacostia-river>

The Anacostia River, which has for decades functioned as the polluted washbasin of an urban watershed, may now have less bacteria than the Potomac River during rainfall.

[New York] Sewer Presented in Public Meeting

03/23/2018 <http://www.lansingstar.com/news-page/14750-sewer-presented-in-public-meeting>

A project that will bring sewer to the Town of Lansing while expanding the Village of Lansing’s sewer service was presented at a Town Board working meeting in the Village of Lansing March 7th.

[Massachusetts] Water Resource Authorities Address Safety Concerns in Allston

03/22/2018 <http://www.thecrimson.com/article/2018/3/23/0-allston-pipes/>

In response to a safety concern about two key pipes running through Harvard-owned land, water resource authorities assured Allston residents that sewage and water pipelines will not be impacted.

[Delaware] Weather Delays Prompt Extension for Rehoboth Beach Ocean Outfall Work

03/22/2018 <http://delawarepublic.org/post/weather-delays-prompt-extension-rehoboth-beach-ocean-outfall-work>

Bad weather this month delayed construction for Rehoboth Beach’s ocean outfall pipe to the point where crews will not be finished by a key permit deadline set by the Army Corps of Engineers.

[Ontario] \$235,000 Spent without Brighton Council Approval Due to ‘Tracking Issue’

03/21/2018 <https://www.northumberlandnews.com/news-story/8339133--235-000-spent-without-brighton-council-approval-due-to-tracking-issue/>

The Alice-Dundas street project has cost the municipality almost an extra \$235,000, which up until Monday night, council hadn’t approved the additional expense.

[British Columbia] All About the Sewage Pipe that Will Run Under Victoria Harbour

03/18/2018 <http://www.timescolonist.com/life/islander/all-about-the-sewage-pipe-that-will-run-under-victoria-harbour-1.23205174>

The wastewater pipe being assembled on Victoria's Niagara Street is destined for undersea duty, entering a tunnel at Ogden Point, going under Victoria Harbour, and resurfacing on the other side at McLoughlin Point in Esquimalt, where a sewage treatment plant is being built.

[Iowa] Sioux City Water Mains Breaking at Faster Clip this Winter

03/16/2018 http://siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/briefs/sioux-city-water-mains-breaking-at-faster-clip-this-winter/article_136d2b8a-bae9-53ee-b66c-5eb5564a118c.html

If it seems like more Sioux City water mains were breaking this winter, that's because they were.

[Ohio] Green Infrastructure in East Akron Sewer Work Could Save City \$10 Million

03/16/2018 <https://www.environmentguru.com/pages/elements/element.aspx?id=6289065>

Akron stands to save about \$10 million dollars in sewer improvement construction if a plan to use green infrastructure and alter pipe design for storm water management in East Akron is approved. The original plan under the massive Akron Waterways Renewed ! sewer project, called for construction of a roughly \$20 million, 1.9 million-gallon storm water basin.

[Ontario] Consultants Not Sure How Long it Will Take to Fix Pipe Leak

03/13/2018 <http://www.hometownnews.ca/not-sure-long-fix-pipe-leak-south-side/>

Smiths Falls staff quickly realized there was a water leak somewhere in the water system because of "lost pressure," Malcolm Morris, CAO, explained at Committee of the Whole Monday night, responding to a Media Release put out on the Smiths Falls website.

[Massachusetts] Mother Nature Delays Topsfield Water Project

03/10/2018 <http://boxford.wickedlocal.com/news/20180310/mother-nature-delays-topsfield-water-project>

The cold, wild weather this winter has slowed down construction of Topsfield's new Water Treatment Plant, which had been set to open this fall behind the DPW offices at 279 Boston St.

Break Rates for Almost Half of U.S. Water Mains Up More than 40% in 6 Years: Study

03/08/2018 <http://www.waterworld.com/articles/2018/03/break-rates-for-almost-half-of-u-s-water-mains-up-more-than-40-in-6-years-study-wwo.html>

Utah State University's (USU) Buried Structures Laboratory has published a second comprehensive study on break rates of the most commonly used water pipe materials titled, "Water Main Break Rates In the USA and Canada: A Comprehensive Study."

[Oregon] Westside Pipe Project Nears Approval

03/06/2018 <http://portlandtribune.com/pt/9-news/388601-278280-westside-pipe-project-nears-approval->

Wilsonville may come out on top in the water-share agreement with other governments on the project that will serve much of Washington County.

REGULATORY RESULTS**HDPE Pipe**

Department of Commerce | Notice | Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ) 21—Charleston, South Carolina; Notification of Proposed Production Activity; AGRU America Charleston, LLC; (High Density Polyethylene Pipe); North Charleston, South Carolina

03/12/2018 <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-03-12/pdf/2018-04906.pdf>

Production under FTZ procedures could exempt AGRU America from customs duty payments on the foreign status materials/components used in export production.

Water Infrastructure

Environmental Protection Agency | Proposed Rule | Hazardous and Solid Waste Management System: Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals From Electric Utilities; Amendments to the National Minimum Criteria (Phase One)

03/15/2018 <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-03-15/pdf/2018-04941.pdf>

On April 17, 2015, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or the Agency) promulgated national minimum criteria for existing and new coal combustion residuals (CCR) landfills and existing and new CCR surface impoundments. The Agency is proposing a rule that will address four provisions of the final rule that were remanded back to the Agency on June 14, 2016 by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit

Water Supply

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission | Notice | City of Port Angeles, Washington; Notice of Application For Surrender of License, Soliciting Comments, Motions To Intervene, and Protests

03/20/2018 <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-03-20/pdf/2018-05622.pdf>

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection.

Department of Energy | Request for Information | Notice of Request for Information (RFI) on Critical Water Issues Prize Competition

03/19/2018 <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-03-19/pdf/2018-05472.pdf>

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), seeks information from the public to understand the key technical and other barriers that may prevent long-term access to low-cost water supplies that could be best addressed through challenges and prize competitions.

LEGISLATIVE RESULTS**Water**

S. 2585 | Introduced by Sen. Donnelly, Joe (D-Ind.) | A bill to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 to permanently extend the authority of the Secretary of the Army to accept and expend funds from certain entities to process permits.

03/21/2018 <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/2585>

The text of the bill is not available as of *Actionline*'s press time. Stay tuned to Congress.gov for updates.

S. 2563 | Introduced by Sen. Flake, Jeff (R-Ariz.) | A bill to improve the water supply and drought resilience of the United States, and for other purposes.

03/15/2018 <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/2563>

The term "qualifying project" means a new surface water storage project in the United States covered under the Act of June 17, 1902.

H.R. 5264 | Introduced by Rep. McEachin, Donald (D-Va.) | Clean Water Partnership Act

03/13/2018 <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/5264>

To direct the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, provide grants to States to facilitate the acquisition of land, water, and interests therein, made to substantially improve, preserve, or maintain water quality for an area in perpetuity, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5127 | Introduced by Rep. Napolitano, Grace (D-Calif.) | Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act

03/06/2018 <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/5127>

To establish a grant program for the funding of water recycling and reuse projects, and for other purposes.

