



December 18, 2009

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has recently announced that due to the recent budget cuts the elimination of the following services:

1. Administration and delivery of certification examinations
(This means NO certification test until further notice)
2. Processing of applications for initial certification or certificate upgrade
(This means if you did pass you still can't get your certification)
3. Processing of applications for reciprocity
4. The Wastewater Training Program, including the development of new training courses for wastewater system operators and the approval of training courses, conferences, workshops etc. for wastewater. Those courses, conferences etc. that can show a significant application to both drinking water and wastewater will still be considered. (PRWA will still have approved contact hour wastewater training, both in the field and at our annual conference. We will use courses we already have approved.)
5. The Wastewater Outreach Program -- this program was designed to help systems with compliance problems. (PRWA will do our best to fill that gap, so if you need assistance give us a call)

Pennsylvania Rural Water Association has met with DEP and together we are trying to resolve these issues, but due to financial restraints on the departments that oversee these programs we have to-date been unsuccessful. Until such time as the funds are reinstated or new regulations can be passed the water and wastewater industry will suffer the negative impact of these program eliminations.

We will continue to keep you up-dated as well as continue to work with DEP until this matter is resolved. As a professional in this industry we urge you to contact your legislator and DEP Secretary John Hanger with your concerns.

If you have any questions about how this may affect you or your utility, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

Penny McCoy
Executive Director
PRWA