



NEWSPLASH

News for Customers of the Erie Water Works

First Quarter 2023

Service Connection Replacement Project Continues with Additional Grant Money Awarded

For over 20 years, the Erie Water Works (EWW) Distribution Department has been proactively removing lead “goosenecks” throughout EWW’s service area. Lead goosenecks are short sections of pipe (1-2 feet) that were used to connect wrought iron service lines to cast iron water mains. They are no longer permitted and haven’t been installed within EWW’s distribution system since the mid-1940’s. Although EWW maintains an effective corrosion control program in full compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Lead and Copper Rule, the goal of the EPA is to remove all potential sources of lead from water systems throughout the United States.



In 2021, EWW was awarded a \$6.5M grant from the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) to remove 1,300 “lead goosenecks” from the water distribution system. EWW’s contractor, Chivers Construction Company has been working since May 2022 renewing or abandoning these wrought iron connections within the City of Erie. The initial project area focused on some of the oldest areas of the distribution system bound by the Bayfront Parkway to the north, east, and west, and 12th Street to the south. So far with this project, a total of 633 wrought iron connections have been renewed and 482 have



been abandoned. Work will resume in the spring with the goal of replacing and abandoning several hundred more with this round of funding to finish the project by Fall of 2023.

Building on the success of this initiative, in 2022 EWW once again applied to PENNVEST and received a combined funding offer of \$18M (\$14.9 grant and \$3.1 low interest loan). This project, anticipated to be bid in early 2023, will last about 3 years, and will abandon or replace approximately 2,700 wrought iron service lines in the City of Erie. The new work will focus on areas between Baur Avenue to the west, 12th Street to the north, the Bayfront Parkway to the east, and 26th Street to the south. Work will also take place south of 26th Street towards 36th Street between Cascade Street and Cherry Street, and between State Street and Pine Avenue.

The continued success of these programs result in meaningful long term investment and change in the community.

EWW will send letters to customers included in this second phase prior to the start of construction with more information. Additionally, EWW will continue to post important information about the project on its website including maps, schedules, and answers to frequently asked questions, visit “www.eriewater.org”.

Need Help Paying Your Bills?

Are you having trouble paying your mortgage and utility bills? You may be eligible for financial assistance.

The Pennsylvania Homeowner Assistance Fund (PAHAF), administered by Pennsylvania House Finance Agency supports homeowners in the Commonwealth who were financially impacted by the pandemic. To determine your eligibility, visit www.pahaf.org or call 888-987-2423.

Capital Project Wrap Up for 2022

EWW made a huge splash in 2022 with significant capital investments. Nearly \$30M was spent on major projects representing the largest amount invested by EWW in a single year. Some of the most critical projects included the Richard S. Wasielewski Water Treatment Plant Phase 3 Improvements, Cherry Street Pump Station Improvements, and the Depot Road Pump Station Upgrade. Storage facility improvements included repairing the two concrete 5 MG Cherry Street Reservoirs and repainting the Asbury Tank No. 1. In addition, over 18,775 ft. of water main was replaced by EWW or subcontractors. The Service Connection Replacement Project (Phase 1) got off to a great start with over 1,100 lead goosenecks removed from the water system within the City of Erie. This \$6.5M project is funded entirely by a WIFTA grant. Construction plans for 2023 include repainting the Kuhl Road Tank, replacing pumps at the Station Road Pump Station, and various water main replacements.



Part of the Phase 3 improvements, this space will house the new state-of-the-art laboratory at the Richard S. Wasielewski Water Treatment Plant.

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EWW Emergency Notification System *PLEASE REGISTER NOW*

EWW has invested in an **Emergency Notification System**, similar to what is used by School Districts and other local agencies. This **"Reverse 911" System** is capable of contacting thousands of customers at once in the event of an emergency, or for planned utility work within EWW's water service area. Currently a database of landline phone records is being utilized to perform these notifications. However, by using the **Self-Registration Portal**, each customer provides their address and identifies their preferred method of contact (phone, text, or e-mail.)

Please take a moment to register today at: ["https://eriewaterworks.onthealert.com"](https://eriewaterworks.onthealert.com) Simply create an account and provide your contact information in order to receive these important notifications from the EWW. Stay Safe and In the Know! Your information will not be shared with any other entity.

The Erie Water Works 2021
Water Quality Report is available at
"www.eriewater.org/wqr/2021wqr.erie.pdf"
To have a paper copy mailed to you please
call 814-870-8000 ext. 299.

*The 2022 Water Quality Report
will be available in April.*

Bill Pay Options

Customers of the Erie Water Works have several options to choose from when paying their quarterly water, sewer and refuse bills.

- Use Online Bill Pay services through your bank.
- Pay Online at www.eriewater.org using your credit/debit card, check or PayPal.
- Pay by phone at 1-855-907-3211 using your credit/debit card or check.
- Sign up for auto pay from your checking account or credit card at www.eriewater.org.
- Mail your payment to Erie Water Works, P.O. Box 4170, Woburn, MA 01888-4170.
- Pay in person at 340 West Bayfront Parkway using a credit/debit card, check or cash.

Please note EWW's business hours are 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

- Drop your payment in one of the outside payment boxes located at 240 West 12th Street or 340 West Bayfront Parkway.