



NEWSPLASH

News for Customers of the Erie Water Works

Fourth Quarter 2023

Richard S. Wasielewski Water Treatment Plant Renovations Complete

October 2023 marked the completion of the third and final phase of renovations to the Richard S. Wasielewski Water Treatment Plant, the most expansive project ever undertaken by the Erie Water Works (EWW). The \$100-million-dollar renovation of EWW's primary water treatment plant will assure the residents and businesses in Northwest Pennsylvania receive the finest quality water available from a public water supply for decades to come.

With project design starting in 2006, the entire project took nearly 17-years to complete. Phase I included new pumps and motors, piping, control valves, renovation of the low service pump room, and the installation of a dual diesel engine back-up power generator capable of running the entire plant should there be an interruption in electric service. The completion of Phase 1 assured water would be delivered to our customers reliably in times of an unexpected emergency.

Phase II focused on water quality. When the EWW Board of Directors selected the state-of-the-art ultrafiltration membrane system to replace the conventional sand filtration system, EWW embarked on the largest water treatment plant conversion ever attempted. Once complete, EWW became home to the largest mem-

brane filtration plant in Pennsylvania. The membranes filter out particles 125x smaller than conventional filtration and is expected to meet and exceed all

drinking water regulatory standards well in to the future.

Phase III of the project concentrated on the facility. Brought on-line in 1932, the 90-year old building was showing its age. This phase included new windows, renovated office spaces, ADA compliance, a state-of-the-art laboratory, and a total modernization of the interior, including a fully renovated operation's control room. The Richards S. Wasielewski Water Treatment Plant is the true gem of the Erie Water Works.

I'm happy to see this project finished as I close out my 25 years of service with the Erie Water Works. Craig Palmer will be taking over as CEO in January 2024. Thank you to all of our customers for their support and understanding throughout my career. -Paul Vojtek, CEO/CFO



Coming Soon!

EWW will be transitioning to a new business software system in November 2023. Customers should be aware their bills from EWW will have a new look once the conversion is complete.

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

Federal Funding at Work for EWW Customers

U.S. Senator Bob Casey visited Erie on Wednesday, August 30th to highlight the more than \$30M in federal funding EWW has received to remove lead service connections from the water distribution system.

EWW is applying for a fourth round of funding that is expected to provide adequate funding to remove all of the remaining lead service connections from the water distribution system.



Pictured from left: Paul Vojtek, EWW CEO; Senator Bob Casey, Mayor Joe Schember and Autumn Anderson, Gov. Shapiro's Deputy Director of Critical Investment

Winter is Coming!

Tips to Winterize Your Home

When temperatures are consistently at or below 32°F pipes in your home may be vulnerable to freezing. Here are some preparation tips in advance of frigid weather.

- ◆ Eliminate sources of cold air near water lines by repairing windows, insulating walls, closing off crawl spaces and eliminating drafts near doors.
- ◆ Allow a small trickle of water to run overnight to keep pipes from freezing. The cost of the extra water is minimal compared to the cost to repair a broken pipe.
- ◆ Open cabinet doors to expose pipes to warmer room temperatures to help keep them from freezing.
- ◆ If your pipes freeze, shut off the water immediately. Apply heat to the frozen pipe by warming the air around it. You can use a hair dryer, space heater or hot water. Once the pipes have thawed, slowly turn the water back on and check for cracks and leaks.

If water is not restored and neighbors are experiencing the same problem it could be a water main break and customers should call EWW's 24-hour emergency number 814-870-8087.

Hampshire Road, Amherst Road and Sterrettania Road Water Main Replacement

EWW recently completed the Hampshire Road, Amherst Road, and Sterrettania Road Water Main Replacement Project in Millcreek Township. The project also included portions of water mains along Aberdeen Avenue, Lancaster Road, West 26th Street, Angle Street, and Butt Street. The existing water mains were installed in the 1950's and had experienced higher than normal rates of failure. From conception to completion, the project took about 3 years. The design work was performed by K LH Engineers, Inc. In total, there was over 11,000-feet of 4-inch to 12-inch ductile iron (D.I.) water main replaced. This included renewing 200 customer service connections and increasing the number of fire hydrants from 7 to 10 to improve fire protection in the area. EWW also moved the water mains out of the busier intersections to private easements to allow for improved access for future maintenance. Some notable project obstacles included



crossing the Cascade Creek culvert in the K-Mart Plaza and Burger King parking lots near the intersection of West 26th Street and Sterrettania Road. There was also a 120-foot bore installed underneath West 26th Street to allow the 12-inch D.I. water main to be inserted into a 24-inch steel casing pipe to avoid disrupting traffic and the pavement. Although the project was bid in two separate phases, Klinginsmith Enterprises Inc. of Conneaut Lake was awarded both contracts. They successfully completed both phases within budget and on schedule. Pictured to the left is D.I. pipe being lowered into the bore pit for installation inside the steel casing. EWW's commitment to maintaining a continuous supply of quality water to its customers led to a total investment of about \$2,400,000.

“World-Class Water, First-Class Service”