

PA American Water Partner Tour Features Welcome Improvements to Exeter Treatment Plant

On August 17th, Pennsylvania American Water Company (PAWC) welcomed Richard Negrin, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) and SAN partner organizations including Berks County Conservation District, Berks Nature, Penn State Extension Master Watershed Steward Program Coordinators, Schuylkill River Greenways for a tour of upgrades to the Exeter Wastewater Treatment Plant.

In October 2018, heavy rainfall and influent pump failures resulted in the accidental discharge of four million gallons of untreated sewage into the Schuylkill River, threatening drinking water downstream. Faced with budgetary constraints associated with major upgrades needed to bring the treatment and collection system into compliance, Exeter Township opted to sell the wastewater system to Pennsylvania American Water in 2019.

Since then, PAWC has made tremendous strides and invested over \$20 million to bring this system into compliance and establish it as a state-of-the-art facility.

An additional \$46 million in improvements are planned within the next several years!



Secretary Negrin shares his thoughts with the group on PAWC's investments in the Exeter plant.

Investments highlighted during the August tour included:

- **Influent Pump Station**
 - The pumps and pump station components which failed in 2018 have been replaced.
- **Return Activated Sludge Pump Station**
 - Replacement of aging infrastructure and electrical components to enhance plant operation health and safety.
- **Collection System Evaluation**
 - Per compliance requirements set forth by PADEP the infrastructure of the collection system has been surveyed and deficiencies identified. PAWC has increased monitoring equipment throughout the system to enable a swift response if system improvements are needed.
- **Chlorine Conversion**
 - The previous gas chlorine system has been replaced with a safer form of liquid sodium hypochlorite disinfection (shown here in photo to the left).



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