

National Poll – Concerns about Water Infrastructure

The Value of Water Coalition released the results of a new national poll, conducted in January 2016 on public attitudes and concerns about water. The survey found that Americans are deeply concerned with the state of water infrastructure and are willing to support efforts to invest and modernize these systems to ensure and maintain reliable water and wastewater services. The Flint, Michigan water contamination was also a consideration as 95 percent of respondents said it was important or very important for public officials to invest in water systems so other communities wouldn't face a similar situation.

"This is a critical time and important opportunity to have a conversation across the country about the importance of investing in our water systems. Being able to drink water straight from the tap and knowing that wastewater is safely and responsibly treated are top concerns for Americans. As a nation, we must prioritize investment in our water systems—to maintain high-quality water service today and for future generations," said Radhika Fox, director of the Value of Water Coalition and CEO of the US Water Alliance.

To learn more about the poll and view the results, please visit this website:
<http://thevalueofwater.org/media/value-water-releases-national-poll-public-attitudes-about-water-infrastructure>.

BRINGING MONTANA WATER NEWS TO YOU!

Welcome to the very first issue of the Montana Water Newsletter! We hope this newsletter serves as an entertaining and informative guide to relevant issues in the water and wastewater industries.

As members of the Montana Water Environment Association (MWEA) - the state association of the Water Environment Federation (WEF) - and the Montana Section of the American Water Works Association (MSAWWA), we share a passion for clean water, before, during, and after its use and work together to protect Montana's water resources. The organizations connect water professionals to share expertise, offer training opportunities, and distribute information with the goal of continually improving on and investing in Montana's water resources and the infrastructure needed to provide Montana residents and visitors with reliably clean and safe water from the tap to the streams, lakes, and groundwater.

We are creating the Montana Water Newsletter to share some of this information with you two to four times per year. You will see information from Montana and across the country as it pertains to the water and wastewater challenges we face here. The Montana Water Newsletter will hopefully serve to connect you with MWEA and MSAWWA, including choice bits of the wealth of information its nationwide members and member organizations have to offer. Please let us know what you think! If there is a particular challenge you're facing, or a topic you'd like to read more about, please let us know by emailing mtwaternews@gmail.com. Thank you!



CONCERNS WITH LEAD IN DRINKING WATER?

Lead is an issue that affects all water utilities in some way, whether the utility has lead service lines or whether the news about lead makes customers question the quality of their tap water. By now, you've probably heard that criminal charges were filed against one utility manager from Flint, Michigan and two Michigan DEQ personnel. Clearly, this is an issue we all have to take seriously.

Approximately 7%, or 15 to 22 million people in the U.S. receive water from a lead service line, and 30% of community water systems surveyed have some lead service lines, according to articles by AWWA CEO David LaFrance in the May and April 2016 Journal of the American Water Works Association.

The AWWA has excellent resources available at its "Lead Resource Community" website <http://www.awwa.org/resources-tools/water-knowledge/lead.aspx>; including guidance for communicating with the public, technical information on lead service lines and the Lead and Copper Rule, and information specifically about the situation in Flint, Michigan, among many other topics.

This will help direct your efforts in identifying lead service lines and developing a plan to work with customers to replace those services. Together, we can make sure all our families have safe water at their taps!



WHAT'S THE VALUE OF WATER?

Mornings wouldn't be the same without water.

Most of us never think about how water gets to the tap or where it goes after it swirls down the drain. Luckily, we don't have to. Pumps, treatment plants, and pipes bring us clean water.

But our water systems are aging. They need investment to continue delivering life's most essential resource. We need water to make a cup of coffee and most everything we do in life. All day, every day.

Water—Essential. Reliable. Invaluable.

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#ValueWater



Presented in cooperation with the Value of Water coalition

The Value of Water

Would you like to increase awareness in your water system users for the importance of water infrastructure and the work you do to ensure they have safe and reliable water every time they turn on the tap?

The Value of Water Coalition has prepared simple but effective materials that can be used to place ads in newspapers, create posters, or print bill stuffers that can be mailed out with the monthly water bill.

These materials are free for downloading and are available at thevalueofwater.org. Select the Resources tab at the top and then the Toolkit button on the left. The organization will ask you for a little information because they are curious to see how much, where, and by whom their free materials are being used. For an example of one of their designs, see to the left of this side bar. Please review the guidelines for the use of these materials posted at the same site.

You may also browse the other buttons in the Resources tab for more info on all sorts of water and wastewater issues across the nation. Much of the information on the Value of Water Coalition site is contributed by member organizations which include WEF and AWWA.

Infrastructure Week 2016 is May 16 – 23! Through events, advocacy, news and social media, Infrastructure Week challenges policy-makers and the public to address the challenges facing U.S. infrastructure. Create your own events or check out how you may participate at the following websites:

<http://infrastructureweek.org/>,
<http://www.montanachamber.com/calendar#id=143&cid=37&wid=2501>



We'd love to hear from YOU so we can print content YOU are interested in! Please send your questions, comments, and ideas for stories to mtwaternews@gmail.com. Find us on our Website at www.montanawater.org Also browse the websites of our parent organizations: Water Environment Federation, www.wef.org and American Water Works Association, www.awwa.org.

