



Pipeline

Produced by the Public Affairs staff of the Philadelphia Water Department. For more information, please contact Editor Joan Anne Przybylowicz at 685-4900.



EARTHMATE UPDATE

The Biosolids Recycling Center reminds us that their top-of-the-line product, EarthMate, is available free at five giveaway sites throughout the city. EarthMate, a screened compost mixture, is a soil conditioner and growing medium. It is ideal for use in potting soil mixes, lawn care applications and for mulching around trees, shrubs and flowers. EarthMate contains nutrients, including nitrogen (1%), phosphorus (2%), potassium (.5%), calcium, magnesium, copper and zinc, which are vital to plant growth.

To get your free EarthMate, bring a shovel, containers and some elbow grease to:

TORRESDALE

The Baxter Water Treatment Plant
9000 State Rd. (above Pennypack Ave.)
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

EAST FALLS

Queen Lane Water Treatment Plant
Fox St., north of Abbottsford Rd. (by the Route #1 on-ramp, next to Yellow Bus Depot)
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

ROXBOROUGH

Domino Lane Recycling Center
330 Domino Lane (between Ridge Ave. and Umbria St.)
Open Monday through Friday, 7 am-4 pm;
Saturday and Sunday, 7 am-3 pm

SOUTHWEST PHILADELPHIA

Biosolids Recycling Center
Penrose Ferry & Bartram Aves. (near I-95 South Exit)
EarthMate and Phillymulch available
Open Monday through Friday, 7 am-5 pm;
On Saturday, call 492-4079 for hours.

WEST PHILADELPHIA

Belmont Water Treatment Plant
Belmont Ave., north of the State Police Barracks
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

EarthMate is also distributed commercially. Call 610-430-3960 to locate the dealer nearest you. Many dealers can arrange truck load deliveries.



Photo: Joan A. Przybylowicz

Ramesh Shab explains the Northeast Plant's computerized operations to a group of residents during the May tour of the Plant.

Bridesburg News and Neighbors

During the past year, we have been trying to be more responsive to the concerns of our neighbors. We are meeting with Bridesburg community members on a regular basis to discuss the operation of and construction at our Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant and the impact of the Plant on their neighborhood. We are also sending newsletters to neighbors, keeping them informed of our operations and to report on the discussions at our community meetings.

At the request of community members, we have planted cypress trees along the Plant's property line, we have invited officials from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources to our meetings, we have discussed emergency evacuation plans for the Northeast Plant, we have resolved repeated problems with several manhole covers on Wheatsheaf Lane and we hosted a tour of the Plant.

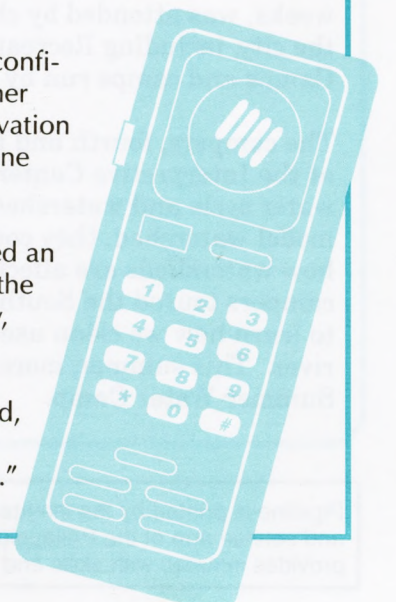
One measure of our success in operating the Northeast Plant in a way that is responsive to community concerns is the termination of the 1985 lawsuit filed by the Concerned Citizens of Bridesburg. The suit's purpose was to make the City stop operating the Northeast Plant in violation of state and local odor regulations. To resolve the problem, we spent significant funds on capital and operational improvements aimed at reducing odors. In 1984, the year before the lawsuit, the Plant racked up more than 100 odor violations. In 1993, only one odor violation was issued. The Court has determined that we have met the terms of the lawsuit and has terminated it, to everyone's satisfaction.

¡Hola! Bonjour! Konichi Wa!

Whether our customers speak only Khmer or feel more confident in Spanish than in English, they can now talk to customer representatives in any of 140 different languages. This innovation in customer service is made possible by AT&T's Language Line Services.

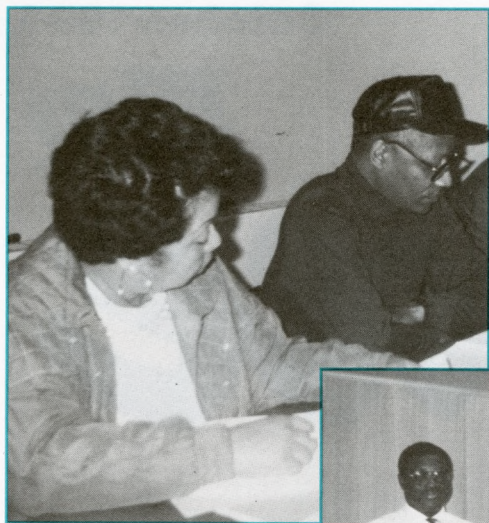
When Water Department and Water Revenue personnel need an interpreter, they call Language Line's 800 number and state the language they need. Interpreters are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"This service," says Water Commissioner Kumar Kishinchand, "will help us serve one of the fastest growing population segments—people who speak a language other than English."



Is it OK to use hot water for cooking?

Not from the tap; use cold water instead. Hot water is more likely to contain rust and lead from your household plumbing and water heater.



Photos: Joan A. Przybylowicz



Materials Management Unit Keeps Current

PWD storeroom workers recently completed a training course in Materials Management. The course covered every function performed by the workers during their daily routines. Under the direction of Ronald Waddell, manager of the Materials Management Unit, five employees developed the course, served as instructors and produced a training manual.

Currently, there are 55 Materials Management employees. They are responsible for purchasing materials such as hydrants, pipes, tools, clothing, office and janitorial supplies. They operate eight storerooms throughout the Department and handle more than 11,000 items. They also keep track of the inventory for 16 chemicals used by our treatment plants. Each year, they are required by the City Charter to conduct two inventories to account for all items.

Ron Waddell extends his appreciation to the employees who developed and taught the course. He also thanks Nancy Carter of our Training Unit for her invaluable assistance.



Photo: Bernie Rosenberg

Campers build a model watershed and then add contaminants to learn how pollution affects their drinking water source.

Water Camp

Once again, we conducted the Summer Water Camp: The City and The Estuary at the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center. The one-day camp, which ran for eight weeks, was attended by children in day camps from all over the city, including Recreation Department day camps, Y Camps and camps run by Boys and Girls Clubs.

The campers, fourth and fifth graders, started the morning at the Interpretive Center where they learned about the water cycle and watersheds. After each camper built a model watershed, they contaminated their models to see how watersheds are affected by pollution. After lunch, campers toured the Southeast Water Pollution Control Plant to learn how we clean used water before returning it to the river. This summer, more than 900 campers visited the Summer Water Camp.

Pipeline is printed by the inmates of PHILACOR, the manufacturing and service arm of the Philadelphia Prison system. PHILACOR provides inmates with skills and practical work experience.

How can I get lead out of my drinking water?

Not all homes have a lead problem, but if your home does, this is what you should do. Whenever water has not been used for a long period of time, overnight, or during the day if no one is home, let the cold water run from the faucet for two minutes (this is a long time) before using any water for drinking or cooking. Saving this water for other purposes such as plant watering is a good conservation measure. Letting the water run for 2 minutes will not keep all of the lead out of your drinking water, but it will improve the situation greatly.



Photos: Joan A. Przybylowicz



PWD in Print

Three PWD employees collaborated on an article that was published in *Operations Forum*. Gary Burlingame, a water laboratory program scientist; Jerome Mosley, a water technology assistant; and Soulmaz Khojasteh, a plant engineer, reported on a study of the attached growth on the rotating biological contactors at the Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant. They found that by visually monitoring the color and thickness of the growth, they were able to tell a great deal about the conditions of the secondary treatment process.

Operations Forum is a magazine about operating pollution control plants. It is published by the Water Environment Federation, a nonprofit educational organization made up of 40,000 members from associations around the world, including the Pennsylvania Water Environmental Association. The Water Environment Federation also publishes *Water Environment Research*, a journal for the dissemination of fundamental and applied research in all scientific and technical areas related to water quality and pollution control.

Water & Sewer Rates Increased on July 1

A small water and sewer rate increase began on July 1, 1994. The Water Commissioner's Rate Decision, dated September 30, 1993, approved the increase. This increase is the same as the rise in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Philadelphia for April 1993 - April 1994. This means water and sewer rates go up at the same level as other general prices in this area.

These charges increased by 2.3%:

- General Service Water and Sewer Charges (including both service and quantity charges)
- Fire Connection Charges
- Surcharges for wastewater of excess strength (Biological Oxygen Demand and Suspended Solids)
- Charges for standard and high pressure fire hydrants

The eligibility income test for the senior citizen discount is now \$20,300 annually. Miscellaneous water and sewer charges such as the installation or testing of meters and groundwater charges did not increase.

Can I tell if my drinking water is OK by just looking at it, tasting it, or smelling it?

No. None of the harmful chemicals or harmful microbes that might be in drinking water can be seen, tasted, or smelled.

Questions and Answers are from "Plain Talk About Drinking Water." *Answers to 101 Important Questions About the Water You Drink* by Dr. James M. Symons, published by the American Water Works Association ©1992.