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# pipeTime

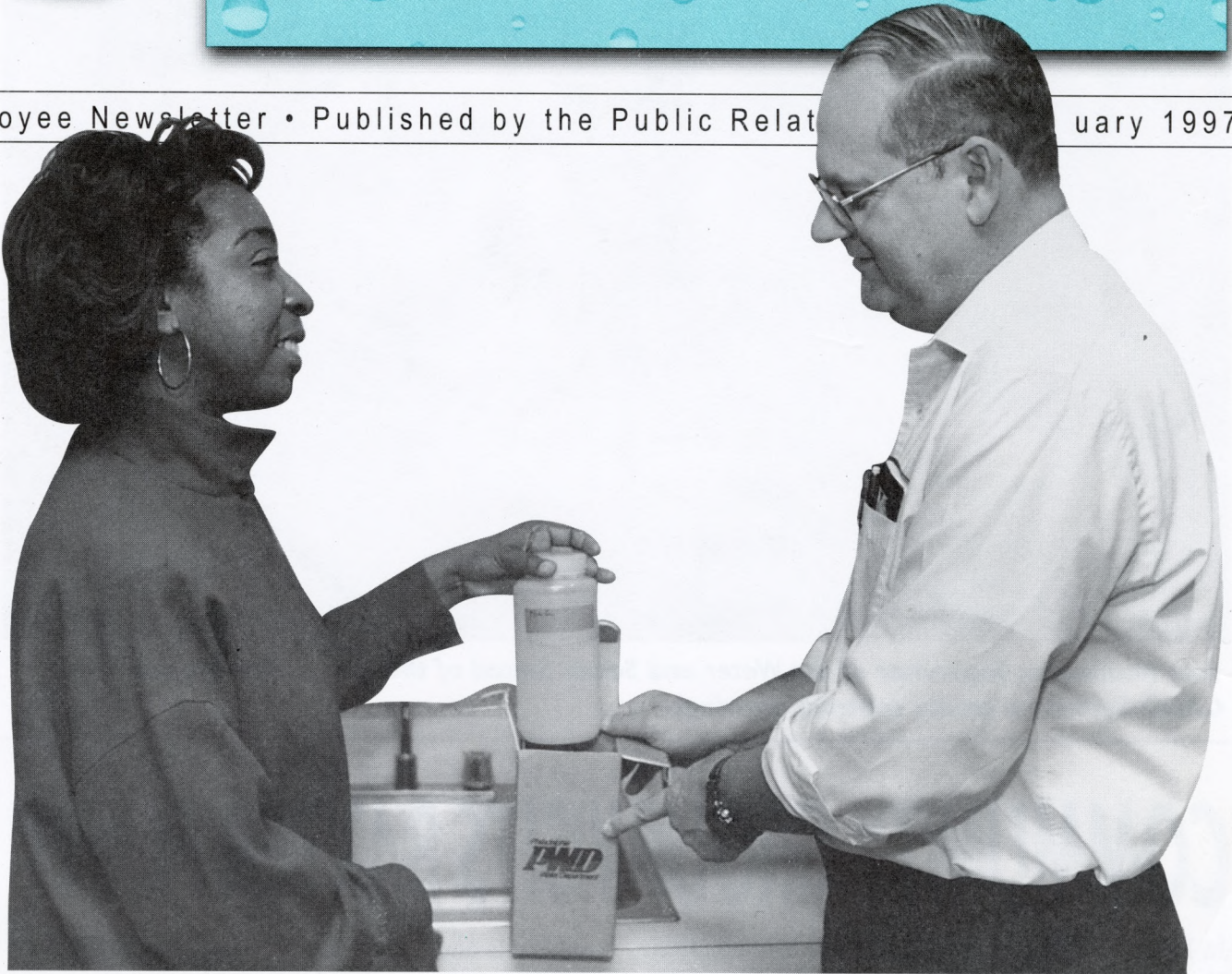
Philadelphia Water Department Employee Newsletter • Published by the Public Relations Office • January 1997

## lead free H<sub>2</sub>O

Employees at PWD's Bureau of Laboratory Services initiated a lead sampling program in 1992 to comply with the Federal Lead and Copper Rule, and the Safe Drinking Water Act. In older neighborhoods lead pipes carried water into the homes. Over time, these pipes may deteriorate causing lead to leach to the water. There is no lead in Philadelphia's treated drinking water or in our water main system. However, there may be some present in the water as a result of old piping in homes.

In 1992, the Lead Sampling Task Team found unsafe lead levels in 15% of the homes in Philadelphia where water was tested. Therefore, PWD launched an extensive public education campaign. This campaign is to inform customers of the dangers of lead contamination in drinking water. It also provides tips on how they can reduce or eliminate the risk of lead contamination. After a second round of testing water samples from homes later in 1992, less than 10% had high lead levels.

Presently, the Lead Sampling Task Team is gearing up for another round of residential monitoring for 1997. PWD is contacting previous participants to volunteer again.



Gerson Korntreger, Project Chemist from the Scientific & Regulatory Affairs Unit of the Laboratory, will show participating homeowners how to take correct water samples. Specialists at our Lab will analyze two samples from each home and participants will receive results free of charge.

*Gerson Korntreger, Project Chemist from the Scientific & Regulatory Affairs Unit of the Bureau of Laboratory Services, helps Nia Abdul-Hameed prepare a water sample for PWD testing. He is responsible for showing customers how to take correct lead samples in their homes.*

If you would like additional information about the Philadelphia Water Department's lead program, please contact Joan Przybylowicz, Public Relations Manager, 685-4900.

## SDWA: KEEPING CUSTOMERS INFORMED

Last year, the US Congress revised the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The Act requires water utilities to further improve the quality of drinking water, while also giving consumers more information about their local water supply.

One of the first changes you are likely to see is a "Consumer Confidence Report." This will include facts about our water sources and the health risks associated with water-borne contaminants. The report will list the levels of contaminants, such as radon, arsenic and sulfites, that might affect a person's health. While these specific contaminants are not a concern in Philadelphia's water, it is important for everyone to know about them and the health risks they pose.

Another change resulting from the Safe Drinking Water Act is the way in which water utilities will be reporting unusually high levels of contaminants. In the past, utilities would report high con-

taminant levels to the State, which would then decide whether the public would be notified. The SDWA states that water utilities must now notify the public within 24 hours when high levels of contaminants are found in the water.

The Philadelphia Water Department's main effort to comply with the SDWA will be the initiation of treatment plant projects on the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers. Each will take approximately three years to complete, with work set to begin in early 1997.

In the first phase of the projects, plant crews will try to find ways to make existing treatment methods even more effective. In the second phase, we will try new ways of treating the water, including the use of advanced filters and ozone. This will help the Water Department come up with new ways of ensuring the safest, cleanest drinking water possible for all Philadelphians.



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# DESIGN BRANCH REPLACES DRAFTING BOARDS WITH CADD SYSTEM

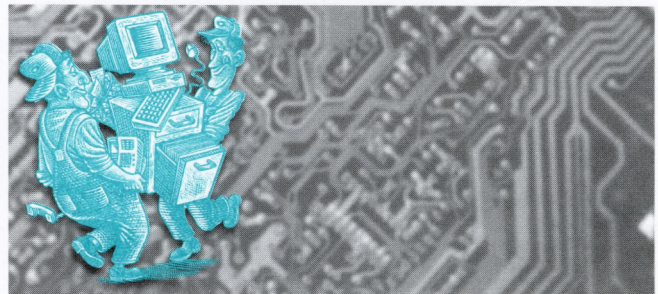


**Tom Kaufmann, Supervisor of the Water and Sewer Squad of the Design Branch, uses the CADD System to create contract drawings.**

The Design Branch of the Philadelphia Water Department replaced all of its drafting boards with a Computer Aided Drafting Design (CADD) System. The CADD System consists of 21 workstations, seven personal computers on the CADD network, and plotters. Employees who are using the CADD System had the opportunity to participate in a week-long training course.

“We are saving a tremendous amount of time and energy which increases the output of our work,” said Tom Kaufmann, Supervisor of the Sewer and Water Squad of the Design Branch. “Using the libraries and programs developed by the Design Branch, the creation of water and sewer main contract drawings has become a very efficient process.”

The PWD’s Design Branch is responsible for engineering support of the entire network of piping and facilities that make up our water and sewer systems. By creating these contract documents, they can make changes and improvements to the water and sewer mains that compose PWD’s infrastructure. With these new technological options, the Design Branch is able to move into the forefront and continue to expand its capabilities. This, in turn, helps PWD provide its customers with the first-rate service they have come to count on.



## COMMUNITY GROUP VISITS BAXTER PLANT

In December, the Water Quality Communication Community Advisory Committee (CAC) toured the Baxter Water Treatment Plant. The CAC, comprised of representatives from various environmental advocacy groups, large area industries, the Schuylkill River Keepers, and various civic and senior citizens’ associations, held its first meeting in October at the recommendation of the Philadelphia Water Department’s own Water Quality Committee. Its mission is to provide guidance to the Water Department in developing

materials and public outreach campaigns for drinking water quality issues.

According to Joanne Dahme, General Manager of Public Affairs for the Water Department, “We are very pleased at the level of interest and commitment shown by the members of the Water Quality Communication CAC. It is a big help to know that the citizens of Philadelphia are concerned with, and motivated by, the same health and safety issues as we are.”



**Members of the Water Quality Communication Community Advisory Committee look on as Kathryn Ellis Guest, Baxter Plant Manager, explains the drinking water treatment process.**



### PWD DONATES FUNDS TO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

*Thanks to Holiday Luncheon co-organizers, Norma Lewis and Charles Zitomer of Water Conveyance, and Gilda Gates of Load Control, the Philadelphia Water Department donated \$453.00 to the Children's Hospital Foundation. This money helped to brighten the holidays for the young patients of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.*

In addition to those mentioned in last month’s Pipeline article entitled “Working Together for Better Water,” the following employees are also participating in the Water Treatment Plant Operators Training Program: Thomas Green, Jim Mayo, Raymond Wasko, Ron Cain, Larry Harfman, Steve Malloy, Frank Cartwright, Thomas

Galka, Richard Hagerty, Terrence McNally, Jim Kreywicki, Scott Martin, Enowu Rhee, Vincent Sabella, Albert Murray, Louis Williams, William Martin, Curtis Pickney, Timothy Laigaie, Ronald Jenkins, Tim Galie, Ahmed Ali, Elizabeth Chacko, Leon Randalls, Gilberto Silva, Rodney Bennett, Melvin Timbers, Joseph Cmiel, Michael Ebner, and Julius Reese.