

North Wales Water Authority

Serving Public Water in Bucks and Montgomery Counties

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

North Wales Water Authority Receives Water System Grants

Customers Impacted by PFAS well contamination to receive account credits

North Wales, Pa. (February 16, 2021) – The North Wales Water Authority (NWWA), a regional public water supplier, today announced that they had received notice of several grant awards, including one to provide account credits to customers of the former Warrington Township Water system for additional fees paid to the township due to well contamination during municipal ownership of the system, and for other water system improvements.

Development and submission of the grant applications were approved by the NWWA Board of Directors over a year ago, and the requests quickly received the support of several local legislators, including PA State Representatives Todd Stephens, Todd Polinchock, Meghan Schroeder, as well as PA State Senator Maria Collett – ultimately gaining the support and approval of the Military Installation Remediation and Infrastructure Authority Board. (MIRIA).

In a recent statement Senator Collett noted that: *"In a district that has experienced some of the highest levels of PFAS water contamination in the country, and as climate change brings increasingly frequent flooding and severe weather to our region, it's crucial to invest in our water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure," said Senator Collett. "I've heard from our municipal partners about the urgent needs in these areas, and I am proud to have worked with them to secure state funding."*

Representative Stephens stated that; *"Today marks the culmination of a long and often arduous but successful journey because of the tremendous collaboration and dogged determination of so many people. These are the first grants provided by local state tax revenue for water providers to reimburse consumers who paid surcharges to remove PFAS from local water systems, install new filters to remove the dangerous chemicals, and to connect homeowners with private wells contaminated with PFAS to clean, safe water supplies."*

The NWWA will use the money to install water system filters, to construct several sections of water main where needed to reach homes where owners wish to connect to public water, to assist in connecting properties still using contaminated private wells to the public water system, to decommission contaminated wells, and to increase water system storage capacity for the new customers and accounts. Grant funds will also be used to issue an account credit for Warrington customers who previously paid surcharges due to underground water contamination. Lastly, grant funding will be applied to reimburse prior expenses for the construction of several emergency interconnections to the NWWA system by local municipalities needing safe drinking water for their communities.

This credit is expected to cover the average residential customer in Warrington for up to a year or even more, based upon actual water use. The credits will be issued in the first quarter of 2021.

"While we all worked together as legislators to pull this together, we cannot underestimate the important work of the people communities that unified to find a solution to this crisis," Representative Polinchock said.

Grant awards most recently announced include:

- 2020 MIRIA Grant \$ 3,342,111.03
- Bureau of the Air National Guard - Reimbursement Agreement \$ 8,435,060.00
- PA-H2O Grant \$ 3,000,000.00
- PA-H2O Grant \$ 882,761.00

NWWA Board Chair Joan Nagel, Esq., extended the appreciation of the entire Authority Board to each of the legislators and agencies involved in providing the grant funding, while also commending the Authority staff for their pursuit of the funding, noting that all customers of the Authority will ultimately benefit from adding the additional new customers, and by arranging for valuable system improvements.

According to Authority Executive Director; Robert C. Bender, *"The pursuit of this funding is another example of NWWA's commitment to the region as a not-for-profit water supplier."* Bender noted that; *"Even with all of the grant funding listed above, there will remain much to do in responding to the water contamination problem"*, adding the NWWA has already identified the need for over one million dollars in additional infrastructure improvements, as well as the ongoing costs of PFAS filter maintenance. Bender stated that plans are already underway for the submission of future grant applications to mitigate these expenses.

Founded over 50 years ago, the NWWA operates as a not-for-profit public water supplier in both Bucks and Montgomery Counties, serving approximately 40,000 retail customers, and many wholesale or bulk water accounts, with water service now extending to nearly 100,000 homes and businesses in over 15 municipalities. The NWWA supplies water from the nationally acclaimed and award-winning Forest Park Water Treatment Plant, located in nearby Chalfont, which it owns and operates along with its business partner. Information about the NWWA and its processes can be found at www.nwwater.com. The website also includes a link to a video describing the Forest Park Treatment Plant processes.

For more information, please contact:

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