

PCWASA receives upgrade in bond rating to AA+

Standard & Poor's (S&P) Global Ratings has raised its issuer credit rating (ICR) on the Peachtree City Water and Sewerage Authority (PCWASA) from "AA-" to "AA+", noting that the future financial outlook of the utility is stable.

This upgrade in bond rating reflects what S&P considers a combination of an "extremely strong enterprise risk profile and a very strong financial risk profile." The upgrade also reflects the S&P's opinion that PCWASA has very strong economic and financial metrics, according to the methodology used by the ratings agency



to assess sanitary sewer utility revenue bonds.

During the independent assessment of PCWASA's enterprise risk profile, S&P attributed the upgrade in the utility's bond rating, in part, as a result of its "good

operational management practices and policies."

As for S&P's judgement of PCWASA's financial risk profile, the ratings agency noted that the utility has an extremely strong historical all-in coverage metrics that is expected to continue in the near future. S&P officials also praised PCWASA for its very strong liquidity position, even when considering cash flow is used to fund capital projects. Finally, the S&P boost in its bond rating was due to the Authority's good financial management practices and policies.

Spencer Pass Law includes safety measures for utility vehicles

This past legislative session, Gov. Nathan Deal signed House Bill 767 to amend the Spencer Pass Law, which now provides additional safety measures for utility vehicles and protection for citizens and utility employees such as those working in the field for PCWASA.

This Act to amend Article 1 of Chapter 6 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relates to general provisions regarding uniform rules of the road, to include utility vehicles among those – such as tow trucks and highway maintenance vehicles – designated to receive proper procedures for passing.

Citizens should take caution when approaching a site with utility vehicles in service, which will be identified for protection



Because of the newly added provisions of the Spencer Pass Law in Georgia, utility vehicles and employees such as those working in the field for PCWASA will receive added protection from passing motorists.

by traffic cones and/or flashing lights colored yellow, amber, red, and now white (added because of the prevalence of this colored light among utility vehicles such as those of PCWASA) at the site.

When approaching a utility vehicle in service, drivers should make a lane change into a lane not adjacent to the utility service vehicle, if possible within these particular safety and traffic conditions. Or, if such a lane change is not possible, drivers should reduce speed to a reasonable and proper speed for the existing road and traffic conditions, which should be less than the posted speed limit, while also being prepared to stop.

PCWASA welcomes its newest Member of the Board of Directors

PCWASA welcomes William "Frank" Ward as its newest Board Member, following his appointment by the City Council during their Meeting on August 4. Ward served a brief stint as Alternate prior to filling the open seat on the PCWASA Board created by the recent resignation of Paul Gagliano.

Ward brings a wealth of work experience within the public sector to his position as PCWASA Board Member. He currently works as the Federal Programs Manager for McDonough Bolyard Peck, Inc. (MBP) in Atlanta, where he also has served as a Senior Construction Manager and Branch Operations Manager.

Earlier this year, the PCWASA Board selected its current slate of officers, with Bill Holland continuing as Chairman, along with Phil Mauler as

Vice Chairman and John Dufresne as Secretary-Treasurer. Wes Saunders rounds out the group of five voting Members on the PCWASA Board.



William "Frank" Ward is the newest voting Member of the Board of Directors for the Peachtree Water and Sewerage Authority, after serving previously as an Alternate.

PCWASA Division Manager provides leadership for Georgia Water Professionals

During the recent 2016 Annual Conference & Expo of the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP), Keisha Lisbon-Thorpe was recognized for her leadership and service as President of the Georgia Section of the American Water Works Association (GAWWA). Keisha is the Division Manager of Technical Services for PCWASA.

As the head of the GAWWA this past year, Keisha led the state section's efforts in advocacy to improve the quality and supply of water in Georgia. GAWWA also advances public health, safety and welfare by uniting the efforts of the entire water industry in Georgia.

Prior to becoming President of GAWWA, Keisha chaired the organization's Diversity Committee and the Georgia Model Water Tower

Competition Committee. She is a GAWP Leadership Academy Graduate as well.



Keisha Lisbon Thorpe, PCWASA Division Manager of Technical Services, addresses the Georgia Association of Water Professionals at their Annual Conference as outgoing President of the Georgia Section of the American Water Works Association (GAWWA).

Capital Improvements include rehab of major sewer lines

After investing approximately \$930,000 to rehabilitate the splitter box and a deteriorated portion of the major sewer line feeding the Rockaway Water Reclamation Facility, PCWASA staff and contractors have now turned their attention to two other projects to improve the utility's collection system.

The first involves the rehabilitation of 4,950 linear feet of 8-inch sewer line within the Wynnmeade subdivision, which includes some of the oldest pipe within the PCWASA



Crews from McLeroy, Inc. prepare for pipe bursting an 8-inch sewer line on Tower Road within the Wynnmeade subdivision.

system. The Authority is investing approximately \$672,000 in the more cost-effective and less invasive pipe bursting technology to restore this aging vitrified clay pipe (VCP). The PCWASA Board awarded the low bid for the Wynnmeade project to McLeroy, Inc. Crews from McLeroy are in the midst of the pipe bursting rehab expected to be completed by the end of October.

The second major sewer line rehab project involves pipe bursting approximately 2,310 linear feet of 8-inch VCP gravity sewer and 1,676 linear feet of 15-inch pipe within Planterra Ridge. The Authority is investing approximately \$310,000 in this rehabilitation, with the project awarded to IPR Southeast, LLC as the lowest bidder. Work within Planterra is underway and is expected to be completed later this fall.

The rehab of the trunk line feeding the Rockaway Plant, as well as the sewer lines within Wynnmeade and Planterra Ridge, were made possible from the data collected by RedZone Robotics, which indicated that these portions of the PCWASA system were in



The pipe bursting method of sewer line rehab replaces aging vitrified clay pipe (in pieces around the new pipe being pulled) to improve the PCWASA collection system in areas that were previously deteriorating due to age.

greatest need of repair and thus prioritized among the Authority's ongoing capital improvements.

In addition, PCWASA consulting engineers from Integrated Science and Engineering (ISE) assisted with the engineering, technical specifications, and construction drawings and documents to bring these projects to fruition.

PCWASA invests over \$1 million in plant upgrades

With equipment that had exceeded its normal service life of more than 25 years, the PCWASA Line Creek/Larry B. Turner Water Reclamation Facility was in need of rehabilitation to some of its critical components. Thus, the Authority has invested more than \$1 million in necessary upgrades and improvements to this facility.

First, PCWASA invested nearly \$300,000 for new or improved clarifiers at the Plant, rehabilitating two, including new control modules, while adding control modules to the two other clarifiers.

In addition, the Authority Board appropriated another \$311,000 for the utility to install a new belt press at the Line Creek/Turner Plant, which includes the costs for a control panel and flow meter for this equipment.

Finally, PCWASA is purchasing and installing bar screens at both of its Water Reclamation Facilities – the Line Creek/Turner and Rockaway Plants. This project for the new and replacement bar screens at both plants totals a little more than \$800,000.



These two bar screens at the Rockaway Water Reclamation Facility are being replaced with newer, more efficient models to improve the wastewater treatment process at the plant.

PCWASA staff advises middle school students in the engineering of model water towers

Employees from PCWASA once again are volunteering their time and offering their professional expertise for students at the fifth annual Georgia Model Water Tower Competition.

The Georgia Model Water Tower Competition will feature several local events held across various metro Atlanta sites this fall. PCWASA staff will assist with the Fayette County competition to be held October 21 at J.C. Booth Middle School in Peachtree City, with students from Booth and Flat Rock Middle Schools taking part.

During the annual Georgia Model Water Tower Competition, middle school students submit functioning model water towers to be judged by water professionals according to three criteria – structural efficiency, hydraulic efficiency, and design ingenuity. Contestants also complete an interview and presentation in front of a panel of judges. Students must construct their model water towers from household items according to limited specifications.

Keisha Lisbon Thorpe, PCWASA Division Manager, is a past chair and current member of the Georgia Model Water Tower Competition Committee. She chaired this organizing committee when the event first started in 2012. Stephen Hogan, PCWASA General Manager, also volunteers his time during the competition as a professional liaison and advisor to the students.

Since Keisha and Stephen are both Certified Professional Engineers (P.E.), they are the ideal industry professionals to assist with this unique science project, which challenges students to work in the role of a civil engineer tasked with designing and building a water tower.



PCWASA General Manager Stephen Hogan advises students during last year's Georgia Model Water Tower Competition. This year's event will include students from Fayette County competing at J.C. Booth Middle School.



Please do not flush non-dispersible items, such as:

- X Facial Tissue (such as Kleenex)
- X Cotton Swabs (such as Q-tips)
- X Wet Wipes (even "flushable")
- X Cat Litter (even "flushable")
- X Feminine Hygiene Products
- X Dental Floss

PEACHTREE CITY
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