

Energy-Water Issues – Update from Washington D.C.

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National Association of Clean Water Agencies

Michigan Water Environment Association

Sustainable Energy Seminar

October 19, 2017

NACWA
A Clear Commitment to America's Waters



About NACWA

- Represents nearly 300 public clean water agencies
- Members serve:
 - Populations ranging from 1,700 to 8 million
 - The majority of the sewered population in the U.S.
- NACWA works in Washington DC to create a regulatory, legislative and legal environment that allows clean water agencies to innovate and thrive



What's Happening in Washington

- Congress – Energy & Natural Resources Act of 2017
- EPA – Renewable Fuel Standard
- EPA – Non-Regulatory Activities
- Department of Energy – Programs to improve energy efficiency and recovery



The Energy & Natural Resources Act of 2017

- Establishes the Nexus of Energy and Water Sustainability (NEWS) Committee, to bring together federal agencies to collaborate on energy-water issues
- Smart Energy and Water Efficiency Pilot Program, which incentivizes utilities to adopt innovative technologies to reduce energy consumption
- EPA WaterSense program is authorized to certify water-efficient home products and services
- Bill fast-tracked over the summer, but now stalled



Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS)

- RFS program offers incentives for production of renewable transportation fuels to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce reliance on imported oil
- Four fuel categories eligible for Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs)
 - Biomass-Based Diesel
 - Cellulosic Biofuel
 - Advanced Biofuel
 - Total Renewable Fuel
- Wastewater-derived fuel classified as Cellulosic Biofuel in 2014



Co-Digestion in RFS Program

- Food waste is an abundant resource:
 - 37.1 tons of residential & commercial food waste generated in 2013
 - 15% of municipal solid waste is food waste
 - Only 5% of food waste is currently diverted to recovery (compost or anaerobic digestion)
- Diversion of food waste disposal from landfills is a requirement in five states and several cities
- Food waste fuel is classified as Advanced Biofuel
- Co-digesting biosolids and food waste results in combination of Cellulosic and Advanced Biofuels



NACWA Advocacy on RFS

- NACWA, CASA, WEF, WE&RF, and WRF met with EPA in July to discuss co-digestion
- August 31 comment letter on 2018 proposed RFS targets:
 - Market stability needed to encourage POTW investment in renewable fuel production
 - POTWs need additional planning and implementation time to contribute to Cellulosic Biofuel production
 - Example: East Bay MUD alone could produce 5% of the proposed volume requirement for Cellulosic Biofuel



Water-Energy Resilience Workshops

- Sponsored by EPA Water Security Division (WSD) and WaterISAC
- Workshops in Texas and Arizona in Sept. 2017
- Topics included:
 - Effects of Clean Air Act regulations on the use of generators
 - Prioritization of water/wastewater utilities in energy sector restoration plans
 - Strategies for responding to regional and long-duration power outages
 - Microgrids and co-generation as resilience measures



DOE Programs

- Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure of the Future (SWIFt) Accelerator
 - 3-year program with participants in 18 states
 - Promote adoption of innovative and best-practice approaches to data management, technologies and financing for infrastructure improvement
 - Goals to improve energy efficiency by 30% and integrate at least one resource recovery measure
 - Capstone of Accelerator will be a model infrastructure improvement plan, publication target is end of 2019



DOE Programs

- Energy Savings Performance Contracting Guide for Water Resource Recovery Facilities
- In Plant Training – up to 25 participants, will target energy efficiency opportunities at wastewater utilities
- Combined Heat and Power Technical Assistance Partners – longstanding program will have an enhanced focus on wastewater utilities
- State Energy Program – five states working with wastewater utilities on “low hanging fruit” of energy efficiency

DOE-Water Sector Conversation Planned for 2018

- Energy efficiency, energy recovery, and operational flexibility in water infrastructure
- Use of recycled water in energy infrastructure
- Opportunities for co-investment in energy and water infrastructure
- Data, modeling, and analyses that improve understanding of:
 - Connected infrastructure vulnerabilities
 - Risk management, reliability, and efficiency opportunities
 - Rapidly changing regional planning landscapes

Thank you!

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