



# SAN Pathogens & Point Source Workgroup Update

Chair: Joe Hebelka,  
P.G., PADEP

SAN Annual Meeting  
Reading Area Community College  
November 3, 2017

# Workgroup Strategic Goal

Facilitate and strengthen communication and coordination among regulatory agencies, downstream water users, and basin stakeholders regarding the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act goals.

## Strategic Actions

1. Strengthen communication between and provide educational resources to wastewater and drinking water utilities to improve source water protection efforts.
2. Facilitate data and information sharing to document wastewater treatment technologies, improvements, and other pertinent source water protection information.
3. Investigate evolving source water issues, such as unregulated contaminants, and develop a better understanding of what these issues mean for water suppliers' source water protection strategies.
4. Promote pathogen and point source successes and understanding of pathogen water quality issues and solutions to target audiences in the watershed.

# Workgroup Members



# A Forum for Communication around Discharge Issues

- Philadelphia Water is required by the state to do a Watershed Sanitary Survey
  - Identify sources of Cryptosporidium and pathogens in the Watershed
- Data collection for the Watershed Sanitary Survey was through the SAN Pathogens workgroup
  - WWTP flows and treatment technologies
  - Status of wildcat sewers and CSOs
  - Status of Act 537 plans (municipal sewerage planning)

# Outreach Assistance for Wastewater Utilities

- Developing an outreach piece – what not to put down the drain
- Online resource through the new SAN website
- WWTP can purchase copies to print as mailers/rack cards



**What you discard down the drain may end up in your drinking water!** Sewer systems and wastewater treatment facilities are only designed to handle water, human waste, and toilet paper. Anything else that goes down the drain can damage both the systems and the environment. Before you dump something, think: **Should this go down the drain?** Always remember that the water we have now is the only water we will ever have.

**WHAT IS THE WORST THING TO DUMP?**  
According to wastewater treatment facilities....

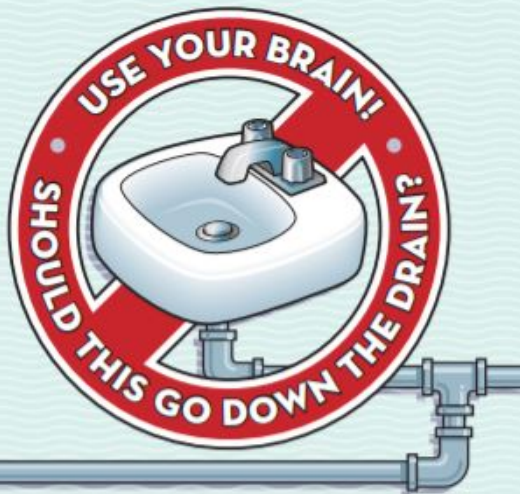
 **WIPES** – Wipes do not break down the same way as toilet paper. When flushed, they catch other materials and clog sewer pipes, which creates masses of trash and waste. Even “flushable” wipes can cause these problems!

**HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS** – Household products such as cleaners, pesticides, and paint all contain chemicals that are not included in the water treatment process, so the chemicals can remain in the water when it is discharged.



**FATS, OILS, GREASE (FOGS)** – FOGs such as cooking grease, motor oil, and animal fats solidify and build up in pipes when they are washed down the drain. Eventually, they can completely clog the sewer systems.





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### WHAT ELSE SHOULD NEVER GO DOWN THE DRAIN?

In addition to wipes, household chemicals, and FOGs, these are other commonly discarded items that do not belong down the drain:

- Disposable toilet brushes
- Medicine
- Paper towels
- Kitty Litter
- Feminine products
- Hair
- Cigarette butts
- Food wrappers
- Plastic
- Diapers
- Dental floss



### WHAT HAPPENS TO THE DRAINS IF YOU DO?

• Blockages caused by wipes, FOGs and other materials cause sewage backups. Clearing blockages and repairing subsequent damage costs cities and homeowners hundreds of man hours and millions of dollars each year.

• Chemicals and medications are often not removed in the wastewater treatment process, so the water is still contaminated when it is discharged into the environment. This can poison wildlife and affect their reproduction process. It also contaminates the drinking water people depend on.



### WHAT SHOULD YOU DO INSTEAD?

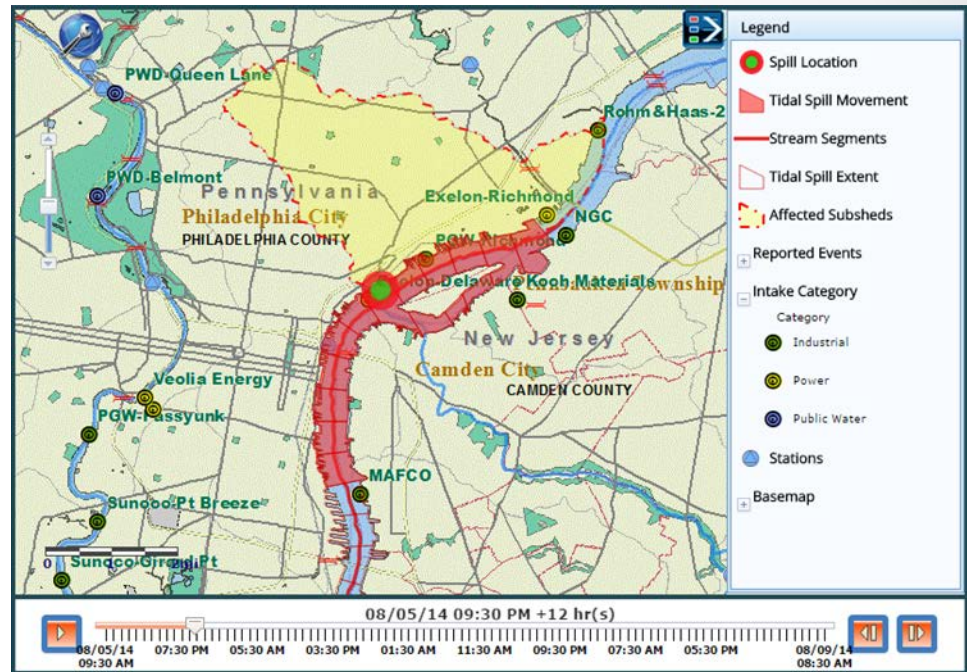
- Dispose of waste in the appropriate recycling or trash container.
- Take expired medication, unwanted motor oil, paint, and other household products to collection or recycling locations. Look for disposal locations on your state or municipality website.
- Collect grease in containers and wait for it to cool and harden, then throw it away.
- Reduce garbage disposal use and wipe off food particles before washing dishes.



Anyone can become a member!  
Visit [www.schuylkillwater.org](http://www.schuylkillwater.org)

# Early Warning System

- 2017 Updates (as of 10/10/17):
  - 16 events reported in 2017  
*\*all reported as low risk*
  - 359 registered users
  - 50 organizations represented
  - Featured in AWWA's source water protection guidance\*
- Planned for 2018
  - Major updates to EWS user interface



\*AWWA (2017). Source Water Protection Operational Guide to AWWA Standard G300

# Next Meeting

Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>

10 AM – 12 PM

DEP Reading Office