



Leaders at the Core of Better Communities

2015 Local Government Excellence Awards Program Program Excellence Awards Nomination Form

(All programs nominated must have been fully operational for a minimum of 12 months, prior to January 31, 2015)

Deadline for Nominations Extended to March 30, 2015

Complete this form (sections 1 and 2) and submit with your descriptive narrative.

SECTION 1: Information About the Nominated Program

Program Excellence Award Category (*select only one*):

- Community Health and Safety
- Community Partnership
- Community Sustainability
- Strategic Leadership and Governance

Name of program being nominated: Lower Providence Township Water Main Project

Jurisdiction(s) where program originated: Lower Providence Township

Jurisdiction population(s): 24000

Please indicate the month and year in which the program you are nominating was fully implemented. (Note: All Program Excellence Award nominations must have been fully implemented for at least 12 months prior to January 31, 2015, to be eligible. The start date [on or before January 31, 2014] should not include the initial planning phase.)

Month: November Year: 2013

Name(s) and title(s) of individual(s) who should receive recognition for this award at the ICMA Annual Conference in Seattle, Washington, September 2015. (Each individual listed MUST be an ICMA member to be recognized.):

Name: Lower Providence Township Board of Supervisors

Title: Board of Supervisors Jurisdiction: Lower Providence Township

Name: Ragesh Patel

Title: DEP Jurisdiction: Pennsylvania

Name: Pennsylvania American Water and Superior Tube

Title: Jurisdiction: Pennsylvania

SECTION 2: Information About the Nominator/Primary Contact

Name of contact: Richard Gestrich
Title: Township Manager Jurisdiction: Lower Providence Township
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Lower Providence Township Water Main Project-- Narrative:

Executive Summary:

Lower Providence Township successfully fostered a public-private partnership that enabled 114 properties that had been without potable water for five years due to well contamination to receive safe public water. On a broader scale, the partnership's waterline project greatly enhanced the development potential of the entire area. Unable to bear the waterline cost alone, the Township pursued a partnership involving the municipality, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), a utility company, and a local manufacturer. It took years of persistent effort to create the partnership and in 2013 the waterline project was completed, bringing public water to the affected residents and businesses. The partnership proved a cost-efficient solution as well: The project finished under budget and the Township was able to return \$95,000 to DEP. The benefits of the partnership are still being realized with developer interest in the area increasing and a planning initiative underway.

Project Value and Achievement: (resolving a dire public health problem and addressing a basic community need, and adding value to the community-at-large.)

The public/private partnership fostered by Lower Providence Township, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Pennsylvania American Water Company and Superior Tube Company allowed clean drinking water – a life essential – to be provided to 114 residences and businesses. Many of these had gone without potable drinking water for nearly five years due to well contamination and others were in danger of future contamination due to proximity to a contaminated groundwater plume. While DEP had provided bottled water and filtration systems to the properties with contaminated wells, the goal remained to find a permanent solution. The partnership that emerged after many months of hard work enabled the goal to be reached. Small businesses and families finally had safe, clean water.

The value added to the local community by this project extends well beyond those directly affected by well contamination or threatened by the polluted plume. The new water main has greatly enhanced the development potential the western portion of the township along Ridge and Germantown Pikes. Since the installation of the waterline, this area has seen increased interest from developers. In the past several months alone, the township has received several significant proposals running the gamut from 12 single family homes to 140 townhomes to retail with apartments and town houses.

The partnership's success will have a beneficial impact on the future of the community as well. As the area's increased appeal was realized, the Ridge Pike corridor became the subject of an on-going planning initiative involving the township Planning Commission, Montgomery County Planning Commission, and local residents and businesses. The group is developing a vision for future zoning standards, land use, building design and streetscapes.

Overall Project Description:

Faced with the need to provide a permanent solution for citizens who were without safe drinking water because of well contamination, Lower Providence Township officials doggedly pursued a public/private partnership involving the municipality, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), a utility company, and a local manufacturer. The resulting project enabled public water to be supplied to **the residences and businesses that had gone without potable water for five years.** The partnership proved cost-efficient as well, with the waterline project finishing well under budget and returning \$95,000 to DEP.

Groundwater contamination in private wells in the western portion of the township was discovered by DEP. **F**, but the source could not be determined. DEP provided bottled water and on-site treatment systems to those affected.

Lower Providence Township could not provide the needed public water system on its own, but the township and DEP shared a common goal: Bring safe drinking water to the affected area. The township received \$2 million in funding through DEP's Hazardous Site Clean-up Act, working closely with the Southeast Regional Office of DEP and with the support of state Sen. John Rafferty (44th District) and state Rep. Mike Vereb (150th District). Numerous meetings were then held with the stakeholders, Pennsylvania American Water Company (PAWC) and Superior Tube Company. The result was a \$700,000 contribution to the project from PAWC and a \$500,000 contribution from Superior Tube, a tubing manufacturer located in the community.

The partnership enabled public water service to be provided to 114 homes and businesses with contamination or in danger of future contamination. It was bid out in two contracts – one for connections where a water main already existed and another where a new 12,000 ft. water main was installed. There was no cost to the homes or businesses for the connection to public water. The waterline project included properties on the following Township roadways: Ridge Pike, Germantown Pike, Crosskeys Road, Evansburg Road, Old Baptist Road, Pechins Mill Road, Eddishaw Road, Wilson Road, Hodes Avenue, Level Road, Evansburg Road, Ridge Pike and Germantown Pike.

The partners held public meetings to explain the project to the property owners and to address any concerns. Prior to construction, officials met on-site with the residents and business owners to map the location of their new waterlines and the partners attended regular progress meetings. The township provided oversight for both phases and took the lead on Phase Two, the installation of the new water main on Ridge Pike, a heavily traveled main thoroughfare. Communication and cooperation was critical to limit disruption to the area's small businesses and commuters.

Throughout the project and following its conclusion, Township staff acted as a liaison with the property owners, stakeholders and government agencies. Information and updates were provided via letters and the Township's website.

Our Many Partners and their respective roles:

Lower Providence Township Supervisors – The Lower Providence Township Board of Supervisors made the waterline project a priority and recognized that a public-private partnership was needed in order to bring clean water to the affected citizens. Individually, board members communicated the importance of the project to state officials and participated in numerous informational meetings.

PA Department of Environmental Protection / Southeast Regional Office – DEP officials shared the Township's goal of providing safe, clean water to the properties affected by groundwater contamination; their assistance and guidance was critical to the success of the project.

Senator John Rafferty (R-44th) – Sen. Rafferty helped to facilitate the collaborative project, leading vital meetings between Township and DEP officials.

Representative Mike Vereb (R-150th) – The affected area is located within the 150th District and Rep. Vereb was a strong supporter of the efforts to provide a long-term solution for the frustrated residents and businesses.

Pennsylvania American Water Company – As the utility serving the affected area as well as a large portion of the remainder of the Township, the company was the major stakeholder in the project. From early on, the company was an active collaborator in the project, with executives, technical staff and field managers working closely with Township officials.

Superior Tube Company – The company, a metal tubing manufacturer, has been located in the Township for 80 years and contributed funds for the initial phase (connections to existing main) of the project.

Lower Providence Township Residents and Business Owners – The cooperation and involvement of the affected residents was an essential piece of the partnership.

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation – Coordination with PennDOT officials was critical to the success of the water main installation, particularly along the busy Ridge Pike corridor.

Lower Providence Township Public Works Department – The Township's Public Works Department, in conjunction with the Township's engineering consultant, LTL Consultants,

oversaw the water line project from its inception, providing on-site control and conducting inspections before, during and after construction.

Lower Providence Township Administrative Staff – The administration staff, including the Community Relations and Accounting Departments, provided key support tasks throughout the project.