

MICHIGAN water works

WINTER 2023

NEWS



American Water Works Association
Michigan Section



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WATER WORKFORCE
RESILIENCE: NAVIGATING A
SILVER TSUNAMI

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RESPONDING TO A
ROUTINE TOTAL COLIFORM-
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The official publication of the
American Water Works Association
Michigan Section



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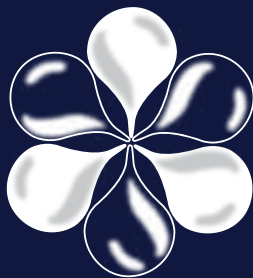
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The Michigan Water Works News is a quarterly publication of the Michigan Section, American Water Works Association.

The deadline for submitting articles for Spring 2023 issue is February 10, 2023.

Material may be submitted through the website at www.mi-water.org/page/wnn.

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contents

WINTER 2023



FEATURES

2023 JOINT EXPO & OPERATORS DAY PREVIEW 16

WATER WORKFORCE RESILIENCE:
NAVIGATING A SILVER TSUNAMI 23

DEPARTMENTS

Editor's Note	7
Chair's Message	9
Director's Report	11
Executive Director's Message	15
Above the Bridge	27
News and Notes	30
Volunteer News	38
Member Update	40
EGLE News	44
Training	49
Professional Directory	53
Advertiser Product and Service Center	54





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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Kelly Gleason, Editor

Happy New Year! Welcome to the Winter issue of Michigan *Water Works News*! I hope you had a wonderful holiday season, had time to be with family, and celebrated.

Since our last issue, fall was just beginning, and new leadership was taking their places. We experienced beautiful fall weather with mild temperatures all the way into November.

The year 2022 continued to bring us back together for face-to-face meetings with virtual options available. This enabled many people who couldn't travel the miles the chance to also attend the valuable training opportunities. One of which I attended was the Lab Practices Seminar. It is always a great day of information and networking; kudos to the Lab Practices Committee for putting on a great event. For additional opportunities, see our training calendar on page 50.

I would love to hear about what you have been up to in the water world. You can send pictures, stories, and updates to kelly.gleason@lbwl.com with the subject line *Water Works News* or through the MI-AWWA website at www.mi-water.org/page/wwn. 💧

Publishing Schedule:

- **Spring 2023:** copy due to Editor February 10, 2023 – published April 2023.
- **Summer 2023:** copy due to Editor May 5, 2023 – published July 2023.
- **Fall 2023:** copy due to Editor August 11, 2023 – published October 2023.

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THE SUPPLY CHAIN OF STAFFING

Wayne Jernberg, Chair

Over the past 18 months, just about everyone in the water industry has endured or is currently enduring some type of supply chain nightmare. We have seen massive increases in costs associated with operational supplies, equipment, and treatment chemicals. We have also seen material shortages, such as with pipe and valves, leading to significant delays in projects. While we don't necessarily think about it, there is one more supply chain that has been an issue for some time that the recent pandemic has only worsened. That supply chain is the flow of new talent into employment within the water industry.

It is safe to say that many of us are seeing the number of applicants for our open positions decline, and, in some cases, the quality and experience of applicants are less than what it has been in the past. So, what can we do in the water industry to buck this trend?

One area that the Section is working very hard on is Youth Educational Outreach. As I write this article, the "Imagine a Day Without Water" campaign is finishing up. This annual campaign helps bring attention to the value of reliable water and wastewater service and those that work hard to provide those services. Using campaigns like this and targeting the younger generation brings attention to the work we all do and can help set the table for a young person to want to learn more. Events like poster designs, writing competitions, and in-school water educational pieces are ways to connect with your local schools and develop educational programs that can help bring awareness to our industry.

For some in the industry that have established relationships with local high

school systems, skills academies, and vocational schools, they have been able to develop apprenticeship programs to target students directly for future employment. These programs allow a high school or vocational student to apply for a position in the utility while still in high school and, if selected, begin work as a part-time apprentice before graduation. In many cases, this eventually leads to a full-time position within that organization. This is a great way to identify young people that don't want to pursue college after high school and get them into your organization.

Another form of apprenticeship is having college-age students work part-time while attending college-level classes. This allows for on-the-job experience while also pushing the student to get a degree. Combining these two areas often provides an accelerated learning curve for the student within employment and creates a pathway for the apprentice to become a licensed operator within a utility.

Grand Rapids is currently working with this type of program and have several excellent students working part-time for them.

Internships are another avenue for the industry to attract talent. The most common forms typically involve students in college taking a semester or summer off to work as an intern. This path can lead to a relationship

that is developed between the employer and student that may lead to permanent employment post-college.

The one thing that all these recruiting options have in common is the relationships that must be developed over time. Investing time and resources with your local schools and colleges, as well as regional vocational and skills centers, can help identify talent that may be able to fill positions and roles within your organization. Having a clear vision of what you need in terms of skills will also help you and your team partners recruit talent to your apprentice and internship programs.

If you have a program that is working for you, please reach out to the Section and share your program. The Section will feature presentations about regional programs in the future, and we would love to share your program. 💧





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Twin KB 100 Biogas CHP Modules Pictured above

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DO NOT DRINK THE WATER

Christine Spitzley, Director

"ANYONE WHO CAN SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF WATER WILL BE WORTHY OF TWO NOBEL PRIZES, ONE FOR PEACE AND ONE FOR SCIENCE."

– JOHN F. KENNEDY

During a recent vacation to the United Kingdom, my husband asked if every water professional on vacation takes pictures of wells, manhole covers, water towers, and signs that read, "do not drink the water."

My answer? Yes, we do!

I continued to explain that not only is this typical behavior for a true 'water person,' but that a water professional would also ask 'why' upon entering a hotel bathroom and finding a sign that reads, "this is not drinking water."

The locals seemed indifferent about not being able to drink the tap water, while all the American tourists were concerned with whether or not the hotel would charge them for the bottled water. But me, I wanted to know *why*?

As an industry, we've never been asked, 'why?' more often than we are now. *Why are my rates so high? Why isn't water free? Why did the water main break? Why is there lead? Why is there PFAS? And most importantly, why should I believe my water is safe?*

While this can feel like an attack on our profession, this extraordinary interest provides an unprecedented opportunity to provide information and education about our water systems and the water industry as a whole.

As water professionals, we quickly point to and explain these *whys*. We know our cost to produce and distribute safe, reliable water. We know the vulnerabilities in our systems and why things break. We understand the history, occurrence, and risk of lead in





our communities. While we are only beginning to understand PFAS and its prevalence, we can speak to what we know and what we are learning. We know we produce water that meets safe drinking water standards. While we did not ask for it, these are all opportunities to take advantage of the public's interest and concern and to build trust, understanding, support, and value in the world's most important resource.

AWWA has 50,000 members, and over 2,000 call the Michigan Section home. Both AWWA and MI-AWWA offer resources, education, and training to help you answer these whys and many other questions. In addition to formal resources and publications, the expertise and experience among our members are staggering. It is an incredibly generous network! If you have an issue or a question but are unsure where to begin, please reach out. If I cannot help, MI-AWWA and AWWA staff are both ready to navigate you to the right resources.

Additionally, I ask **you** to be a resource.

Throughout North America, boards, councils, committees, and task forces are hard at work solving technical issues, informing policy, raising the profile of our industry, and communicating the value of water. Here in Michigan, we've done a lot of work. As operators, chemists, engineers, consultants, manufacturers, educators, planners, researchers, and leaders,

please consider sharing your expertise, knowledge, and lessons learned. There are hundreds of long- and short-term opportunities to volunteer. Want to help develop AWWA standards? Author an article? Serve as a mentor? Present at a conference? Inform legislators? Share best practices? Please reach out! MI-AWWA and AWWA leadership and staff are available to connect you with these opportunities and more! 💧

For details on available resources or volunteering with the MI-AWWA, contact Erika Ignace, Membership Coordinator, at 517-292-2912 ext. 105 or erika@mi-water.org.

To learn more about opportunities to get involved, go to the volunteer section of the Michigan Section American Water Works Association website – www.mi-water.org/page/volunteer.

For information on available resources or volunteering with the AWWA, contact Maggie Vulman, Section Relationship Manager, at 720-415-7514 or mvulman@awwa.org.

To learn more about opportunities to get involved, go to the volunteer section of the American Water Works Association website – www.awwa.org/membership-volunteering/volunteer.

Answer to "Why can't I drink the water in this hotel?" 400 to 500-year-old hotels often use storage tanks for pressure, so the quality and safety of the water cannot be guaranteed.





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EQUITY IS NOT THE SAME AS EQUALITY

Bonnifer Ballard, Executive Director

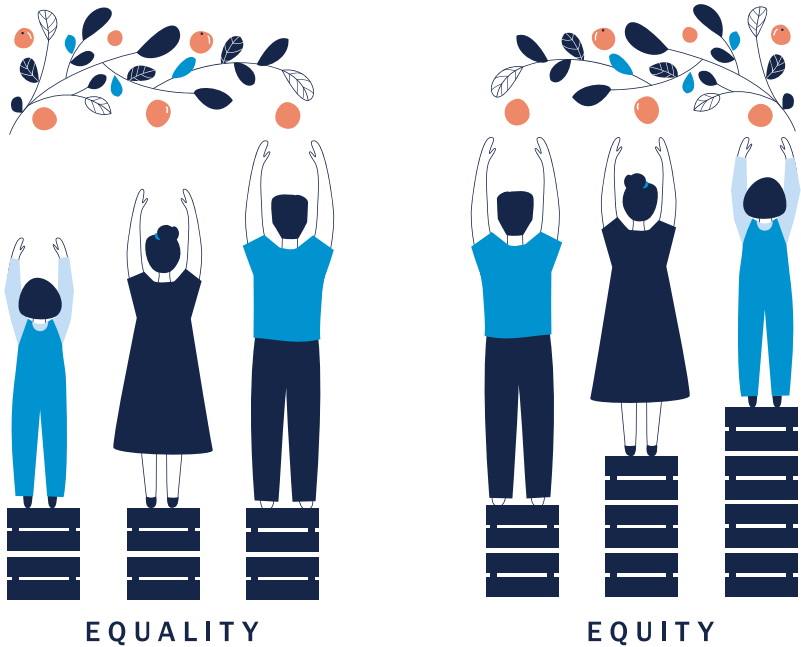
This may seem like semantics, but over the last year, there have been a number of situations where it is clear that many people use these words – equity and equality – interchangeably, and they are not the same.

Equality is pretty straightforward. It is when things are the same. But equity does not mean when things are the same. Equity has to do with resources fitting the need of a specific person so that they can achieve an equal outcome.

I like the image on this page because it is a really easy depiction of the difference. Everyone is reaching for fruit on the tree. On the left, the crates they stand on are precisely the same. They're equal. That means that the taller you are, the easier it is to reach the fruit. The shorter you are, the more likely you won't reach at all. On the right, the crates fit the person's needs. When things are equitable, everyone gets to eat the fruit.

In water, we find ourselves dealing with the issue of equity more and more. Whether internally when we are developing and implementing hiring practices and human resource policies; or externally when we're designing rates and developing affordability programs. Providing equitable solutions to problems means everyone wins.

As we think about how best to continue to provide clean, safe water to our customers, we must consider that not everyone has the same resources to access that water. That will require us to think differently, to behave differently. It won't be easy. It's going to take work and creativity. But I can't think of a greater goal or higher purpose for us as water professionals. 💧



DEFINITIONS

Equality: State of being the same in quantity, size, degree, or value.

Equity: The quality of being fair and impartial.



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JOINT EXPO

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February 7-8, 2023

Lansing Center, Lansing, MI



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Operators Day will offer three different tracks, one specifically designed for leadership, on each day. With many options to choose from, you may attend both days and/or multiple tracks in a single day to maximize earning your continuing education credits. The final agenda will be forthcoming with registration opening no later than December 1.



The exhibit hall, which still allows you to earn continuing education credit, is also getting a refresh. Water professionals will find many of the long-time exhibitors as well as new companies all anxious to show you their latest wares. Competitions, games, and more will make walking the exhibit hall a new and livelier experience.

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Schedule at a Glance

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023	
7:15 am	Registration Opens
7:45 am	Operators Day Track 1
8:45 am	Operators Day Track 2
9:15 am	Leadership Track
9:30 am	Exhibit Hall Opens
11:15 am	Track 1 Lunch in the Exhibit Hall
12:15 pm	Track 2 Lunch in the Exhibit Hall
12:45 pm	Leadership Track Lunch
11:00 am	Scavenger Hunt in Exhibit Hall Begins
4:00 pm	Exhibit Hall Closes
4:15 pm	Networking Mixer Hosted by the Young Professionals

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023	
7:15 am	Registration Opens
7:45 am	Operators Day Track 1
8:30 am	Exhibit Hall Opens
8:45 am	Operators Day Track 2
9:15 am	Leadership Track
11:15 am	Track 1 Lunch in the Exhibit Hall
12:15 pm	Track 2 Lunch in the Exhibit Hall
12:45 pm	Leadership Track Lunch
11:00 am	Poker Run in Exhibit Hall Begins
2:00 pm	Exhibit Hall Closes

Training

Operators Day will offer two start times as well as a session specifically designed for leadership on each day. With different programs each day, you can attend one or both days with lots of combination options so that you can attend the sessions you most want and maximize earning your continuing education credits.

This year's topics include:

- AMR vs. AMI
- Confined Space Protocols
- Preparing for Dog Encounters
- Process Improvement for Efficiency
- Reduce Michiganders' Risk of Lead Exposure
- Troubleshooting Pumps
- Understanding Lab Reports
- Water and Wastewater Certification Programs
- Water Policy Update
- Workforce Recruitment and Education



Operators Training Day Agenda

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023			
	North	South	Upstairs
	Registration Opens 7:15 North Begins 7:45	Registration Opens 8:15 North Begins 8:45	Registration Opens 8:45 North Begins 9:15
60 min.	Prepare yourself for Dog Encounters and Attacks Hector Hernandez, HectorSpeaks LLC 7:45-8:45	AMR or AMI? Making The Right Choice for Your Community Chris Johnson, HydroCorp Meter Sales 8:45-9:45	Regulatory Update Greg Kacvinsky, OHM Advisors 9:15-10:15
15 min	Break		
60 min.	BOSS811 – Process Improvement Increases Locate Efficiency Vish Nayagam & Alyssa Sheldon, Boss811 9:00-10:00	Prepare yourself for Dog Encounters and Attacks Hector Hernandez, HectorSpeaks LLC 10:00-11:00	Tapping Into the Urban Water Cycle for Workforce Recruitment and Education Hillary Caron, City of Grand Rapids 10:30-11:30
15 min	Break		
60 min.	AMR or AMI? Making The Right Choice for Your Community Chris Johnson, HydroCorp Meter Sales 10:15-11:15	BOSS811 – Process Improvement Increases Locate Efficiency Vish Nayagam & Alyssa Sheldon, Boss811 11:15-12:15	An Overview of the Water and Wastewater Certifications Programs Koren Carpenter & Alyssa Sarver, EGLE 11:45-12:45

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023			
	North	South	Upstairs
	Registration Opens 7:15 North Begins 7:45	Registration Opens 8:15 North Begins 8:45	Registration Opens 8:45 North Begins 9:15
60 min.	Field Staff Safety for Confined Space Brandon Burnette, Agile Safety 7:45-8:45	Pumps: Troubleshooting Outside the Box Nick Fisher, City of Grand Rapids & Alex Hitsman, Kerr Pump 8:45-9:45	Michigan Legislative Update Mike Compagnoni, Midwest Strategies 9:15-10:15
15 min	Break		
60 min.	Understanding QA/QC, Sampling and Reading Your Laboratory Reports John Holland Jr., MRWA 9:00-10:00	Field Staff Safety for Confined Space Brandon Burnette, Agile Safety 10:00-11:00	Help Michiganders Reduce Their Risk to Lead Brooke Gieber & Chelsea Maupin, GUD Marketing 10:30-11:30
15 min	Break		
60 min.	Pumps: Troubleshooting Outside the Box Nick Fisher, City of Grand Rapids & Alex Hitsman, Kerr Pump 10:15-11:15	Understanding QA/QC, Sampling and Reading Your Laboratory Reports John Holland Jr., MRWA 11:15-12:15	Hot Topics with Jodi Schafer: HR Tales, Trends and Predictions Jodi Schafer, HRM Services 11:45-12:45

Register online at www.mi-water.org/page/je today!

Note: Speakers, topics, and times may be subject to change.

JOINT EXPO — & OPERATORS DAY —



Exhibits

The Exhibit Hall, where you earn additional continuing education credit, allows you to visit many vendors all in one place. You will see long-standing exhibitors as well as new companies. Competitions, games, and more will make walking the Exhibit Hall a lively experience.

Competitions

Meter Challenge – competitors are handed a bucket of parts and timed in assembling a meter (this year using products by Zenner Multijet).

Hydrant Hysteria – teams of two are timed to see how fast they can assemble a hydrant (this year using products by Clow Medallion).

Pipe Tapping – tapping a water main is hard work. In this competition, teams of three tap a pipe under pressure.

Watch the competitions in the Exhibit Hall:

Tuesday, February 7, 2023	Wednesday, February 8, 2023
Tapping begins at 12:00 pm	Meter Challenge begins at 10:00 am
	Hydrant Hysteria begins at 12:00 pm

Games

Scavenger Hunt – Tuesday only; stop by the YP/NP table near registration for instructions on how to play and a chance to win one of several prizes.

Poker Run – Wednesday only; grab an instruction card when you check in at the registration desk for a chance to win one of several prizes.

Networking Mixer

Hosted by the Young Professionals and New Professionals Committees, the mixer is an opportunity for attendees to unwind and network before heading home or back to their hotel rooms. Make plans to participate while earning a chance to win prizes.

Thank you to our Networking Mixer sponsors!



Continuing Education Credits

Earn up to 0.8 credits over both days.
Operators Day – 0.3 each day
Exhibit Hall – 0.2

Fees

Attendees Cost	Regular Rate	Late Rate
Operators Day – 1 day	\$145	\$170
Operators Day – 2 days	\$285	\$310
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Logistics

Registration – Register for trainings online at www.mi-water.org/page/je. Your registration includes the training of your choice, entrance to the Exhibit Hall, and lunch. Register for the Exhibit Hall only online at www.mi-water.org/page/je. Badges must be worn onsite at all times. Badges are required for entry to the training rooms and the Exhibit Hall.

Parking – See the parking map on the website for information on parking lots and structures. Complimentary shuttles will be available approximately every 20 minutes from designated parking lots to the Lansing Center. Check the app for details on the day you attend.

Lodging – For those staying in Lansing, the Lansing Radisson Hotel has a block of rooms at a reduced rate for attendees of Joint Expo & Operators Day. Call 1-800-333-3333 to make your reservations. Remember to use promotional code AWWA23 to receive the conference rate.

The Courtyard by Marriott Downtown also has a number of rooms available at \$139 plus taxes and fees per night for reservations on or before January 7, 2023. The hotel is a short walk or drive to the Lansing Center. Call the Courtyard reservations at 1-800-Marriott, or book online at www.marriott.com.

Inclement Weather – Keep an eye on the website and download the event app for any weather-related information pertaining to Joint Expo & Operators Day.

Cancellation Policy – Registration substitutions within the same organization are allowed. Written cancellations received at least seven days prior to the start of the event will be eligible for a refund, less a \$50 processing fee. Cancellations received less than seven days from the start of the event will receive no refund. Under extenuating circumstances, a credit for training may be issued. Credits are granted at the sole discretion of the Executive Director. See the website for complete details.



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NEWS

Water Workforce Resilience: Navigating a Silver Tsunami



Matt Lane, MPA; Charges Outreach and Modeling Manager, Great Lakes Water Authority

It is no secret that the water sector has been experiencing challenges related to a highly skilled workforce transitioning to the end stages of their career.

Although the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic may have accelerated the issue, the trend has been concerning experts for years.

As a 2018 report by the Metropolitan Policy Program at the Brookings Institution (www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/brookings-metro-renewing-the-water-workforce-june-2018.pdf) points out, even with the massive need for capital investment, signs of talent shortages have been becoming more evident and causing a unique problem. “Many of the nation’s water infrastructure assets are in urgent need of repair, maintenance, and restoration. Yet, the workers capable of carrying out these efforts are in short supply.”

To make things even more complicated, it is not just the same level of talent utilities are searching for, either. It’s a different kind of talent with a new skillset tailored for utility operations of the twenty-first century. According to the 2020 Black and Veatch Strategic Directions Water Report

“Many of the nation’s water infrastructure assets are in urgent need of repair, maintenance, and restoration. Yet, the workers capable of carrying out these efforts are in short supply.”

(https://webassets.bv.com/2020-06/2020sdr%20water%20full%20report_final%202.pdf), “Despite the grittiness of many water utility jobs, providers still have had to change what they look for in new hires.”

In fact, respondents to the survey from Black and Veatch report that they are looking for more soft skills such as digital savviness, communication, and analytical skills. “To attract these skills, water utility managers are raising their recruitment efforts by increasing compensation (78% [of respondents]), improving work/life balance (59% [of respondents]) and adding workplace perks (41% [of respondents]),” according to the report.

In a 2020 report titled “America’s Water Sector Workforce Initiative: A Call to Action” published by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), it is acknowledged that there are staffing problems facing many utilities and seeks to provide leadership and publicity to the issue. “Cities and

communities across the country are facing critical staffing shortages for the operation and maintenance of essential drinking water and wastewater infrastructure,” the EPA continues, “Approximately one-third of drinking water and wastewater operators in the US will be eligible to retire in the next ten years,” says the report. The report can be found at www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2020-11/documents/americas_water_sector_workforce_initiative_final.pdf.

With a broad understanding of these conditions, utilities across the state of Michigan have been developing unique and innovative approaches to recruiting and retaining employees and developing uniquely talented candidates.

The Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) is a drinking water provider to roughly 40% and a wastewater treatment services provider to about 30% of the state’s population. It has made workforce development a priority



and has established a multi-pronged approach to backfilling and up-skilling its workforce.

In response to the worker shortage, GLWA launched a series of initiatives aimed at building up its pipeline of "Water Warriors," including a registered US Department of Labor apprenticeship program (which currently includes four different apprenticeships), rigorous in-service training called the One Water Institute, and building up regional collaborations with community organizations and its Member Partners (wholesale customers). For more information on the Water Warriors, please visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1tfede1aki.

According to a case study report by the EPA in 2022 (www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-01/documents/wf_case_study_compendium.pdf), "GLWA now works with workforce partners in the community to recruit individuals with interest in a career in the water sector, taking them through an apprenticeship program with local community colleges and trade schools." This includes an anchor partnership with FOCUS: Hope, a Detroit-area nonprofit that works to reverse the causes and effects of social injustice in the metropolitan area.

"The primary motivation was workforce development," says Patricia Butler, MA, Manager-Organizational Development at GLWA. "Our second motivation is investing in our community

and helping disenfranchised community members find viable careers and job opportunities," she said.

Worker shortages are not unique to metro Detroit. It is a statewide challenge, too. The Grand Rapids Water System is experiencing it and has been forced to come up with creative ways to develop the next generation of employees, as well.

According to James Ouzts, Lake Michigan Water Filtration Plant Superintendent for the City of Grand Rapids, "Last year, we calculated that 50% of our workforce at the filtration plant will be eligible to retire within the next five years." Ouzts continued, "This, combined with the overall lack of certified operators, has dealt us quite the dilemma to address for adequate succession planning and has forced us to look at other alternatives to streamline the process of getting new candidates through the door."

The City of Grand Rapids has also built partnerships to help fill the gaps, with an emphasis on preparing the next generation of water professionals through both theory and hands-on education. With a \$500,000 grant from the EPA and a unique arrangement with Grand Rapids Community College and Bay College in the upper peninsula City

of Escanaba, the Grand Rapids Water System has created the West Michigan Water Career Program (www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-05/grand_rapids-factsheet.pdf), which seeks to provide college credits to participants and help them gain crucial certifications needed to further their career in the water sector. For more information, please visit www.baycollege.edu/news/2021-news/102721-01.php.

"This is a paid internship, and these employees will work 24 hours per week for 52 weeks," says Ouzts. "The hope is that they will gain the basic education and experience needed to take and pass either their S-4 or F-4 license exam for water or the Class D certification for wastewater."

Both programs, GLWA and Grand Rapids, have a mentorship component to help ensure that there is some level of information transfer for the irreplaceable institutional knowledge held by the most experienced water workers. It is going to take a village, and then some, to address this growing issue.

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Above the Bridge

TWO YOOPERS WERE THE RECIPIENTS OF THE HALL OF FAME

With a plaque hanging in his home office, Warren Isaacson reflects on his career in the water industry – a career recognized with the Michigan Water Industry Hall of Fame title.

This year, two Yoopers were the recipients of the hall of fame: Warren Isaacson and Bruce Hawkinson.

The Michigan Water Industry Hall of Fame was established in 2014 to allow Michigan to honor its own industry titans. Fashioned after the Michigan Water Industry Hall of Fame, the Michigan Water Industry Hall of Fame is virtual, showcasing inductees through photos and biographies on the Section's website. Nominations are solicited from the membership and selected by the Historic Preservation Committee.

Isaacson, or 'Ike' as he's known, got his start in water in 1974 when he began as an operator at the Escanaba Water Plant. Shortly after that, he was promoted to water plant superintendent and became active in the American Water Works Association. He served three terms on the Michigan Section Board of Trustees, including a term as Board Chair.

"Being honored with this award more than 15 years after leaving the industry has allowed me to reflect on my water industry career," he said. "What I am most proud of and satisfied with is what was accomplished through my efforts in AWWA and the time I spent in the classroom with students, many of whom are currently active in the industry and AWWA."

Ike worked hard to foster a collaboration between water professionals and legislators in state and federal offices before the establishment of the Government Affairs Council of the Section. He taught for many years as an adjunct instructor in the Water Technology Program and mentored many co-op students during his career. He was a strong supporter of the UP Waterworks Section but logged countless miles making the seven-hour trek from Escanaba to Lansing in the interest of all water professionals across the state.

He attended Bay College, studying water and wastewater technology, and finished his college work at Northern Michigan University, majoring in biology. He currently resides in Felch, MI, and works for Mead & Hunt.

Bruce Hawkinson, or 'Hawk' as he is known, is a professional engineer with a long history as a consulting engineer for water supplies across the Upper Peninsula. He was chair of the Section and served on the education committees helping train water operators.

Per the Historic Preservation Committee, "Both gentlemen put in tremendous effort over the years developing training for the Upper Peninsula AWWA members and to solidify this important part of our membership. They were dedicated to integrating the UP involvement in the Section. They demonstrated extraordinary commitment by going through the trustee and chair positions while residing and working in the UP, all without missing a meeting." 💧

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READY TO LEAD?

Nominations Open for the Michigan Section Board of Trustees

Nominations are due by March 17, 2023.

The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for terms beginning in September 2023 (in conjunction with the Annual Business Meeting) for the following positions:

Trustees: two each for three-year terms.

Chair Elect: three-year term.

Self and peer nominations are both encouraged. Please also note that the bylaws of the Section indicate that we should strive to have the following:

- One Board member from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan; and
- One Board member either from the area of the Lower Peninsula north of Town Line Fifteen or from any district, area, or community in the Lower Peninsula maintaining water service to a population under 10,000 persons at the most recent Federal Census.

The representation of the Board of Directors members is intended to reflect the diverse membership of the Section, including, but not limited to, geographical locations, membership categories, utility size, gender, and ethnic origins.

Any member in good standing of the Section, including a multi-section member, is eligible to hold elective office in the Section.

Interested members are encouraged to contact the Nominating Committee with any questions by emailing nominations@mi-water.org.

Nominations are due by March 17, 2023, and should be submitted using the form on the Section website at www.mi-water.org/page/brdnomination. Members who have submitted nominations in previous years and would like to be considered for this year should complete a new nomination form.

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Competing is super easy. Grab a quart mason jar, fill it with water from the distribution system (the plant tap is a great place to grab your entry), and bring the unrefrigerated water to the registration/check-in desk at your regional meeting. A group of independent judges will score against the other entrants, with the winner announced that day. It's as easy as that!

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B	R	H	I	R	B	L	I	C	L	D	Y	Z	H	P	W	Q	O	Q	D	A	J	W	D
K	R	Q	T	N	Z	L	J	R	K	U	P	O	Y	X	L	M	K	R	Y	B	C	K	I
Q	X	L	E	R	T	W	E	A	T	L	Q	Y	D	A	G	S	J	N	H	G	Y	O	R
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U	X	P	W	A	V	V	T	M	P	N	I	F	W	B	F	P	H	A	R	S	F	E	L
D	O	D	Z	K	R	Y	K	X	I	Q	L	V	R	Y	Q	P	S	J	V	G	C	E	O
W	I	N	K	I	L	T	D	L	A	C	V	D	Q	A	B	C	M	C	K	N	J	N	S
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See page 52 for answers

OPERATOR SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

Did you know that AWWA, together with the Michigan Section, offers the One AWWA Operator Scholarship? This scholarship offers funds for either college courses or continuing education and professional development classes.

Money is left on the table every year. Water professionals from across Michigan and the country have donated to make these funds available to help advance the career of someone willing to roll up their sleeves. If you are an operator thinking about the next step in your professional development, check out the details and then apply. For more information, please visit www.awwa.org/water-equation/one-awwa-operator-scholarship. 💧



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GREAT NEWS IN COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION HERE IN MICHIGAN



Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

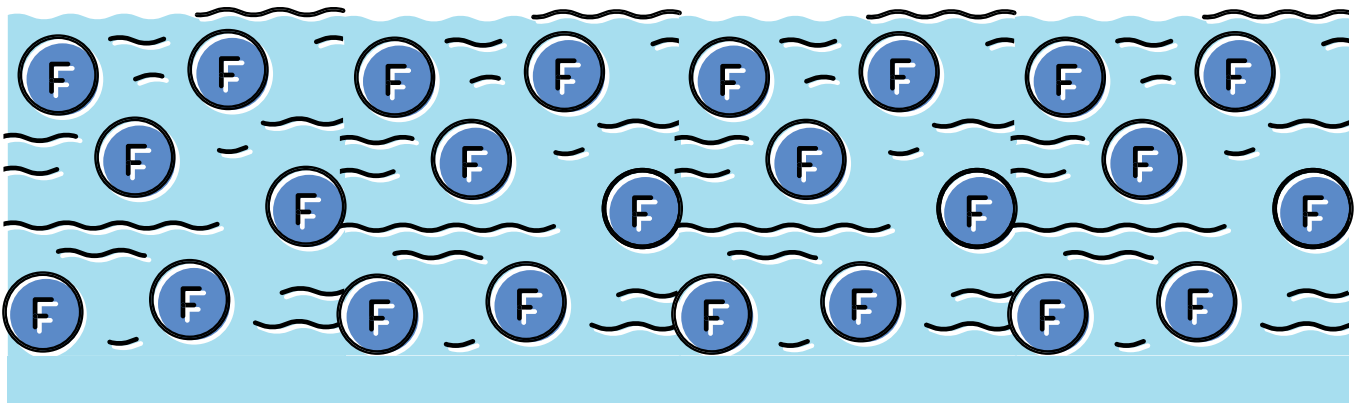
The CDC has released the list of public water systems in the US that have provided fluoridation in the Optimal Fluoridation Awards for 2021. Overall, there were 1,394 awards to 28 states. The official certificates will be sent out shortly to all the awardees.

The MDHHS Oral Health Program is pleased to announce that we have 69 PWS receiving awards this year. Thanks to their due diligence, our residents are receiving the optimal level of fluoridation all year long. With so many people out of work and losing their benefits, combined with the slowing down and closing of dental offices, it is important that residents have the safety net of fluoridated water for their continued oral health.

Congratulations to all our awardees:

ADRIAN	HARBOR SPRINGS	NILES
ALGONAC	HILLSDALE	NORTHWEST OTTAWA CO. WATER SYSTEM
ALPENA	HOLLAND BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS	OTSEGO
ANN ARBOR	HOWELL	PARCHMENT
BARAGA	HURON SHORE REGIONAL UTILITY	PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP
BATTLE CREEK – VERONA SYSTEM	IONIA	PLAINWELL
BAY AREA WATER SYSTEM	JACKSON	SAGINAW
BENTON TOWNSHIP	JONESVILLE	SAULT STE. MARIE
BIG RAPIDS	K.I. SAWYER	SOUTH LYON
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CASSOPOLIS	LAKE ODESSA	ST. IGNACE
CHARLOTTE	LINDEN	ST. JOHNS
CLARE	LUDINGTON	ST. JOSEPH
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GLADSTONE WATER DEPT.	MUSKEGON	WAYLAND
GRAND RAPIDS	NEGAUNEE-ISHPEMING AUTHORITY	WEST BRANCH
GRATIOT AREA WATER AUTHORITY	NEW BUFFALO	WYOMING

The department is also pleased to offer the 2023 Fluoridation Equipment Grants! If your system is needing replacement of equipment or is interested in beginning to fluoridate, please contact Sandy Sutton at suttons2@michigan.gov for more information. 💧



UP SPRING WATER CONFERENCE

Save the Date!

April 25-26, 2023

Island Resort & Casino in Harris, MI

Make plans to attend the UP Spring Water Conference specifically designed for water professionals operating in the Upper Peninsula. This day-and-a-half conference is of great value. Look for details in the mail or on the website later this winter! 💧





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2023 WATER SOLUTION WEBINAR SERIES



The Michigan Section's Water Solution Webinar Series returns in 2023 with a full lineup of monthly trainings. Topics slated for 2023 include power quality, finance, asset management planning, cybersecurity, pipeline management, and more. January's webinar kicked off with Key Factors in Attracting and Retaining Talent.

Join us in February for Utilizing GIS for Galvanized Water Service Lines, DSMI, and Residential Cross Connections.

Register for select webinars individually at \$30 for members and \$50 for non-members, or save by registering to attend all ten webinars for \$250 for members and \$450 for non-members. Register by visiting www.mi-water.org. CECs are available. 💧

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CALL FOR ABSTRACTS AND PRESENTATION IDEAS

MI-ACE 2023

The Michigan Section of AWWA is now seeking abstracts and presentation ideas for MI-ACE 2023.

Are you working on an interesting or challenging project? Have you found a way to solve a problem that you think others could benefit from? Did you just save your community money with a chance you've made? The Annual Conference Program Committee is now accepting abstracts and would love to hear from you.

Topic ideas include:

- Asset management
- Customer service
- Distribution practices
- Financial planning and rate setting
- Information technology
- Management issues
- Operations and maintenance
- Pump and valve maintenance
- Research
- Safety procedures
- Source water or wellhead protection
- Stormwater management
- Water quality and sampling methods
- Water treatment processes
- Workforce development
- Or your own fresh idea

Please visit the Section's Annual Conference webpage to submit your abstract or presentation idea. For more information, visit www.mi-water.org/?page=miace.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MI-ACE 2023 • September 12-15, 2023

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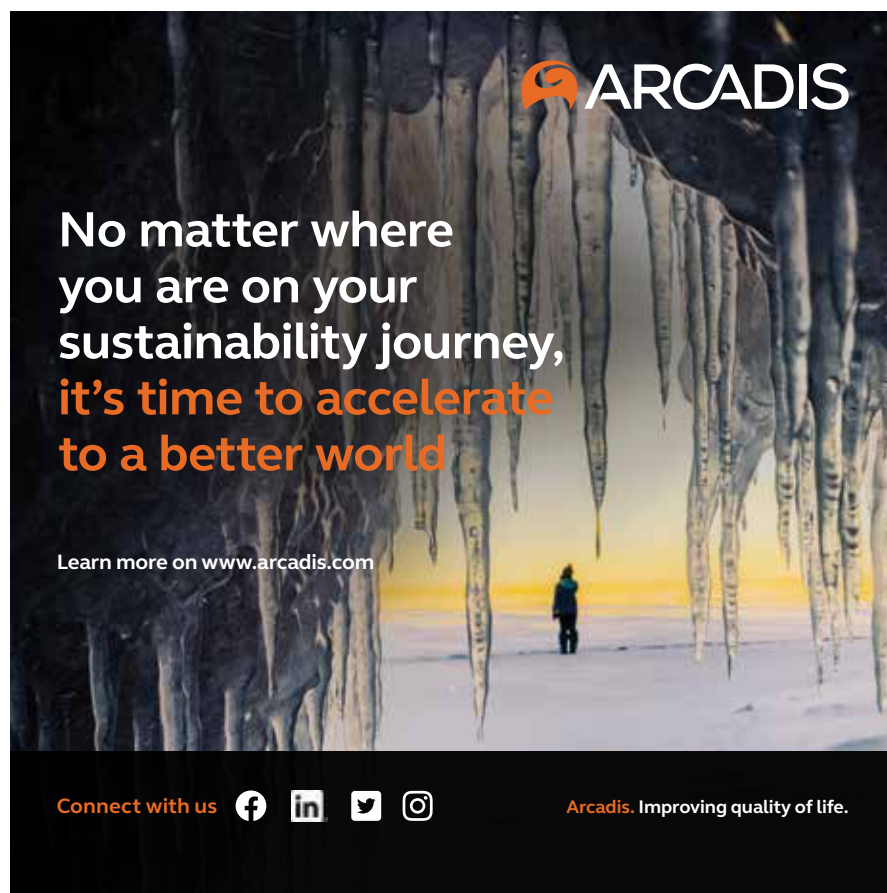
MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

Frank Williams, Membership Chair

The Membership Council continues to recruit, engage, and retain members in the Michigan Section by increasing the number of in-person events coming up. The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee will host a workshop titled "A Growth Mindset for Growing your Work Force" in Ann Arbor on December 8, 2022, and the Young Professionals Committee will host a

Water Plant Tour and Holiday Party mixer in Lansing on December 1, 2022. Please join us for these events and be on the lookout for more events after the first of the year. Congratulations to Emilia Vriesman, who was selected at the annual business meeting in September to receive the \$1,000 High School Senior/College Freshman Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to the child of an AWWA





member in good standing on an annual basis. And finally, thank you to Amy Vail of EGLE for her years of service as Chair of the Membership Council. Amy's excellent leadership of the group has been proven by the significant increase in Section membership, bringing the Michigan Section to seventh place in AWWA. It is the goal of the group to continue to engage and retain all our members. 💧

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BEST TASTING WATER IN MICHIGAN CHAMPION

For the first time since 2019, we hosted the Best Tasting Water in Michigan competition at the Michigan Section American Water Works Association, Annual Conference and Exhibits. It was great to be back on the big stage, testing the best of the best!

While the competition was hard, the water wasn't. Four of our five regional champions brought their best blends of hydrogen and oxygen to the Grand Traverse Resort. Bates Township, the UP Champ, was unable to join in the competitions, but the City of Ann Arbor, Mancelona Area Water and Sewer Authority, Plainfield Charter Township,

and the City of Allegan showed up determined to be the best. They all had survived and advanced out of their regional competitions in the spring and arrived in Traverse City with dreams of being the Best in the Mitten. Who would prevail? What system would be dubbed **2022's Best Tasting Water in Michigan?** Time would tell.

A scrupulous panel of judges brought to bear their discerning palates. The competition ebbed and flowed, constantly in flux. Judges poured over the details of aroma, appearance, and taste. In the end, one round of samples was all it would take to determine the champ.

Plainfield Charter Township Water hoisted the hardware for the second time in a row. In June 2023, our back-to-back champion will represent the Section well at AWWA ACE in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. They pile this title on top of their Michigan Rural Water Association State Championship to claim the undisputed title of the state's best water. Congratulations to the artisans who crafted **2022's Best Tasting Water in Michigan, Plainfield Charter Township!**

I am already looking forward to our 2023 competition, so plan to bring your mason jars to your Spring Regional Meeting. See page 31 to save the date. 💧

CONGRATULATIONS PLAINFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP!



ON THE MOVE

Clyde Dugan retired from East Lansing Meridian Water and Sewer Authority.

Sherrie Elliot retired from the City of Petoskey.

Tim McNamara retired from Fishbeck. 💧

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Members who joined August 1, 2022, to October 31, 2022.

Nicole Alexander, Lansing Board of Water & Light
Danny Apkarian, City of Rockford
Aaron Bankhead, Great Lakes Water Authority
Polly Barbour, City of Warren
Aaron Best, Aquora Research and Consulting
Wayne Black, Great Lakes Water Authority
Bill Brandt
Mike Burger, City of Rockwood
Patricia Burke, City of Wyoming
Stefanie Burns, Great Lakes Water Authority
Aaron Butler, Great Lakes Water Authority
Bruce Carlstrom, Spalding DeDecker Associates, Inc.
Ryan Clark
Tina Clark, City of Jackson
Anthony Conigliaro, City of Warren
Nick Covello, City of Grandville
Stephen Davis, Charter Township of Canton
Ryan Denys, Lanxess
Arron Diaz, City of Rockwood
Allison Diehl, WSP
Tom Drown, EJ
Jordan Edwards, Metro Consulting Associates

Md Shamsul Fahim, EGLE - DWEHD
Ali Fawaz, Great Lakes Water Authority
Curt Foster, Charter Township of Canton
Jennifer Fox, Nestle Nutrition
Anil Gosine, Detroit Water & Sewerage
Victoria Green, Inframark
Patrick Gross, Great Lakes Water Authority
Doreen Groth, City of Rochester Hills
 H2O Investigations
Matt Hampton, Charter Township of Canton
Jason Hefner, City of Auburn Hills
Brian Hirzel, City of Warren Water Department
Jeffrey Holder, Pittsfield Charter Township
Scott Jauch, HDR
Zuzanna Kin, Great Lakes Water Authority
Jacob Kleinhenz, Delta Charter Township
Paul Kosiara, Chesterfield Township
Rick Lawrence, City of Wayne - Retired
Mengfei Li, Jacobs Engineering Group
Keith Luszczyński, Great Lakes Water Authority
Kevin Lynch, City of Wyoming
Zane Marougy, Wayne County Airport Authority
Edwin Merriweather, Great Lakes Water Authority

Lorne Merriweather, Great Lakes Water Authority
Aleksander Mizikar, City of Rochester
Alan Mottl, Bridgman
David Olpere, H2O Investigations
Kayla Osenbaugh, Spicer Group, Inc.
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Mahendrakumar Patel, Great Lakes Water Authority
Sanjay Patel, Great Lakes Water Authority
Lucas Richardson, Spicer Group, Inc.
Derek Richter, City of Warren
Amani Saiyad, Great Lakes Water Authority
Ernie Sarkipato, Prein & Newhof
Andrae Savage, Great Lakes Water Authority
David Schmidt, City of Wayne
Trevor Schultz, Thomas Township DPW
David Slivinski, Schneider Electric
Brian Smith, City of Wayne
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Ronald Voglewede, Whirlpool Corporation
Michael Wicker, City of Wayne Water DPW
Patrick Williford, Great Lakes Water Authority 💧



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RESPONDING TO A ROUTINE TOTAL COLIFORM-POSITIVE RESULT



If your water supply gets a positive routine sample result, do you know how to keep the water supply in compliance with the *Safe Drinking Water Act* (Act 399)?

Following the notification of a routine positive result, Act 399 requires actions that fall under various rules, the *Revised Total Coliform Rule* (RTCR), the *Disinfection and Disinfection Byproduct Rule* (DDBPR), and the *Groundwater Rule* (GWR).

Community water supplies must collect a minimum number of routine bacteriological samples each month. Samples must be tested for total coliform bacteria. If any sample is positive for total coliform, it must be analyzed for *E. coli*.

What else do I need to do if my routine sample is total coliform-positive?

When routine samples are total coliform-positive, the RTCR requires additional compliance samples to be collected within 24 hours of notification of the routine sample result. These are called 'repeat samples.' Three repeat samples must be collected in the distribution system for each routine positive in accordance with the water supply's Bacteriological Sample Siting Plan (Figure 1). If the water supply is chlorinated, the DDBPR requires chlorine residuals be measured during repeat sampling.

The GWR requires groundwater systems to collect a raw water sample

from each well within the same 24 hours for each routine positive result (Figure 1). These are called 'triggered well samples.' Supplies that purchase water (consecutive supplies) are required to inform their wholesale supplier of the routine positive result within 24-hours. It is then the wholesale supply's responsibility to collect raw water samples from each well.

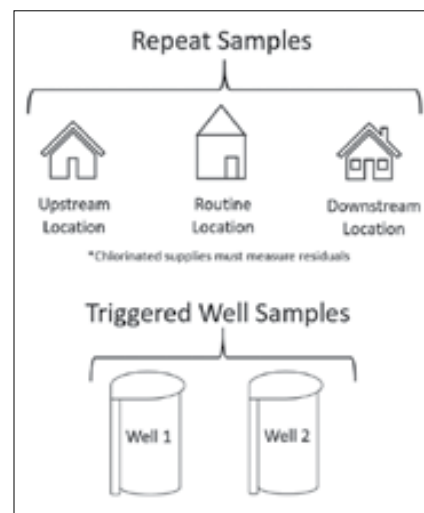


Figure 1

Can you give me some examples of how this would work?

Example 1:

Supply Z has four groundwater wells and collects five routine distribution samples per month. Samples were collected on January 6 and mailed to the lab. The lab received the samples on January 7, and the analysis was completed on January 8. The lab informed the supply of three total coliform-positive (*E. coli*-negative) sample results on January 8 at noon. Supply Z must collect nine repeat samples (three for each routine positive) and 12 raw well samples (one set of four for each routine positive) by noon on January 9.

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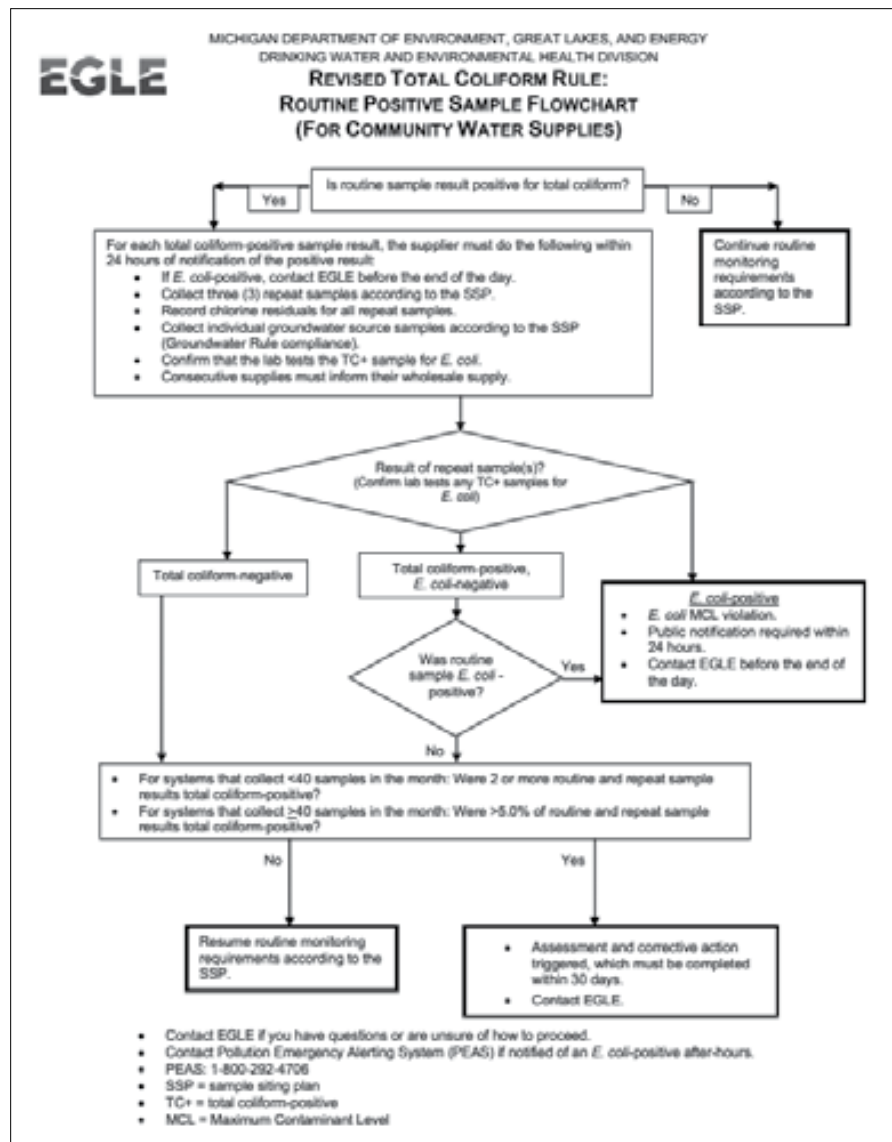
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Example 2:

Supply A purchases groundwater from Supply C, which has five groundwater wells. Supply A collects three routine distribution samples on September 15. At 4:30 pm on September 16, the lab informs Supply A that one sample is total coliform-positive and *E. coli*-positive. Supply A must inform the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) of the *E. coli*-positive result by the end of the day*, September 16. Supply A collects three repeat samples on the morning of September 17 and informs Supply C of their routine positive sample via phone call. Supply C collects five raw well samples by the morning of September 18, within 24 hours of Supply A's call.

* The Pollution Emergency Alert System (PEAS) may be used for after-hours notification of *E. coli*-positive results. The PEAS Hotline is 800-292-4706.

For more information about the Community Water Supply Program and the *Revised Total Coliform Rule*, visit www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/drinking-water-and-environmental-health/community-water-supply. You can find guidance for the *Revised Total Coliform Rule* in the 'Laws and Rules' section. Please contact your district office if you have questions or are unsure how to respond to a total coliform-positive sample result. 💧





COMMON ERRORS TO AVOID WHEN SUBMITTING CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION APPLICATIONS



Michigan.gov

Have you ever turned in your exam application only to hear it was denied due to missing information or the postmark deadline? If so, you are not alone, and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has the solution. A denial for missing information or an incomplete application is usually because one of the following items is incomplete:

- Failure to select the correct exam level
- Missing signatures (applicant and supervisor(s))
- Forgetting to check off your job duties
- Missing a description and percentage in the job duties box
- Not having an original signature

Another unfortunate and common reason for denial is a late application (past the postmark deadline). Common complaints from operators and/or supervisors are that the exam application was not submitted on time because their administrative department did not mail it by the postmark deadline. However, each operator is ultimately responsible for their own certification; therefore, it is their job to make sure their application(s) are submitted on time. To assist operators in filling out the exam application and avoiding the five most common mistakes, a video was produced by the Operator Training and Certification Program. You can watch the video at www.michigan.gov/egleoperatortraining. Look for the 'Drinking Water Exam Application Instructional Video.' 💧

"TO ASSIST OPERATORS IN FILLING OUT THE EXAM APPLICATION AND AVOIDING THE FIVE MOST COMMON MISTAKES, A VIDEO WAS PRODUCED BY THE OPERATOR TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM."

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 Brian Thurston, Assistant Division Director

Field Operations Section

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Lori Schultz, Environmental Quality Analyst 906-869-6624

District 81 - Mike Westra, P.E., Engineer 906-869-8823

District 82 - Amy Douville, Engineer 906-236-4277

Engineering Section

Michael Bolf, P.E., Unit Supervisor 906-630-4107

Ryan VanDerWoude, Environmental Quality Analyst 517-648-7662

Vacant, Water Treatment Specialist

Vacant, Distribution System Specialist

Stephanie Johnson, P.E., Surface Water Specialist (east) 586-506-6137

Robert London, P.E., Surface Water Specialist (north) 989-450-7834

Community Water Supply Section

Kris Philip, Section Manager

Technical Support Unit

Kris Dorcy, Unit Supervisor 517-898-1126

Krista Robinson, Environmental Quality Specialist 517-599-8655

John Karnes, Environmental Quality Analyst 517-242-0911

Brittany Earles, Environmental Quality Analyst 517-899-6735

Ariel Zoldan, Environmental Quality Analyst 517-599-8684

Randi Henderson, Environmental Quality Analyst 517-899-4974

Operator Training & Certification Unit

Koren Carpenter, Unit Supervisor 517-881-6311

Scott Schmidt, Environmental Quality Analyst 517-899-6906

Brianna Moore, Environmental Quality Analyst 517-899-6955

Martin Morales, Environmental Engineer 517-525-8032

Courtney Vincent, Departmental Technician 517-282-6102

Edith Monteiro, Office Assistant 517-930-1912

Lead & Copper Unit

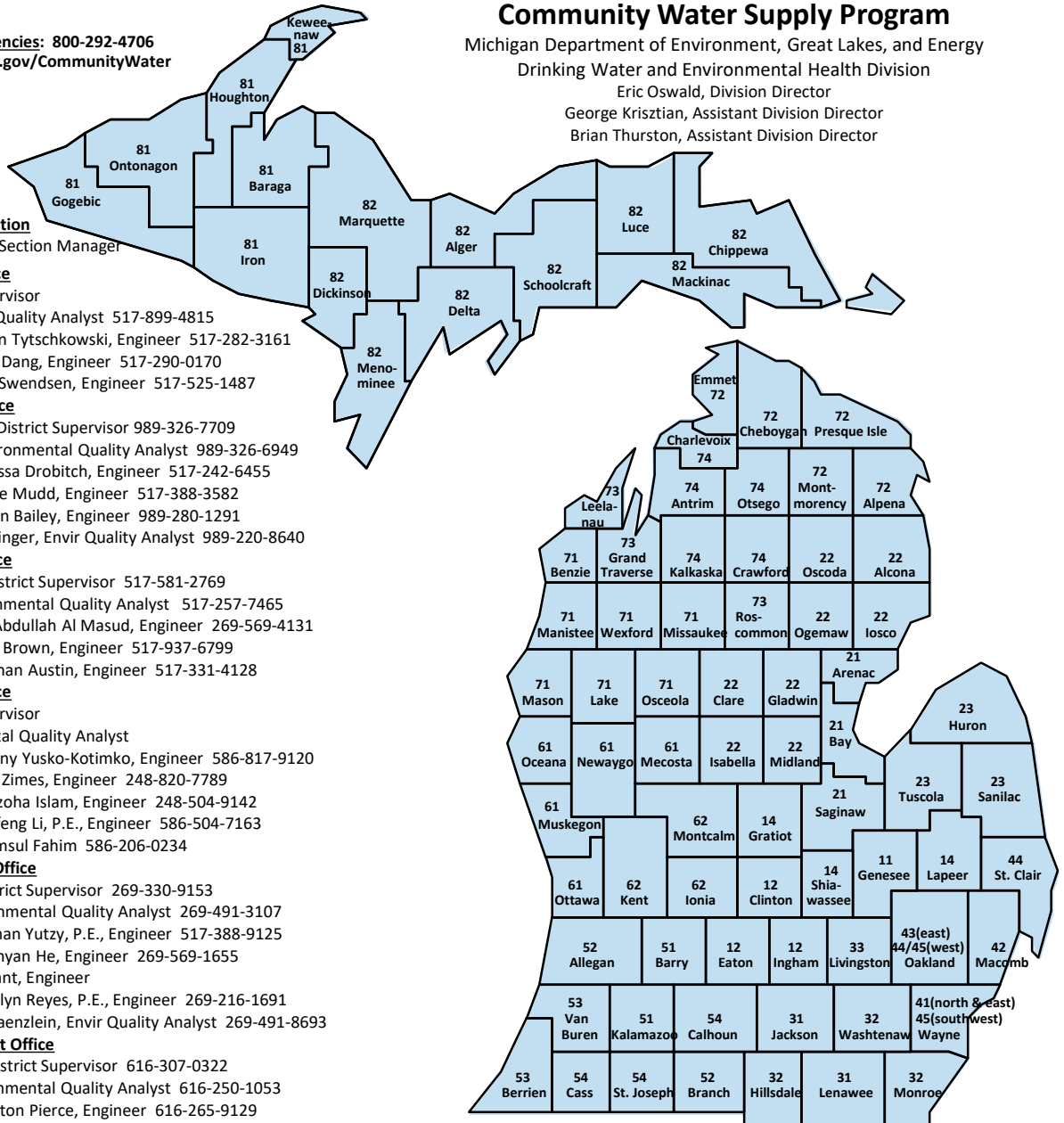
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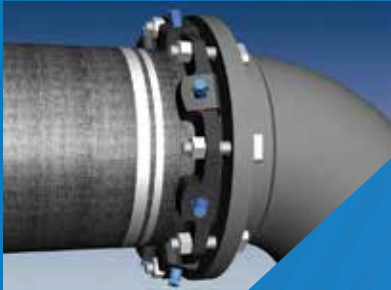




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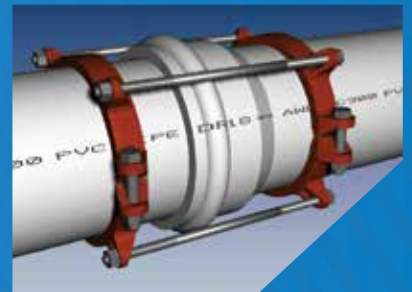
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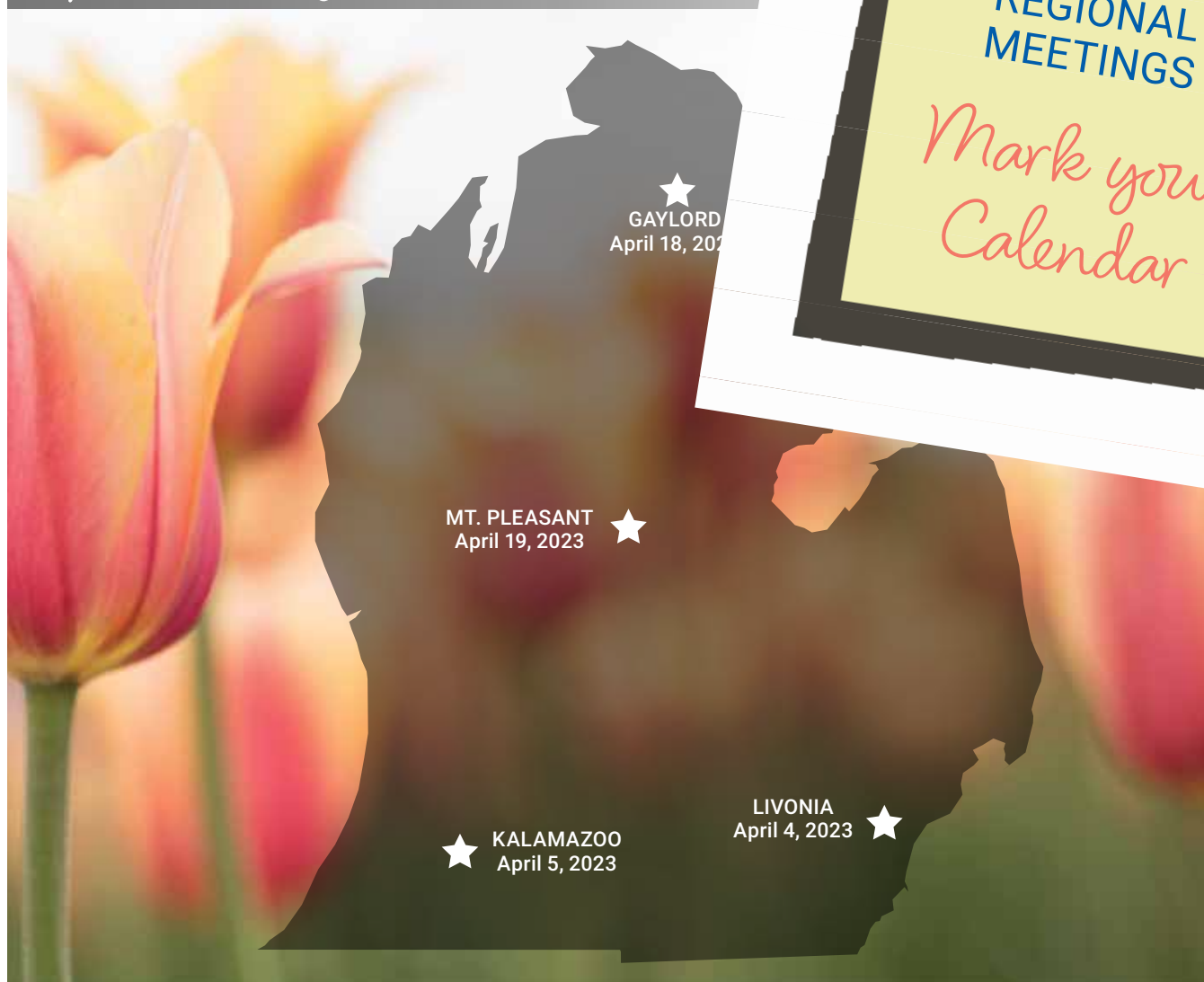
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Spring Regional Meetings





TRAINING CALENDAR

JANUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Water Solutions Webinar	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

FEBRUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Joint Expo & Operators Day	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Water Solutions Webinar	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Principles of Cross Connection	24	25
26	27	28 Overview of Math & Hydraulics	1	2	3	4

MARCH 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Water Solutions Webinar	10	11
12	13	14	15 Water Chemistry	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

APRIL 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Water Solutions Webinar	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29



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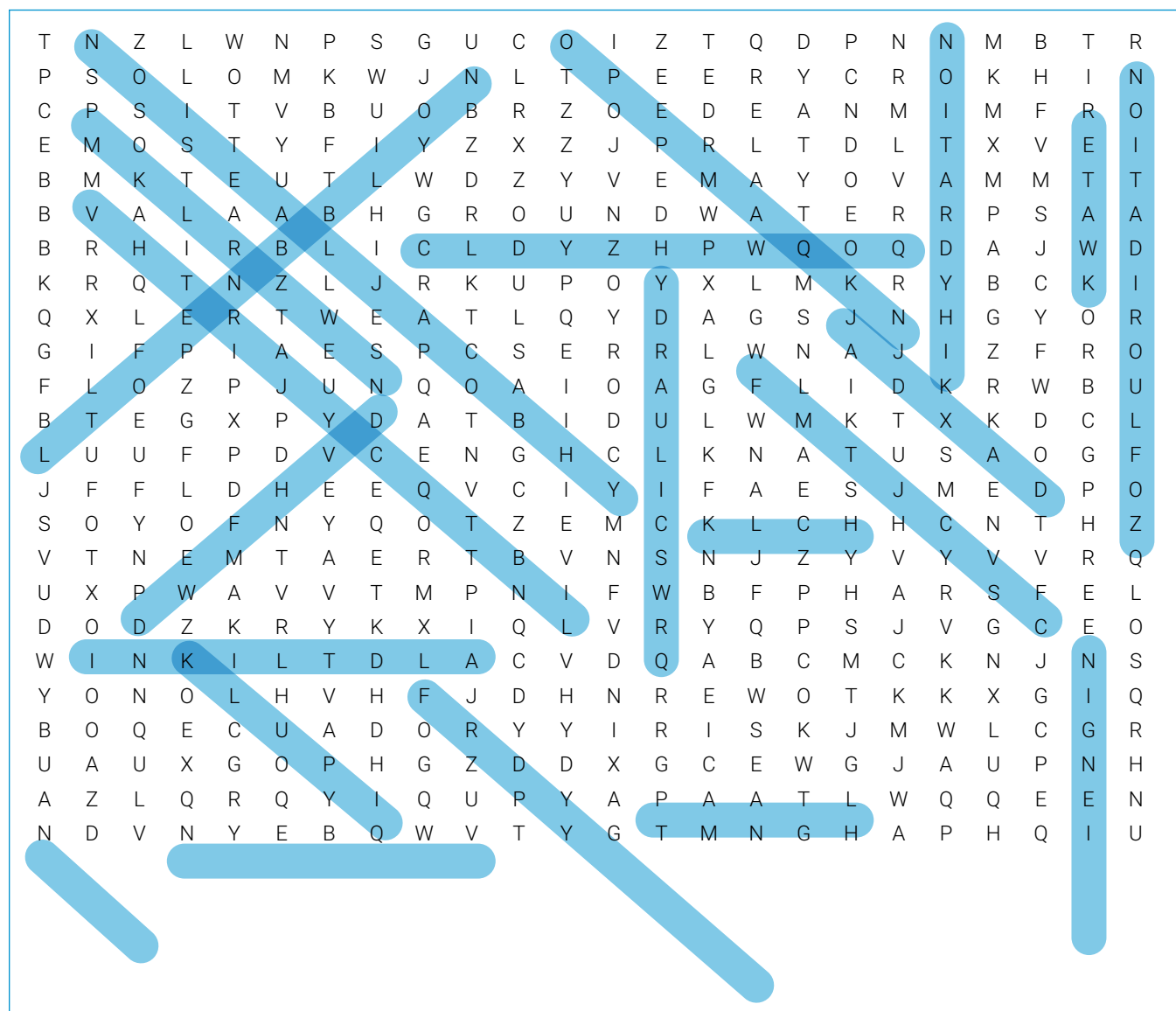
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