

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Date: July 16, 2015

Water quality the focus of conference July 26-29

Public invited to free Water for Life event and water taste, tapping competitions

COVINGTON, KY – Approximately 1,500 water professionals will gather in Northern Kentucky next week for the 2015 Kentucky-Tennessee Water Professionals Conference (WPC) to learn and network about water issues affecting the customers and communities they serve. While the week centers on more than 100 education sessions for water professionals, the conference also features several events of interest to the general public. The conference is being co-hosted by some of Northern Kentucky's local water experts – the Northern Kentucky Water District (NKWD) and Sanitation District No. 1 (SD1).

The free **Water for Life** event will be held on Sunday, July 26, at Newport on the Levee, 1 Levee Way in Newport, Kentucky, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Open to the public, this event will feature more than 20 educational booths, food, games, an inflatable slide, an aquarium with live Ohio River fish species, the **People's Choice Water Tasting Competition** and more. A fun way for people of all ages to celebrate our most precious resource – water, this event will highlight the importance and value of water conservation and water quality.

“High-quality water is essential to our daily lives and to the success and vitality of our communities, so the more customers know about the role water professionals and their organizations play in providing this resource the better,” said Ron Lovan, president and CEO of NKWD. “Through education, and a better understanding of the challenges we face, our communities can help us ensure this important resource is available for many generations to come.”

The media is invited to watch high-energy skill contests on Monday, July 27 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the exhibit hall of the Northern Kentucky Convention Center, 1 West Rivercenter Boulevard in Covington, Kentucky. During the **Pipe-Tapping Competition**, water professionals will race against time to drill into a cement-line, ductile iron pipe to install a tap – the same task water utilities perform every day so new homes and businesses can access important services.

The **Best of the Best Water Taste Competition** also will be held on Monday, July 27 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the exhibit hall of the Northern Kentucky Convention Center. In this competition, a panel of distinguished judges will score tap water samples to name the official “Best of the Best” tap water in Kentucky and Tennessee.

The media also is invited to attend tours of the **Fort Thomas Water Treatment Plant** and the **Dry Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant** to learn more about the water and wastewater treatment processes that are vital to the health of our communities. The tours will be held on Sunday, July 26 from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will begin and end on Madison Avenue outside the Northern Kentucky Convention Center.

“In our region, we are fortunate to have plenty of clean water available for drinking, washing and flushing, but it’s important that we don’t take this essential resource for granted,” said David Rager, executive director of SD1 of Northern Kentucky. “Though often unnoticed, great effort, ingenuity and care go into treating and managing our water – both before and after it’s used.”

The 2015 Kentucky-Tennessee Water Professionals Conference is one of the largest annual conferences for water professionals in Kentucky and Tennessee. For more information, visit www.kytnwpc.org.

About the sponsoring organization

The 2015 Kentucky-Tennessee Water Professionals Conference is co-sponsored by the Kentucky/Tennessee Section of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and the Kentucky-Tennessee Water Environment Association (WEA).

AWWA advances public health, safety and welfare by uniting the efforts of the full spectrum of the water community. It is driven by professionals who strive to create the best solution-based approaches in the supply and protection of drinking water in North America and beyond. The Kentucky/Tennessee AWWA is one of 43 AWWA sections. The co-sponsoring member agency in the Northern Kentucky region is NKWD.

WEA is one of 80 member associations of the Water Environment Federation (WEF), a not-for-profit technical and educational organization representing water quality professionals throughout the world and working to preserve and enhance the global water environment, including wastewater and stormwater services. The co-sponsoring member agency in the Northern Kentucky region is SD1.

Both AWWA and WEF work to provide water quality professionals around the world with education, training and business opportunities.



Event Calendar & Key Contacts

KY/TN WEA Executive Director

Valerie Lucas
Phone: 502-468-4772

KY/TN AWWA Executive Director

Kay Sanborn
Phone: 502-550-2992

EVENT SPECIFIC DETAILS:

Plant Tour – Fort Thomas Water Treatment Plant

Date: Sunday, July 26, 2015

Time: 1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. (tour groups will arrive at plant around 1:30 p.m. and leave plant around 4 p.m.)

Location: 700 Alexandria Pike, Fort Thomas, KY 41075

Notes: Open to conference attendees and media only

Contact: Lori Simpson, 859-991-1643

Plant Tour - Dry Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant

Date: Sunday, July 26, 2015

Time: 1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. (tour groups will arrive at plant around 1:30 p.m. and leave plant around 4 p.m.)

Location: 2999 Amsterdam Road in Villa Hills, KY 41017

Notes: Open to conference attendees and media only

Contact: Jamie Holtzapfel, 859-992-4643

Water for Life and People's Choice Water Tasting Competition

Date: Sunday, July 26, 2015

Time: 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Location: Newport on the Levee and Riverboat Row

Notes: Free event, open to general public and media

Contact: Katie Nolan, 859-462-7729

Pipe-Tapping Competition

Date: Monday, July 27, 2015

Time: 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Location: Exhibit Hall, Northern Kentucky Convention Center

Notes: Open to media only

Contact: Kay Sanborn, 502-550-2992

Best of the Best Water Taste Competition

Date: Monday, July 27, 2015

Time: 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Location: Exhibit Hall, Northern Kentucky Convention Center

Notes: Open to media only

Contact: Kay Sanborn, 502-550-2992



WATER FOR LIFE

Sunday, July 26, 2015 | 2 p.m.– 5 p.m.

All ages are welcome to join us for a **FREE** event on July 26 to learn about and celebrate life's most important resource: **WATER!** Over 20 educational booths, food, games, an inflatable slide, a water tasting competition and more will be set up in the open area in front of the Newport Aquarium and along Riverboat Row. This fun event will help promote and highlight the importance of water conservation and water quality. We hope to see you there!

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS:

- American Water Works Association
- AppTech
- Boone County Solid Waste
- CDM Smith
- Greater Cincinnati Water Works
- Gresham, Smith & Partners
- Licking River Watershed
- MWS
- Newport Aquarium
- Northern Kentucky CVB
- Northern Kentucky Water District
- ORSANCO
- People's Choice Water Tasting
- RiverWorks Discovery
- SD1
- SSR
- Tennessee Tech University
- Thomas More College—Biology Field Station
- Strand Associates
- University of Louisville
- Water Environment Association
- Water for People



THANK YOU TO OUR PUBLIC SPONSORS!



1 Levee Way, Newport, KY 41071