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CPC Navajo Mountain Delivers Water and Sanitation to Series of Homes

The International Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Foundation's (IWSH) latest Community Plumbing Challenge (CPC) concluded June 7, with a team of volunteer tradespeople from all over the United States and Australia converging on a remote mountainous region on the Arizona-Utah border to bring clean, running water and safe wastewater disposal to a series of homes on a Navajo reservation.

Presented in collaboration with the award-winning DigDeep Navajo Water Project, CPC Navajo Mountain facilitated the work of volunteers who connected a water supply for each house from tanks through a pump and wastewater system, and installed a gas tankless hot water system in each house. A bathroom was designed and installed in 83-year-old Betty Benally's house, and Lillie Manygoats, 84, had her 20-year-old home's bathroom and kitchen connected to a water and plumbing system for the first time. A septic tank was installed and a leach field was dug at each of their homes.

Lillie Benally, her husband, and two children live with her disabled mother, Betty, for whom Lillie serves as caregiver. Before the CPC, helping bathe her mother involved building a fire to heat the water, bringing in a little tub, and then having to take everything out when it was over. The new bathroom includes a bathtub with nearby grab handle and plenty of space for both of them.

"It's going to be much easier here, where the water just drains and you don't have to worry about taking it out, and just have the water running instead of having to bring the water in," Benally said. "I think that's a lot less stress just for me to get her ready for the day. So it's going to be much easier."
Among the volunteers was United Association Local 469 (Phoenix) member Gary Nez, who grew up under similar circumstances on a nearby Navajo reservation.

"I grew up without running water and electricity, but when you see a family like this with young kids around, they get to see the water come through the faucet, and I'm waiting for that," he said shortly before completion. "To have the opportunity to volunteer and contribute back to my people like this, and to be accountable for all the things that I've installed, it's a blessing."

The event benefited from the support of such prominent organizations as LIXIL, Ferguson, Milwaukee Tool, WinSupply, Reliance Worldwide Corporation (RWC), and the Piping Industry Progress & Education (P.I.P.E.) Trust Fund/NITC. Additionally, four United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the United States, Canada (UA) chapters — Local 78 in Los Angeles; Local 400 in Kaukauna, Wisconsin; Local 412 in New Mexico and El Paso, Texas; and Local 469 in Phoenix — and Healthabitat sent members and/or made financial contributions.

"It is a privilege to once again work among the Navajo people," said Dan Daniels, chairman of the IWSH Board of Trustees. "The goal and mission of IWSH is to provide access to water and sanitation to those who need it most. Regardless of whether that's around the world or in our own backyard, we are going to do our very best to ensure people have access to this fundamental human right. Industry, from skilled trades to manufacturers, brings incredible value and has an important role to play in finding sustainable solutions."

Companies or organizations wishing to support future editions of the international CPC program are encouraged to get in touch via info@iwsh.org.

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IAPMO Proudly Supports 2019 National High-Performance Building Week

Continuing its decade-long ardent support, IAPMO is proud to again participate in national High-Performance Building Week. This year, the event seeks to highlight the importance of buildings in America's infrastructure by sharing proposals from Capitol Hill, the administration, and the private sector on how to improve the resilience and quality of the nation's buildings and the profound effect doing so has on America's economy, society, security and future.

High-Performance Building Week is organized annually by a private sector coalition of building industry stakeholders that support the High-Performance Building Coalition (HPBC), of which Dain Hansen, IAPMO's Senior Vice President of Government Relations, is chairman. The HPBC provides guidance and support to the High-Performance Building Caucus of the U.S. Congress. The theme of this year's event is "Buildings Are Infrastructure."

"As co-chair of the High-Performance Building Caucus, I am proud to support High-Performance Building Week," said U.S. Rep. Pete Welch (D-Vt.). "High-performance buildings make our communities safer, healthier and more efficient. Thank you to IAPMO and the High-Performance Building Coalition for their work every day to improve the resilience and quality of our nation's buildings."

[Read more]
Governor Greg Abbott last week issued an executive order to extend the activity of the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners past its set expiration of September 1, 2019. Governor Abbott utilized Section 418.016 of the Texas Government Code, which allows the Governor to suspend provisions of regulatory statutes prescribing the procedures for the conduct of state business if strict compliance would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with a disaster.

Since Hurricane Harvey made landfall and caused widespread destruction, the Governor has issued a disaster declaration each month effective through today. The magnitude of what still must be rebuilt is reflected in the more than $10 billion of federal funds that are newly or nearly available to Texas for areas impacted by Hurricane Harvey. A qualified workforce of licensed plumbers throughout the state, including from areas not directly affected by Hurricane Harvey, will be essential as those funds are being invested in crucial infrastructure, medical facilities, living facilities, and other construction projects.

The Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners, whose mission is "to protect Texas citizens against the health and safety hazards that can result from improperly installed plumbing, gas, and medical gas systems," will continue to play an essential role in all these efforts by ensuring that the plumbers who rebuild Texas and prepare for future disasters do so in a manner that will safeguard public health, safety, and property.

To fulfill the demands for rebuilding after Hurricane Harvey and keeping Texas prepared and able to recover from future disasters, it is necessary to continue the Board to perform its indispensable role in protecting Texans.

By utilizing the powers granted to him by the Legislature under the Texas Government Code, the Governor's order today will allow the Board to continue its operations through May 31, 2021, giving the 87th legislature time to address the matter.

**Read the Governor's full proclamation**

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**IAPMO Honored with President's 'E' Award for Export Service**

IAPMO was honored May 23 with the President's "E" Award for Export Service by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross at the U.S. Department of Commerce headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Created by Executive Order by President Kennedy in 1961, the President's "E" Award recognizes persons, firms, or organizations that contribute significantly in the effort to increase United States exports. IAPMO's efforts within Indonesia have been recognized as exemplifying the kind of work the award seeks to spotlight.

[Read more](#)

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**ASSE International Publishes Revised Performance Requirements or Dual Check Backflow Preventer Wall Hydrants – Freeze Resistant Type**

ASSE 1053-2019, Performance Requirements for Dual Check Backflow Preventer Wall Hydrants – Freeze Resistant Type, has been designated as an American National Standard by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and is now available for purchase.

ASSE 1053 establishes design and performance requirements for Freeze Resistant Dual Check Backflow Preventer Wall Hydrants, which protect the potable water supply against backsiphonage and backpressure without damage to the device due to freezing.
To verify protection under the high hazard conditions present at threaded hose outlets, these devices must be field-testable.

ASSE International Publishes Revised Performance Requirements for Plumbing Aspects of Residential Food Waste Disposer Units

ASSE 1008-2019, Performance Requirements for Plumbing Aspects of Residential Food Waste Disposer Units, has been designated as an American National Standard by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and is now available for purchase.

ASSE 1008 applies to the plumbing aspects of residential food waste disposers, which are primarily installed in residential kitchen sink outlets. These devices are designed to reduce food waste particle sizes for discharging into sanitary drainage systems. This standard provides a basis for evaluating the adequacy of appliance design and performance to ensure sanitary conditions and to protect the public from health hazards that could result from improper design or manufacture.

Dodge Momentum Index Falls in May

The Dodge Momentum Index fell 1.0% in May to 141.0 (2000=100) from the revised April reading of 142.4. The Momentum Index, issued by Dodge Data & Analytics, is a monthly measure of the first (or initial) report for nonresidential building projects in planning, which have been shown to lead construction spending for nonresidential buildings by a full year. The May decline for the Momentum Index was due entirely to a 6.9% drop by its commercial component, as its institutional component rose 8.1%.

The Momentum Index continues to settle back from the most recent highs achieved last summer. On a year-over-year basis, the Momentum Index in May was 9.2% lower than a year ago, with a 16.0% drop by its commercial component outweighing a 1.8% gain by its institutional component. Although the trend for the overall Momentum Index is downward, so far the pullback has been measured, suggesting that there remains enough nonresidential building projects in the pipeline to support near term stability for construction activity. This is particularly true for the institutional side of nonresidential building.

Legislation Introduced to Help Communities in New York and Across the Country Repair Their Aging Water Infrastructure

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and U.S. Representative Antonio Delgado (D-NY-19) today announced legislation to help repair the nation's aging water infrastructure. The Promoting Infrastructure and Protecting the Economy (PIPE) Act would create a new grant program to help communities in New York and across the country invest in critical water system upgrades. The bill would authorize $5 billion over 10 years to provide discretionary grants to state and local governments, tribal governments, and public water utilities for projects related to drinking water and waste water infrastructure. The PIPE Act would allow communities to continue to provide
clean water for their residents and reliable water systems that help promote economic development.

According to a 2017 report by the New York State Office of the Comptroller, New York State drinking water and wastewater infrastructure will require tens of billions of dollars in investment in the coming decades. Wastewater treatment facilities are, on average, 30 years old, and 30 percent of the underground sewers are over 60 years old and operating beyond their useful life expectancy.

Grants funded through the PIPE Act could be used to construct, replace, or repair public drinking water and waste water treatment facilities. This could include projects to repair or replace water pipes, projects to ensure drinking water sources comply with water quality regulations, and projects that promote water conservation and efficiency.

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