IAPMO Leads Coalition Effort Urging EPA to Continue Funding WaterSense℠

IAPMO, The High-Performance Buildings Coalition, and 61 of the nation's leading manufacturers, associations, and professional organizations in the building industry delivered a letter last Monday to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt urging continued federal funding for the highly successful WaterSense℠ program.

A true public-private partnership, WaterSense is a voluntary product efficiency labeling program that identifies efficient and high-performing water-consuming products. While EPA spends approximately $3 million a year to administer the program, it has saved consumers more than $33 billion in water and energy bills since the program's inception in 2006. The program is widely supported across the building industry and has enjoyed bipartisan support on Capitol Hill throughout its existence. This support is not only due to the program's successful outcomes, but also because of the quality and integrity of the products bearing the WaterSense label, which are the result of federal government oversight and third-party certification. This has allowed WaterSense to benefit consumers and industry alike.

"IAPMO has long partnered with EPA on the WaterSense program," IAPMO CEO GP Russ Chaney said."We fully understand the desire to rein in our federal spending, but to eliminate such a small but impactful program like WaterSense will have detrimental effects on many U.S. manufacturers, home builders, retailers, and construction trades. With the many issues facing our country's water infrastructure, keeping a well-run, efficient program already in place is a smart move from a business, job, and
Because of the value of WaterSense to their business, employees, communities, and customers, more than 1,700 manufacturers, water and energy utilities, distributors, state and local governments, non-profit organizations, trade associations, and retailers nationwide have partnered with the program.

"Since its creation just more than 10 years ago, WaterSense has clearly proven that it transcends the political spectrum with wide private-sector support," said Dain Hansen, IAPMO's Senior Vice President of Government Relations and Chair of the High-Performance Building Coalition."Acting as a neutral administrator, EPA plays a vital role in this voluntary program, a role that cannot be done by the private sector. The private sector will continue to support this program, but needs EPA's leadership for it to run effectively, efficiently, and in an unbiased manner, as it has historically done."

WaterSense's impact on America's communities and industry is hard to miss. For instance, all toilets, faucets, and showers sold in The Home Depot stores are WaterSense labeled. Last year, The Home Depot offered more than $43.8 million in product markdowns of WaterSense-labeled products to encourage homeowners to switch out their older, less efficient devices. The retailer also partnered with utilities to make more than 350 local utility rebates available to its customers. This included a statewide campaign in drought-stricken California to provide $100 incentives for WaterSense-labeled toilets.

To read the letter sent to Administrator Pruitt, direct your web browser to: http://www.iapmo.org/governmentrelations/Documents/Coalition_WaterSense_letter.pdf

For more information, contact Hansen at (202) 445-7514 or dain.hansen@iapmo.org.
DEA Contributes Changes to National Standard Plumbing Code

The Dispensing Equipment Alliance (DEA), comprised of the leading manufacturers in the dispensing equipment industry, has contributed new language to the 2018 National Standard Plumbing Code (NSPC) to provide a clear method of installing chemical dispensers.

Volunteers from DEA member companies sitting on the DEA Code Committee reviewed the 2015 NSPC and recommended the additional language, citing the importance of protecting Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker backflow devices on faucets. Language was drafted and submitted to the NSPC requiring a new standard, IAPMO PS-104, that requires a pressure bleed device to be installed on the faucet, thus protecting the backflow device.

"Protecting our drinking water is a primary goal, really a core value, of the DEA," said Jamison Kortas, a member of the DEA's Executive Steering Committee."The DEA is providing leadership for the industry to protect our most precious resources, along with providing guidance on how best to install and maintain chemical dispensers.

"The DEA has been attempting to work with all model plumbing code organizations to ensure the language in the codes pertaining to the dispensing industry is up-to-date with the latest technology. The DEA continues to work to develop and utilize standard language that has input from all interested parties and looks at all facets of the installation codes to meets the needs of everyone."

The National Association of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors (NAPHCC) NSPC Code Committee met on March 9 to review proposed changes to the 2018 NSPC and voted unanimously to approve the language submitted by the DEA.

"The inclusion of these provisions will serve all people well, including the dispensing equipment industry, the facility owners, the Inspection community and particularly the end user," Kortas said."The DEA is very proud of this achievement!"

The DEA has been diligently working with the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) and ASSE International to provide the highest level of safety and performance in equipment and installations. The NSPC has been developed and published by NAPHCC since 1933.

In the recent past, the DEA has similarly submitted language to the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC®), the most widely utilized plumbing code in the world, and to the Massachusetts Board of State Examiners of Plumbers and Gas Fitters.
Device Pulls Water From Dry Air, Powered Only By the Sun

Imagine a future in which every home has an appliance that pulls all the water the household needs out of the air, even in dry or desert climates, using only the power of the sun.

That future may be around the corner, with the demonstration this week of a water harvester that uses only ambient sunlight to pull liters of water out of the air each day in conditions as low as 20 percent humidity, a level common in arid areas.

The solar-powered harvester, reported in the journal Science, was constructed at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology using a special material — a metal-organic framework, or MOF — produced at the University of California, Berkeley.

"This is a major breakthrough in the long-standing challenge of harvesting water from the air at low humidity," said Omar Yaghi, one of two senior authors of the paper, who holds the James and Neeltje Tretter chair in chemistry at UC Berkeley and is a faculty scientist at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory."There is no other way to do that right now, except by using extra energy. Your electric dehumidifier at home 'produces' very expensive water."

The prototype, under conditions of 20-30 percent humidity, was able to pull 2.8 liters (3 quarts) of water from the air over a 12-hour period, using one kilogram (2.2 pounds) of MOF. Rooftop tests at MIT confirmed that the device works in real-world conditions.

"One vision for the future is to have water off-grid, where you have a device at home running on ambient solar for delivering water that satisfies the needs of a household," said Yaghi, who is the founding director of the Berkeley Global Science Institute, a co-director of the Kavli Energy NanoSciences Institute and the California Research Alliance by BASF."To me, that will be made possible because of this experiment. I call it personalized water."

Read the full story: http://news.berkeley.edu/2017/04/13/device-pulls-water-from-dry-air-powered-only-by-the-sun/

Work to Begin This Week to Replace 6,000 Lead-Tainted Service Lines in Flint This Year

Mayor Karen Weaver announced last week that dozens of Flint residents will have their water service lines replaced this week as crews begin working to replace lead-tainted pipes leading to 6,000 homes during the 2017 phase of her FAST Start replacement initiative.

It's estimated that up to 20,000 Flint residences still have lead and galvanized service lines that need to be replaced. The pipe replacement work is expected to be completed by 2020.

To be eligible to have their service lines replaced, residents must have an active water account. They also must have signed a consent card giving permission for the work to be done. In rental homes, both the owner and the tenant must sign consent cards.

AARP volunteers have begun mailing consent forms to be signed. On Saturday, the volunteers will be going door-to-door to provide the consent cards and answer residents' questions.
"We've replaced service lines at more than 850 homes since my FAST Start initiative began last year. This year our goal is 6,000 homes," Mayor Weaver said."With more work crews in the field starting next week, service lines to 900 homes will be replaced each month, so we'll really start making progress."

AARP State Director Paula Cunningham said the volunteers are eager to assist in Mayor Weaver's efforts to get the lead out of Flint.

"Last fall, AARP volunteers visited more than 500 homes to collect consent cards," Cunningham said."This weekend, we'll be picking up where we let off, with plans to knock on doors or reach residents by mail at 6,000 homes through May and June."

State lawmakers on Thursday approved sending $100 million to Flint in federal funds allocated in December by Congress to fix the damaged water system. Gov. Rick Snyder is expected to sign the bill. The action came after a federal judge in March signed off on a settlement that will guarantee that the City gets the state and federal funds it needs to inspect and replace the remaining lead-tainted service lines leading to residents' homes over the next three years. The settlement also includes requirements that bottled water and filters continue to be available to help Flint address the unprecedented water crisis that allowed lead-tainted water to flow to residents' homes.

Companies awarded city contracts to do the work are Goyette Mechanical Co., W.T. Stevens Construction Inc., Lang Constructors Inc., and Waldorf and Sons Inc. The first three are headquartered in Flint, while Waldorf is located in nearby Mt. Morris.

Retired National Guard Brigadier General Michael C.H. McDaniel, who's coordinating the FAST Start initiative, said he'll continue to concentrate pipe replacement work in areas of the city that are most likely to have lead service lines, and where a significant number of young children or seniors live. Two crews will work in each of 10 zones around the city to replace the service lines in 2017.

"The pace of service line replacements will be much faster," he said."Residents in affected neighborhoods will see FAST Start yard signs going up when crews are coming to their neighborhoods, and can get more information on the City of Flint FAST Start Facebook page, and FAST Start's Twitter and Instagram accounts."

Flint residents also can expect to see Hydrovac trucks in some neighborhoods starting in mid-May. The hydro-excavation trucks use pressurized water and an industrial-strength vacuum to dig two small holes near the water curb box down to the service line, allowing crews to identify what the service line is made of and whether it needs to be replaced. The holes are backfilled and the sod is restored once the service line is checked. Service lines at around 2,000 homes will be checked this way in coming months so crews will know which homes already have copper service lines. Crews will leave a door hanger at homes whose lines have been checked.

Residents whose homes are getting new service lines must flush their water for 15 minutes before the pipe replacement takes place and for at least 15 minutes after the pipes are replaced to remove sediment from their lines. Filters should be turned off and aerators removed while the pipe flushing takes place, and all water lines in the home should be flushed, McDaniel said.

Areas where the street has not been fixed after pipe replacements are now being restored by City of Flint crews and private contractors, he added.

Mayor Weaver launched her FAST Start initiative to help resolve a number of problems created after a state-appointed emergency manager switched the City's water source to the Flint River in 2014 without the necessary corrosion control chemicals being added. The corrosive water removed a protective coating on the inside of the pipes, causing
lead to leach into the water flowing to homes and businesses in the City of Flint.

While the level of lead in Flint's water supply has been significantly reduced since the city switched back to water delivered from Lake Huron by the Great Lakes Water Authority, residents still are being urged to drink only filtered water, and to replace their filters when needed.

A Majority of U.S. Adults Won't Return to A Business That Has a Dirty Restroom

Bradley's 2017 Healthy Hand Washing Survey also found that almost all Americans (92 percent) see a direct relationship between the quality of a company's products and services and the quality of its restrooms.

Healthy Handwashing Survey
The results are in from Bradley's 2017 Healthy Hand Washing Survey. The survey queried 1,042 American adults online Dec. 12-15, 2016 about their hand washing habits in public restrooms and concerns about germs, colds and the flu. Participants were from around the country, were 18 years and older, and were fairly evenly split between men and women (49 and 51 percent).

Public Hand Washing Habits
Nearly all Americans (97%) believe it's important to wash one's hands after using a public restroom and this number has grown over the past year. As observed in previous years, men are also far more likely to simply rinse (without soap) than women.

The most common reasons for not washing hands after public restroom use is the lack of soap or paper towels, use of hand sanitizer instead, or sinks that are out of service.

The Influence of Peer Pressure on Hand Washing Habits
More than half say the presence of other people causes them to adjust their actions in one of two ways. They'll either make sure they wash their hands or they'll wash longer or more thoroughly.

The survey also found that a written reminder posted in a restroom can influence behavior. Almost 40% of Americans admit they're more likely to wash their hands after seeing a sign that requires employees to wash before returning to work.

Restroom Encounters of the Worst Kind
Public restrooms are everywhere but they're not all created equal. Nearly 70% of Americans say they've had a particularly unpleasant experience in a restroom due to the condition of the facility.

"Most everyone has had a bad restroom experience and, unfortunately, it's usually something you don't forget."The good news is that manufacturers, like Bradley, do listen to consumers' concerns and work to address them by creating new and innovative products," said Jon Dommasse, Bradley Director of Global Marketing and Strategic Development.

Impact of Clean Restrooms in the Workplace
Unclean restrooms can also negatively impact a business. Almost all Americans (92%) see a direct relationship between the quality of a company's products and services and the quality of its restrooms. This is further supported by the fact that 88% believe that if a restaurant has unclean restrooms, the likelihood is that the kitchen is also unclean.

Half of U.S. adults believe that unclean restrooms at a company give a number of negative messages about how the company is run or how it treats its customers. As a
result, 56% say that if they encounter an unclean or unpleasant restroom, they either will not return to that business or will think twice about doing so.

**Germ Avoidance**

Americans also don't like touching things in public restrooms. In fact, to avoid coming in contact with surfaces, they utilize all sorts of techniques.

Review past Hand washing Surveys

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**Survey Reveals Half of Americans Don't Believe Water Scarcity is an Issue; Water Utilities Disagree**

A newly released Grundfos consumer research survey reveals a divide between concerns held by water utilities over key water-related issues, and a lack of urgency among consumers. The global pump manufacturer polled consumers across the country last month to learn how they value water.

Nearly half (49 percent) of respondents believe they'll never be affected by a water shortage. In contrast, 40 out of 50 water utility managers say they expect a water shortage within the next 10 years, according to a recent study by the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

The aging infrastructure of America's water and wastewater systems is another looming issue. On the latest "infrastructure report card," released by the American Society of Civil Engineers, drinking water systems rated a D, and wastewater systems scored a D+. The cost to repair the system, and end America's 240,000 yearly water main breaks, would be more than $1 trillion dollars.

Despite consuming the most while paying the least water cost per capita in the world, only two percent of consumers felt they should pay more when asked to evaluate their water bill, according to the study. Additionally, almost half are concerned about rate increases.

All indications, however, point to the need for increased funding. More than 70 percent of water utilities surveyed in 2016 said they are not generating enough revenue to cover costs while also funding infrastructure improvements.

Moreover, while issues in the news like the water quality crisis in Flint, Michigan have raised consumer awareness, more than one-third of those surveyed still said they didn't know enough about the condition of their local water supply.

In order to bridge this knowledge gap, the global pump manufacturer Grundfos introduced Who Runs the Water That Runs America, a public awareness initiative that illustrates the challenges faced by water utilities, and spotlights utility workers who keep the water running.

"Grundfos is a leader in sustainability and energy efficiency in pumping systems, so we feel well-positioned to focus public consciousness around these issues," says Grundfos EVP Robert Montenegro. He adds, "Knowledgeable consumers make powerful advocates – exactly what the ailing water infrastructure needs right now."

In addition to the national survey findings, state-specific consumer viewpoints are available for Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Washington.

Click here to access the report
Survey results are based on an online survey conducted March 6-13, 2017, by Kunde & Co that sampled 2,000 individuals 18 and older living in the continental United States.

Summary of Key Consumer Findings

On Water Utilities:
- 60% rate water utility service as "good" or "very good"
- 54% are "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with their water service
- 69% trust their water utility to provide clean, safe water

On Water Quality:
- 63% "agree" or "strongly agree" that access to clean water is an issue in the U.S.

On Water Shortage:
- 49% believe they'll never be affected by water shortage
- 42% believe they may be affected by water shortage in 1-11 years
- 9% are already affected

On Water Bills:
- 2% believe they should pay more when evaluating their water bill compared to water use
- 49% are concerned about rate increases

On Themselves:
- 38% rate themselves as "knowledgeable" or "highly knowledgeable" on the condition of their local water supply
- 35% rate themselves as "not knowledgeable enough" or "not at all knowledgeable"
- 27% neutral

Amazon.com Adds General Listing Restriction for Refrigerator Water Filters

Amazon.com, the world's largest online retailer, recently informed all companies selling refrigerator water filters that a general listing restriction has been added for this product type. All refrigerator water filters listed on Amazon.com must be certified to NSF/ANSI 42.

The certification must include material safety, structural integrity and performance reduction claims. Companies have the option of also having their products tested and certified to NSF/ANSI 53 if they are marketing health effects reduction claims, and to NSF/ANSI 401 if they are marketing the reduction of emerging contaminants. Certification must be conducted by independent organizations accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) such as IAPMO, NSF and WQA.

Companies selling products on Amazon.com need to provide the following information to homeimprovementcontact@amazon.com:

- ASIN
- Water filter brand
- Water filter manufacturer
- Model number
Companies have until May 10, 2017, to provide this information to Amazon.com or their products may be suppressed. Suppressed listings are not visible to buyers.

Amazon's actions follow the introduction of the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers' (AHAM) 'Filter it Out' campaign. AHAM is working with its members and accredited certification bodies (IAPMO, NSF, and WQA) to help inform consumers that not all water filters are the same. For more information on the Filter it Out campaign, please visit filteritout.org. IAPMO, a strong supporter of ANSI-accredited product certification programs, is working with AHAM to help reduce the sale of counterfeit water filters.

Companies selling products on Amazon.com that are certified by an accredited agency need to forward the required documentation to Amazon. Companies whose products are not certified are encouraged to contact IAPMO or other accredited certification bodies to initiate testing and certification. IAPMO has reserved test benches to accommodate NSF/ANSI 42 test requests for refrigerator filter companies that need quick turnaround times.

For more information on IAPMO's product testing and certification program please contact Tina Donda at tina.donda@iapmort.org, (708) 995-3018 or visit www.iapmort.org.

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**March Construction Starts Climb 5 Percent**

*Public Works Lifted by Two Large Pipeline Projects; Multifamily Housing, Offices, Airport Terminals Also Advance*

New construction starts in March increased 5% to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $743.7 billion, marking the third straight monthly gain, according to Dodge Data & Analytics. The total construction growth in March was led by the nonbuilding construction sector, and particularly by public works which featured the start of two large pipeline projects – the $4.2 billion Rover natural gas pipeline in Ohio and Michigan, and the $2.5 billion Mariner East 2 propane and natural gas liquids pipeline in Pennsylvania. Residential building in March registered moderate growth, helped by a rebound for multifamily housing after a subdued February. Nonresidential building in March held steady with its February pace, as strong activity for office buildings and airport terminals offset a steep drop for manufacturing plants. Through the first three months of 2017, total construction starts on an unadjusted basis were $160.1 billion, down 3% from the same period a year ago (which included heightened activity for manufacturing plants and electric utilities/gas plants). If the often volatile manufacturing plant and electric utility/gas plant categories are excluded, total construction starts during the first three months of 2017 would be up 8% relative to last year.

The March data produced a reading of 157 for the Dodge Index (2000=100), compared to 149 in February and 147 in January. After sliding to a weak 129 in December, the Dodge Index over the next three months bounced back 22%. On a quarterly basis, the Dodge Index averaged 151 during this year's January-March period, up 9% compared to the 139 average for the fourth quarter of 2016. "The pattern for construction starts in early 2017, with three straight monthly gains, is the reverse of the three straight monthly declines that closed out 2016," noted Robert A. Murray, chief economist for Dodge Data & Analytics.
"While the construction start statistics will frequently show an up-and-down pattern, whether month-to-month or quarter-to-quarter, the improved activity in this year’s first quarter provides evidence that the construction expansion is still proceeding," Murray continued. "This year’s first quarter has seen nonresidential building and public works rebound from the loss of momentum each experienced towards the end of 2016, helped respectively by the strong activity so far in 2017 for new airport terminal projects and new pipeline projects. Nonresidential building in 2017 should be able to stay on its upward track, supported by further growth for such institutional project types as school construction. As for public works, it’s also expected to show improvement over the course of 2017, although its prospects are less certain given its connection to legislative developments at the federal level. This includes how Congress will deal with the continuing resolution for fiscal 2017 appropriations scheduled to expire at the end of April, and whether a new federal infrastructure program will get passed this year."


Industry Calendar

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<tr>
<td>2018 UPC/UMC Technical Committee Meeting</td>
<td>May 1-4, 2017</td>
<td>Anaheim, CA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.iapmo.org">www.iapmo.org</a></td>
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<td>WaterSmart Innovations 2017</td>
<td>October 4-6, 2017</td>
<td>Las Vegas, NV</td>
<td><a href="http://www.watersmartinnovations.com">www.watersmartinnovations.com</a></td>
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<td>PHCC Connect 2017</td>
<td>October 4-6, 2017</td>
<td>Milwaukee, WI</td>
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Upcoming Seminars

ALASKA SEMINARS

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<tr>
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<th>Location</th>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 14, 2017</td>
<td>Anchorage, AK</td>
<td>2012 IMC Essentials Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 15, 2017</td>
<td>Anchorage, AK</td>
<td>2012 UPC Essentials Workshop</td>
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ARIZONA SEMINARS

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<tr>
<td>May 22-26, 2017</td>
<td>Phoenix, AZ</td>
<td>2016 ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 26, 2017</td>
<td>Phoenix, AZ</td>
<td>Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 26-30, 2017</td>
<td>Phoenix, AZ</td>
<td>2016 ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam</td>
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<td>June 30, 2017</td>
<td>Phoenix, AZ</td>
<td>Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam</td>
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CALIFORNIA SEMINARS

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<tr>
<td>May 18, 2017</td>
<td>Ontario, CA</td>
<td>2016 California Plumbing Code Changes</td>
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<td>May 19, 2017</td>
<td>Ontario, CA</td>
<td>2016 California Mechanical Code Changes</td>
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<td>June 12-16, 2017</td>
<td>Ontario, CA</td>
<td>ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 16, 2017</td>
<td>Ontario, CA</td>
<td>Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam</td>
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COLORADO SEMINARS

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<tr>
<td>May 8-12, 2017</td>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
<td>ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam</td>
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<td>May 25-26, 2017</td>
<td>Castle Rock, CO</td>
<td>Cross Connection Control Recertification - 12 hr course and Exam</td>
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<td>May 18, 2017</td>
<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
<td>ASSE Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr course and Exam</td>
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<td>July 16, 2017</td>
<td>Baton Rouge, LA</td>
<td>ASSE Recertification / WSPS Conversion Class</td>
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<td>July 17-21, 2017</td>
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<td>Session 9 Training now available - click here for the schedule!</td>
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**GEORGIA SEMINARS**

**LOUISIANA SEMINARS**

** MASSACHUSETTS SEMINARS**

**MINNESOTA SEMINARS**

2015 Minnesota Plumbing Code Sizing and Code Application Workshop

**SOUTH DAKOTA SEMINARS**

Click Here to Find a Class

**OKLAHOMA SEMINARS**

**PENNSYLVANIA SEMINARS**

**WISCONSIN SEMINARS**

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