U.S. Senate Passes Energy Bill With IAPMO Lobbied WaterSense and Energy-Water Nexus Language

The United States Senate passed a comprehensive energy bill on April 20, its first in nearly nine years, including sections lobbied for by IAPMO — a provision authorizing the U.S. EPA's WaterSense® program and the Nexus of Energy and Water for Sustainability Act (NEWS Act).

The Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016, which addresses such wide-ranging issues as the federal approval for liquefied natural gas exports, the approval process for electric transmission lines, increasing cybersecurity protections for the electricity grid, and the licensing process for hydropower projects, passed by a vote of 85-12. The Senate will now look to conference with the House of Representatives to work out differences between S. 2012 and similar legislation in the House.

The text of S. 2012 can be found here.

The two priority provisions for The IAPMO Group are:

- Sec. 1023 of the bill further emboldens the WaterSense program, which
identifies and promotes water-efficient products through voluntary labeling in
effort to reduce water use, reduce the strain on public water system
infrastructure, conserve energy needed to pump, heat, transport, and treat water,
and preserve water resources for future generations.

- Sec. 4101 establishes an Interagency Coordination Committee, co-chaired by the
  Secretaries of Energy and the Interior, to identify all relevant energy-water nexus
  activities across the federal government and enhance coordination of research
  and development activities among agencies.

WaterSense authorization and the NEWS Act were championed by IAPMO and the
High-Performance Buildings Coalition (HPBC), which is chaired by IAPMO's Senior
Vice President of Government Relations Dain Hansen, before S. 2012 was introduced
in July 2015.

"As an industry, we have worked with the House and Senate for years to obtain enough
support to officially authorize the WaterSense program," Hansen said. "However, this
is the first time the Senate and the House have passed WaterSense authorization
programs in the same congressional session — allowing for the bills to be negotiated
and potentially sent to President Obama. It is clearly evident, even with the highly
charged partisan environment, the one issue on which people are coming together is
water. WaterSense and the NEWS Act mark a major victory for the industry and the
country as a whole."

IAPMO R&T is the leading provider of WaterSense product certification in the nation
and has been a U.S. EPA licensed provider, accredited by the American National
Standards Institute (ANSI), since 2007, certifying the first high-efficiency toilet (HET)
to the standard in April of that year. To date, IAPMO R&T, part of The IAPMO Group,
has certified thousands of such water-efficient products to the WaterSense
specifications.

"WaterSense labeling gives consumers the power to make informed choices that can
help conserve water and lower their utility bills," said Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH),
longtime WaterSense champion. "I'm pleased that the Senate, along with active
stakeholders like the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials,
has moved to support this important program and the American manufacturers
developing high-quality water-efficient products."

For more information on the legislation, contact Hansen at (202) 445-7514 or
dain.hansen@iapmo.org

Water Research Foundation Releases Updated Residential End Use Study

The comprehensive update confirms that indoor water use per household continues to
decline

The Water Research Foundation (WRF), a leading sponsor of research supporting the
water community, is pleased to announce the results from Residential End Uses of
Water, Version 2 (project #4309). This project serves as a comprehensive update to
WRF's 1999 Residential End Uses of Water study. This project focused solely on
single-family residences. Some key findings of the study are as follows:

- Residential indoor water use in single-family homes has decreased 22% since
  WRF's 1999 study, from 177 gallons per household per day (gphd) to 138 gphd.
- Toilet flushing is the largest indoor use of water in single-family homes,
  followed by faucets, showers, clothes washers, leaks, bathtubs, other indoor
The current average daily indoor per household use of 138 gphd could decrease to 110 gphd with full adoption of water-efficient fixtures.

Forty-six percent of homes in the new study had water-efficient clothes washers, compared to 6% in 1999, and 37% of the participating homes had efficient toilets, compared to 5% in 1999.

Household hot water use accounted for 33% of total indoor water use.

Regarding outdoor water use, analyzing the trends and efficiency in water use from landscaping and pools is more complex because of varied climatic regions and variations in plantings at each house. At a high level analysis, this study found that while a minority of users are overwatering, most are not.

The decline in indoor per household water use poses new challenges for water utilities as increasing population does not necessarily result in a proportional increase in water used. This challenge is coupled with the other complexities that utilities have to consider like the increasing costs to maintain and repair buried infrastructure and the increasing costs of personnel.

"Society benefits from water efficiency, but many water utility costs are fixed regardless of water use," said Rob Renner, CEO of the Water Research Foundation. "It's crucial for the water community to build a sustainable business model within the paradigm of declining water use."

The new study includes data from 23 participating utilities across the United States and Canada, and presents detailed information and data about how residential water use has changed since 1999. This update includes more varied site locations, hot water end use data, more detailed landscape analysis, and expanded water rates analysis. Deliverables include an Executive Report (4309A), a full report (4309B), and an Access Database. The database contains all of the end use water events recorded during the 2016 study, along with the survey response data, historic billing data, and other data obtained for each study site. The database also contains summary results from other end use studies. This resource can be utilized by researchers and WRF subscribers as a jumping off point for further research.

This study was jointly funded by the Water Research Foundation, City of Fort Collins Utilities, City of Scottsdale Water Department, Clayton County Water Authority, Denver Water, Region of Waterloo, Tacoma Public Utilities, Toho Water Authority, and the Alliance for Water Efficiency on behalf of Portland Water Bureau, Region of Peel, San Antonio Water System, and Tampa Bay Water.

**ANSI EESCC Publishes Progress Report on Energy, Water Efficiency**

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Energy Efficiency Standardization Coordination Collaborative (EESCC) on Wednesday announced the publication of a Progress Report detailing the standardization community's activity to advance recommendations outlined in the EESCC's Standardization Roadmap: Energy Efficiency in the Built Environment. Published in June 2014 to serve as a national
framework for action and coordination, the roadmap identified gaps where standards and codes were needed to improve energy and water efficiency in the built environment. Pete DeMarco, IAPMO's Executive Vice President of Advocacy and Research, acted as the lead facilitator for the update.

The Progress Report features updates on 71 of the 109 standards-based gaps identified in the roadmap, demonstrating significant progress within the standardization community to advance energy and water efficiency through standards-based solutions. The report also includes a summary of all of the standards-based roadmap gaps, including those for which there is no known progress at this time, so that readers may easily identify opportunities to take action on closing the gaps.


Formed in 2012, the EESCC is a cross-sector, neutral forum and focal point for broad-based coordination among energy efficiency activities involving or impacted by standardization. The goal of the collaborative is to guide, facilitate, and coordinate standardization activities to support greater energy and water efficiency in the United States. More than 160 public- and private-sector experts from industry, federal agencies, standards and code developing organizations, energy and water efficiency-focused organizations, and educational institutions have contributed to the EESCC's efforts.

"The EESCC’s Progress Report provides an opportunity to see how standards developing organizations (SDOs) are collectively addressing identified knowledge gaps and progressing the building sciences as new information, research, best practices, and emerging technologies become available," DeMarco said.

For more information about the work of the EESCC, visit www.ansi.org/eesc.

About the EESCC
A member-funded collaborative, the EESCC brings together experts from industry, federal agencies, standards and code developing organizations, energy- and water efficiency-focused organizations, educational institutions, and other groups to shape the future of energy- and water-efficiency standardization. The EESCC is strictly a coordinating body and does not develop standards, nor does it assign responsibility for their development.

Minnesota Adopts Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC®)
Protection of potable water in the Land of 10,000 Lakes will henceforth be enhanced by IAPMO's Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC®).

The state of Minnesota, named for the Dakota Indian word for "sky-tinted water," has formally adopted the 2012 edition of IAPMO's flagship document and American National Standard designated plumbing code, the UPC, with state-specific amendments. The adoption became effective Jan. 23.

The UPC replaces Minnesota's previously state-authored plumbing code. The Minnesota Plumbing Board voted in favor of the adopting the UPC and subsequently followed the state's rulemaking process culminating in this adoption.

The provisions of the 2012 UPC will govern the design, installation, and maintenance
of plumbing systems throughout the North Star State and protect the health and safety of the nearly 5.5 million Minnesotans who utilize them.

"Moving from our 82-year history of a homegrown plumbing code to a national code developed through the ANSI process has not been completely free from controversy, but the implementation continues to be surprisingly smooth," said John A. Parizek, Chairman of the Minnesota Plumbing Board. "The professionalism and assistance provided by IAPMO during the development of our new code was the key to opening this new chapter in Minnesota and we believe the quality plumbing systems installed by licensed professionals that Minnesotans have come to expect will continue on for future generations."

Introduced in Los Angeles in 1928 and formally published as the Uniform Plumbing Code in 1945, the UPC is developed using the ANSI consensus development procedures. This process brings together volunteers representing a variety of viewpoints and interests to achieve consensus on plumbing practices. Developed and subsequently republished at the conclusion of each three-year code cycle, the UPC is designed to provide consumers with safe and sanitary plumbing systems while, at the same time, allowing latitude for innovation and new technologies.

Founded in Los Angeles in 1926, IAPMO has grown to be recognized the world over for its Uniform Codes. With offices in 12 U.S. states and 13 countries, IAPMO has assisted with code development all over the world, and provisions from its Uniform Plumbing Code® protect more than half the world’s population. For more information, visit www.iapmo.org.

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Schuette Charges Three with Multiple Felonies in First Stage of Flint Water Crisis Investigation

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette announced that he filed a total of 13 felony charges and 5 misdemeanor charges against two state officials and one city official as a result of their actions in the Flint water contamination crisis currently gripping the city.

Charges were filed on April 20, 2016 in the Genesee County 67th District Court in Flint against the following three individuals:

- Stephen Busch, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality District 8 Water Supervisor (3 felonies, 2 misdemeanor)
- Michael Prysby, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality District 8 Water Engineer (4 felonies, 2 misdemeanor)
- Michael Glasgow, City of Flint Laboratory and Water Quality Supervisor (1 felony, 1 misdemeanor)

The maximum sentences for each of the felonies, which are summarized in the link below, range from 4-5 years in prison, with fines for each in a range between $5,000-$10,000.

The charges are the first announced as a result of Schuette's investigation into the crisis, which is being conducted by Special Prosecutor Todd Flood, Chief Investigator Andy Arena, and Deputy Chief Investigator Ellis Stafford. Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton is also working with Schuette on the investigation and joined Schuette in Flint for today's announcement.

Schuette noted the investigation remains fully active and that the charges filed do not preclude additional charges at a later date.
IAPMO IBT Obtains Recognition from Florida Building Commission as an Approved Testing Laboratory

The IAPMO Institute of Building Technology (IBT) has obtained approval from the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (FL DBPR) as a Product Testing Laboratory.

FL DBPR provides product approval in the following eight (8) categories as described in Rule 61G20-3. This rule covers the approval of products for compliance with the structural requirements of the Florida Building Code:

(a) Panel Walls
(b) Exterior Doors
(c) Roofing Products
(d) Skylights
(e) Windows
(f) Shutters
(g) Structural Components
(h) Impact Protective Systems

Manufacturers can now have their products tested at IAPMO IBT and submit the test report to FL DBPR in order to obtain statewide product approval in Florida.

The Florida Product Approval System was established in 2003 as a means of providing "accountability; a higher standard of practice for product evaluations; and uniformity and consistency of enforcement statewide," as stated on the FL DBPR website.

Further information on this program may be found at www.floridabuilding.org.

About IAPMO IBT

Backed by more than 20 years of testing, codes, and standards experience, IAPMO IBT is a trusted name for independent testing, research, and technical services in the construction products industry. IBT is capable of testing a variety of products for the construction industry in accordance with acceptance and evaluation criteria and nationally recognized standards, as well as providing special services such as Research and Development, training, quality assurance, failure analysis, and witness/field testing.

For more information, direct your web browser to www.iapmoibt.org

TOTO USA Receives IAPMO EGS Certification

TOTO USA has decided to enlist the services of IAPMO EGS (Electrical, Gas and Solar), The IAPMO Group’s testing and certification division for electrical products, in certifying its products for the United States and Canadian markets.

TOTO, IAPMO EGS' first customer, has most recently successfully obtained listings for its Washlet® and Neorest® family of products.

"The EGS mark of conformity validates that the end product safety requirements for a given standard are complied with," said Fernando Fernandez, Director of Codes and
Standards for TOTO. "TOTO's entire family of products is engineered to optimize both hygiene and comfort. Using a water-cleansing system that leaves you fresh and rejuvenated, the Washlet® and Neorest® products utilize warm water, a heated seat, and a hands-free drying system that enhance personal hygiene."

Neorest® models also feature water-efficient, automatic toilet flushing and a remote control. In addition, integrated energy-saving features are also programmable to fit the user's needs. More information is available at www.totousa.com.

"We are excited to be provided with the opportunity to electronically list TOTO's products under IAPMO EGS' electrical certification program," said Tony Zhou, Vice President of Engineering for IAPMO EGS.

IAPMO EGS is accredited as a certification body by the Standards Council of Canada and recognized by OSHA as a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL), which means that electrical products labeled with the IAPMO EGS certification mark meet the criteria necessary for acceptance by authorities having jurisdiction throughout the United States and Canada.

IAPMO EGS is also accredited by ANAB to test to more than 30 electrical, mechanical, plumbing, and EPA ENERGY STAR® standards covering pool and spa equipment, bathtub equipment, irrigation equipment, electric faucets and bidets, personal hygiene and health care appliances, and suction fittings.

IAPMO EGS is a trusted name for independent testing and listing for the pool, spa, and bathtub industries. IAPMO EGS is committed to providing quality testing and listing services at competitive rates in a timely manner. Its knowledgeable staff works with manufacturers to ensure that each testing and listing project is handled efficiently, helping get the product to market more quickly. For more information, contact Tony Zhou at (909) 230-5536 or tony.zhou@iapmoegs.org, or direct your web browser to www.iapmoegs.org.

March Construction Eases Back One Percent

At a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $660.5 billion, new construction starts in March receded 1% from February's pace, according to Dodge Data & Analytics. Total construction starts had jumped 13% in February, led by a huge gain for the electric utility and gas plant category. While the dollar amount of electric utility and gas plant starts fell considerably in March, accompanied by a pullback for public works, the latest month featured a substantial increase for nonresidential building as this sector is providing more evidence that it's regaining upward momentum. In addition, residential building in March registered moderate growth, helped by the continued strength for multifamily housing. During the first three months of 2016, total construction starts on an unadjusted basis were $141.7 billion, down 10% from the same period a year ago that included the start of several massive power plants and liquefied natural gas (LNG) export terminals. If the volatile electric utility and gas plant category is excluded, total construction starts on a seasonally adjusted basis in March would be up 4% from February, while the year-to-date comparison on an unadjusted basis would show just a modest 4% decline.

The March data produced a reading of 140 for the Dodge Index (2000=100), compared to a revised 142 for February. Both February and March came in higher than the sluggish 126 average for the Dodge Index during the previous seven months. "While March construction activity was down slightly from February, it stayed above the
lackluster performance witnessed during the second half of last year that continued through January," stated Robert A. Murray, chief economist for Dodge Data & Analytics. "What's noteworthy about the March report is the renewed strength shown by nonresidential building, and in particular its institutional building segment. Nonresidential building had settled back 5% in 2015 after its 24% surge in 2014, reflecting not only a steep 36% plunge for manufacturing plant construction but also a slight 1% decline for institutional building. The strength shown by institutional building in March provides some indication that it's beginning to shift back into expansion mode, helped by growth for educational facilities as well as by the start of several large transportation terminal projects. Assuming this pattern gets repeated over the course of 2016, it would be an important factor behind nonresidential building reestablishing an upward trend."


New Report Exposes Serious Gaps in Michigan Water and Sewer Infrastructure Investment

A new report commissioned by the Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association (MITA) found that Michigan and its communities are not keeping up with the multimillion-dollar investments needed to ensure clean drinking water and wastewater treatment for residents and businesses now and in the future.

The report, prepared by Public Sector Consultants (PSC) for MITA, says that investment statewide is hundreds of millions of dollars below what is needed each year. Communities throughout Michigan face the challenge of updating and maintaining infrastructure, with most drinking water and wastewater systems built between 50 and 100 years ago, and some dating back to the 1800s.

Findings from the report detail significant gaps in the infrastructure needs and level of investment from communities across the state.

- According to the report's estimates, Michigan is underinvesting in its drinking water infrastructure by $284 to $583 million each year. Between 2004 and 2013, average annual investments in drinking water infrastructure were $447 million, compared to an annual need of between $731 million and $1.01 billion. This estimate doesn't take into account the additional investment needed to restore clean drinking water for Flint, where damaged pipes have allowed lead to leach into the water supply.
- Stormwater and wastewater estimates by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suggest Michigan's investment need totals approximately $2.14 billion, although that figure does not adequately reflect anticipated long-term costs, due to significant underreporting. Census data show that, between 2004 and 2013, communities in Michigan spent an average of $691 million each year on wastewater and stormwater infrastructure.

"The time to be more proactive is now," said Lance Binoniemi, MITA vice president of government affairs. "The underfunding of our underground infrastructure has been going on for much longer than the recent Flint crisis. Sewer and water systems are critical resources that aren't being acknowledged or dealt with until we're in the midst of a crisis. An essential role of government is to ensure communities have reliable drinking water and wastewater treatment. We need to make an important investment in the health and well-being of Michigan residents by addressing our infrastructure needs."
A number of recent crises in Michigan exposed serious deficiencies in water infrastructure, including:

- The statewide power outage in 2003 that shut down major public water systems
- The recent crisis related to lead contamination when the city of Flint switched to using the Flint River as its drinking water source
- Flooding in 2014 that forced shutdowns of five freeways and roads throughout southeast Michigan

PSC conducted a thorough analysis of water infrastructure spending in Michigan by looking at data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Each year, the bureau collects information from local and state governments on revenue and expenditures through its Annual Survey of State and Local Finances. PSC also examined data from the Municipal Advisory Council of Michigan, which maintains records of outstanding bond debt held by Michigan communities, to gain insight into all open loans related to water and sewer infrastructure. The report also used surveys from the EPA that estimate both drinking water investment needs and wastewater and stormwater investment needs to reach the report's conclusions.

"These findings go beyond the headlines in the news and provide critical insight into the severity of Michigan's infrastructure needs," said Jonathon Beard, environmental consultant at PSC. "Michigan residents are justifiably concerned over the safety of their water. We were pleased to work on this important project to shed light on the need for improved investment in the state's aging water and sewer infrastructure."

The full report is available on MITA's website

MITA is a statewide trade association that represents a broad spectrum of heavy construction companies and suppliers that help build a better Michigan from the ground up. For more information, visit www.mi-ita.com.

IAPMO's Uniform Evaluation Service Issues ER-0391 to Grip-Tite Manufacturing Company, LLC

IAPMO's Uniform Evaluation Service (UES) is pleased to announce that Winterset, Iowa-based Grip-Tite Manufacturing Company, LLC was granted UES Evaluation Report ER-0391 to reference the 2015, 2012, and 2009 editions of the International Building Code. ER-0391 states that the Grip-Tite Helical Pile Foundation System as shown in the report satisfies applicable code requirements. This allows for the specification of the Grip-Tite helical pile foundations by architects, contractors, specifiers, and designers, and approval of installations by code officials. The evaluation report also provides code officials with a concise summary of the products' attributes and documentation of code compliance.

Products recognized with an IAPMO UES Evaluation Report have successfully undergone evaluation based on applicable requirements within the Uniform Family of Codes and the International Family of Codes, as well as codes published by other entities. UES staff thoroughly examined the Grip-Tite Manufacturing Company's product information, test reports, calculations, quality-control methods, and other factors to determine the products are code compliant.

"Grip-Tite is extremely satisfied with IAPMO's product evaluation service," said David M. Nicholl, President of Grip-Tite. "They outlined a clear evaluation strategy, along with a timeline that matched our requirements. Bottom line — Uniform Evaluation
Service delivered. I would not hesitate to recommend UES to other building product manufacturers."

The UES program is built upon IAPMO’s more than 70 years of experience in evaluating products for code compliance. Accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), the program operates under ISO/IEC Standard 17065, "General Requirements for Bodies Operating Product Certification Systems."

UES Vice President of Technical Operations Brian Gerber explains why Uniform Evaluation Reports are so valuable: "Our staff worked closely with the Grip-Tite team to verify that compliance with the IBC was achieved, tackling complex issues and arriving at solutions. We also inspected the production facilities to verify quality of the production. The ER-0391 supports Grip-Tite’s efforts to ensure that code officials, builders, architects, engineers, and building owners have the information required for acceptance of the helical pile foundations. The UES evaluation report, which can be obtained any time at no cost, makes this task easier to accomplish."

IAPMO’s UES offers a full range of recognition opportunities, including recognition for the applicable national model codes, as well as Florida, California, and various other state codes. By combining all of these recognitions into one concise report prepared by an internationally recognized product certification body, the UES program reduces cost and increases value.

ABOUT IAPMO'S UNIFORM ES

_The International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) coordinates the development and adoption of plumbing, mechanical, swimming pool, and solar energy codes to meet the specific needs of individual jurisdictions both in the United States and abroad. IAPMO Uniform ES (UES) is one of the two prominent evaluation service providers (as noted by SEAOC, see uniform-es.org for details). UES reports provide evidence that products and systems satisfy code requirements within the scope and conditions of use as noted in each report._

_For more information on IAPMO Uniform ES, direct your Web browser to www.uniform-es.org or contact Dawn Atencio (909) 472-4100, ext. 4475, or dawn.atencio@uniform-es.org_
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IAPMO is an approved provider for Continuing Education by USGBC, IACET, AIA and many local organizations and jurisdictions. Contact the IAPMO Training staff to register at 1-877-427-6601, or go to our website [http://www.iapmo.org/Pages/Seminar.aspx](http://www.iapmo.org/Pages/Seminar.aspx) to register online. New training dates are added periodically!