

Critical Importance of Infrastructure Investment in the Water Industry

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#### **National Water & Wastewater Infrastructure Challenges**



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## **About Us** American Water



#### Who We Are

We are the largest and most geographically diverse publicly traded water and wastewater service provider in the United States.

- We serve a broad national footprint and a strong local presence.
- We provide services to approximately 15 million people in 46 states.
- We employ 7,000 dedicated employees and support ongoing community efforts and corporate responsibility.
- We treat and deliver more than one billion gallons of water daily.





#### **Our Regulated Business**

We manage more than 500 individual water and wastewater systems across the country.

Every day, we operate and manage:

- 53,200 miles of transmission, distribution and collection mains and pipes
- **79** surface water treatment plants
- **530** groundwater treatment plants
- **1,100** groundwater wells
- **150** wastewater treatment plants





# Water & Wastewater Infrastructure Challenges



#### **Challenges for Water & Wastewater**

#### Water Infrastructure



- More than 148,000 Active Drinking Water Systems Across the Nation
- Our nation's drinking water infrastructure is composed of 2.2 million miles of pipe
- There is a water main break every two minutes, and an estimated 6 billion gallons of treated water lost each day in the U.S.
- By 2019, utilities were replacing between 1% and 4.8% of their pipelines per year on average.

#### Wastewater Infrastructure



- The nation's wastewater footprint includes over 800,000 miles of public sewers and 500,000 miles of private lateral sewers.
- The nation's more than 16,000 wastewater treatment plants are functioning, on average, at 81% of their design capacities, while 15% have reached or exceeded it.
- Most wastewater treatment plants are designed with an average lifespan of 40 to 50 years.



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#### **Challenges for Water & Wastewater**

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#### Water & Wastewater Infrastructure

• Deferred Maintenance and Delayed Pipe Replacement are catching up to us...



**1980** – 10% of all pipes were in poor shape



2000 – 23% of all pipes were in poor shape



**2010** – 45% of all pipes were in poor shape



## **Meeting Challenges**



- Treatment Process
  Optimization
- Advanced Treatment
- Treatment Quality
  Monitoring
- Droughts and Floods

- Non-Revenue Water
- System Visibility
- Infrastructure Management
- Maximizing
  Equipment Efficiency

- Comprehensive Plans
- Resiliency Reviews



#### **American Water Approach**

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## The Cost of Not Meeting the Challenge



Safe drinking water is important to the health and economic welfare of a community.

Failures start to occur as infrastructure reaches its useful life.

ASCE estimates it could cost American business \$734 billion and the loss of 700,000 jobs.

Failing systems limit the ability for the economy to grow.



## The Cost of Not Meeting the Challenge



According to the U.S. Conference of Mayors, every dollar invested in water infrastructure adds \$6.35 to the national economy.



# Iowa Water & Wastewater Infrastructure Challenges



#### **Iowa Water & Wastewater Infrastructure Challenges**



Brad Nielsen

Iowa American Water

Vice President of Operations



#### **Importance of Infrastructure Investment**









## **Challenges**

#### Iowa Water Infrastructure



- 1,848 Active Drinking Water Systems Across lowa
- In some municipal water systems, more than 50% of the distribution systems are 50 years or older, and some systems have pipes in excess of 100 years old.
- Rural water systems are relatively new in Iowa and generally have distribution systems that are less than 50 years old.
- Surface and ground water sources are seeing excessive nutrient concentrations.

#### Iowa Wastewater Infrastructure



- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency determined in 2012 that a total of \$2.4 billion is necessary for wastewater related infrastructure improvement in Iowa over the next 20 years.
- lowa's aging wastewater infrastructure poses a threat to lowa's water resources.
- Most wastewater treatment plants are designed with an average lifespan of 40 to 50 years.



#### **Iowa American Water Footprint**

#### **Above Ground Assets**

- 3 water treatment facilities 41 MGD capacity
  - 1 surface water facility
  - 2 ground water facilities from 7 wells
- 14 storage tanks
  - 11 elevated tanks
  - 3 ground storage tanks
- 11 booster pumping stations

#### **Below Ground Assets**

- Over 900 miles of water main
- Over 19,000 valves
- Over 8,000 fire hydrants







## Local Approach to Infrastructure Investment

- Be as proactive as possible
  - Replacement in an emergency is costly & causes unplanned customer impact
- Plan ahead
  - Comprehensive Planning Study
  - Risk & Resilience Analysis
- Evaluate the information and collaborate on the right approach
  - Multi-functional discussions
  - 5-year Strategic Capital Expenditure Plan (SCEP)
    - Investments broken out into two groups:
      - ✓ Large projects for strategic infrastructure (new treatment processes, storage tanks, etc.
      - ✓ Recurring projects for improvements in reliability, redundancy, or replacements ahead of failure



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## Local Approach to Infrastructure Investment - Continued

- Target your needs
  - Required investment due to regulatory or environmental compliance
  - Targeted investment to address an emerging threat
  - General system improvements
- Evaluation on reliability, average asset life, and targeted redundancy
  - Water main
  - Hydrants
  - Valves
- Set goals, measure success, and evaluate opportunities as they emerge
  - Are we improving the average life of our assets in the system?
  - Are there opportunities to partner with municipalities' projects (paving projects)?
  - Can we implement looping redundancy where we have opportunities?





## **Case Study – Blue Grass, Iowa**

#### **Opportunities & Needs**

- Fire Flow
  - Replace & upsize smaller water mains
- Reduce Risk

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- Remove the existing chlorine gas treatment process by replacing with a sodium hypochlorite system of treatment
- This eliminated the potential of a release of a poisonous gas within city limits
- Improve Water Quality
  - Construct an interconnection between systems
- On-going Opportunities
  - Standardize material with investments
  - Improve storage



## **Questions?**



# Thank you

