

WATER NEWS ON TAP

Making Water Costs Fall

(NAPSA)—A number of groups are working to plug potential leaks in one of the largest and most important infrastructure networks in the country: The drinking and wastewater system.

The network of drinking water and wastewater pipes buried underground is over four times larger than the national highway system—660,000 miles of pipe versus 160,000 miles of road—and has proven to be one of the most thorough and efficient water distribution networks in the world.

A number of scientists have pointed out, however, that despite the U.S. water system's relative smooth sailing throughout the years, much of the infrastructure is more than 100 years old and badly in need of an overhaul. The older a water pipe gets, they argue, the more it degrades—and the risk posed to the public's health, water supply and economy increases.

According to the American Water

Works Association (AWWA), the federal government, local governments and utility companies need to work together to clean up the country's potential water problems.

The group says that in the near future, water utilities will have to overhaul their pipe networks and increase pipe replacement and repair efforts to unprecedented levels.

The AWWA warns that without a coordinated approach involving government, consumers and industry, some utilities will not be able to meet their future structural and logistical needs, which could cost as much as one trillion dollars.

The Association argues that by working together, government and utility companies can make a coordinated effort to improve the U.S. water supply, protect public health and possibly help stave off a wave of high water costs in the future.

For more information, visit www.awwa.org.