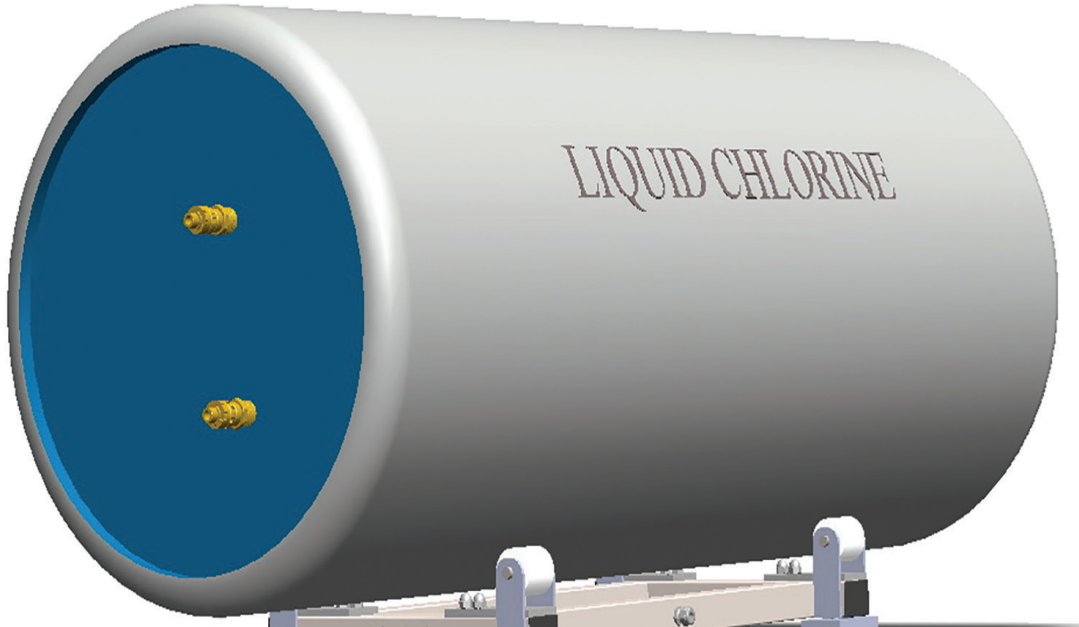
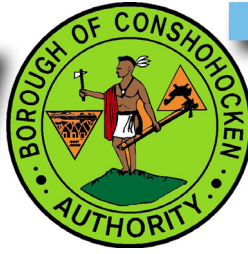


# Authority Times

News and Information for Customers  
of the Borough of Conshohocken Authority

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The Borough of Conshohocken Authority has received approval to begin using liquid chlorine in their wastewater disinfection process and is very proud of this accomplishment.

## So Long to Chlorine Gas

The BCA has received approval to convert from the use of chlorine gas to chlorine liquid for wastewater disinfection.

In 1910 C. R. Darnall became the first to use compressed chlorine gas from steel cylinders, which is an approach still commonly used today. This led to gradual improvements in the use of chlorine gas.

After more than 70 years of chlorine gas disinfection, the Authority has taken the initiative to remove the risk for residents of Conshohocken

and neighboring communities. Although the Authority had ventilation systems, safety precautions, procedures, and a monitoring system connected directly to Montgomery County's emergency response system, a major leak in chlorine gas could have potentially resulted in a 1.5-mile radius evacuation. The Authority has since removed all tanks of chlorine gas and have implemented the use sodium hypochlorite (chlorine liquid) for wastewater disinfection.

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### BOARD MEMBERS

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### MEETINGS

**January 24**

**February 28**

**March 28**

**April 25**

**May 23**

**June 27**

**Meetings are held in  
the Borough Hall:  
400 Fayette Street  
Conshohocken**

**Meeting time 6:30 pm**

## Meet BCA Utility Person Dustin Davis



Dustin Davis began working for the Authority in 2020, filling the vacant Utility Person position. Soon after, he obtained his Pennsylvania commercial driver's license and then his DEP Wastewater Collection Systems Operator license Class E, sub-class 4. He is now preparing for his DEP Wastewater Plant Operator license Class B, sub-class 2.

Dustin graduated from Methacton High School and resides in Swedesburg. He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1987 to 1991. In those years, Dustin was active in both Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He was honorably discharged in 1991 at the rank of Lance Corporal, E3.

Dustin enjoys walking in fundraiser events, especially those supporting veterans. He also enjoys attending concerts and local live music.

# Tips to Avoid Frozen Pipes This Winter

Leaky pipes that go unnoticed can easily become broken pipes, and in freezing temperatures even healthy pipes are vulnerable. Here are ways to prevent pipes from breaking and causing damage and costly repairs:

- Insulate exposed pipes and faucets outside and around your home, including those in unheated areas like basements, garages, attics or crawl-spaces.
- In severe cold, let cold water drip from faucets served by exposed pipes. Running a drip of water through the pipes helps prevent pipes from freezing because the temperature of the water is above freezing.
- If a pipe does break on your property, know where your water meter is and how to turn water off immediately to avoid further damage and water waste. Assess the damage immediately. Pipes can be thawed with a hair dryer.
- If you are taking a vacation or will be away for several days, turn off your water at the meter in case damage occurs or ask someone to watch your home in your absence.
- Outdoor hoses should be removed and stored. If available, shutoff outdoor water supply.



## Authority Makes Switch to Chlorine

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The Department of Environmental Protection strictly regulates the treated wastewater that is discharged into the river, particularly chlorine residual. The Authority treats the wastewater prior to discharge with chlorine. Our facility is designed to allow 30 minutes for the chlorine to complete disinfection. We must then remove the unused chlorine before sending it out to the waterway. Too much would be harmful

to fish and other animals along the river.

To remove excess chlorine after disinfection we use sodium bisulfite. Our DEP discharge permit restricts us to allow less than half of the amount of the chlorine residual than is allowed to exist in our tap water. Failure to comply with our limits could result in penalties and fines.

Though equally effective, it is far safer to store and use. In addition to this conversion, the Authority is also installing a

monitoring system that not only watches our chlorine and sodium bisulfite levels but also will adjust them accordingly to keep us in constant compliance with our DEP permit and notify us when we are approaching unacceptable levels before reaching violation thresholds.

More wastewater facilities are steering away from chlorine gas disinfection when possible. The BCA is relieved and proud to have finally achieved this goal.

## BCA Has New Meeting Location

Starting January 24, the Borough of Conshohocken Authority will begin holding all public Authority meetings in the public meeting room located on Level 2 of Borough Hall, 400 Fayette Street, Conshohocken. Enter at the street level entrance at 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Fayette St. The meetings will still be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month and, as always, the public is welcome to attend.



## Authority Hires Nasire Birch As Utility Person

The Borough of Conshohocken Authority hired a new Utility Person by the name of Nasire Birch. Nasire began work at the Authority on October 31 and a full time Utility Person. That position consists of learning the daily operations of the plant along with cross-training in other departments. Utility Persons are generally required to obtain a commercial driver's license with a Tanker endorsement, a DEP Wastewater Collections Operators license and ultimately a DEP Wastewater Plant Operators license. Since starting here, Nasire is learning quickly and is excited about reaching these goals.