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State College Borough Water Authority to Implement Advanced Energy Efficiency Technology with a Grant from West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund

January 17, 2019 – The State College Borough Water Authority received a \$50,000 grant from West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF) to implement variable speed frequency drives on pumps at the proposed Nixon-Kocher Water Treatment Facility. The new treatment facility is essential to providing more than 75,000 people in the Centre region with a consistent supply of clean drinking water, and the pumps that distribute that water are integral.

At numerous stages of the water treatment process, pumps are needed to move water from wells, and subsequently from one treatment process to the next. At the Nixon-Kocher plant, this involves a total of 23 pumps of varying size, frequency of use, and energy consumption. The use of variable frequency drives on these pumps allows operators to control the amount of energy consumption needed proportional to the demand of the plant, rather than the pumps operating at a fixed rate. Additionally, the installation of variable frequency drives reduces wear on motors, which in turn reduces the amount of maintenance, and creates a longer life span for this equipment. The reduction in energy consumption and maintenance represents a significant cost savings over the life of the facility.

The new treatment facility is slated for construction starting in spring, 2019.

Brian Heiser, Executive Director of State College Borough Water Authority, stated, “This grant will allow State College Water to add additional variable speed pumps to more of our facility. The variable speed pumps combined with the solar system at the Nixon-Kocher Water Treatment facility will help to control operational costs at the facility. State College Water is pleased to have the opportunity to partner with WPPSEF.”

Joel Morrison, Director of the West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF), stated “The implementation of the variable speed pumps and a solar photovoltaic system at the planned Nixon-Kocher Water Treatment Facility will lower the operational cost of the treatment facility and serve as a model for other treatment facilities across Pennsylvania. WPPSEF is pleased to be a project partner.”

The State College Borough Water Authority maintains approximately 16,000 metered services and 270 miles of water mains in State College Borough and parts of Benner, College, Harris, Halfmoon, Patton and Ferguson Townships. In addition, the Authority maintains 7 Well Fields, the Shingletown Reservoir and a 6 million gallon per day (MGD) water treatment plant. Average daily use by over 75,000 people is 5.0 MGD with a peak day of 6.0 MGD.

The **West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF)** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that invests in the deployment of sustainable energy technologies that benefit West Penn Power ratepayers in Pennsylvania. WPPSEF investments are focused in three broad categories:

- ✓ Deployment of sustainable and clean energy technologies;
- ✓ Deployment of energy efficiency and conservation technologies; and
- ✓ Facilitating economic development, environmental betterment, and public education as they relate to sustainable energy deployment in the WPP service region.

Visit <http://www.wppsef.org> for further information.