

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
HARRISBURG, PA 17120**

Statement by Commissioner Robert F. Powelson

September 15, 2016

Today, the PUC joins elected officials, water utilities, and community leaders in recognizing National “Imagine a Day Without Water” – a nationwide effort to increase awareness about the importance of water and water conservation.

Imagine: No water to drink. No water to shower, flush the toilet or do laundry. Hospitals would close without water. Firefighters couldn't put out fires and farmers couldn't water their crops.

Water is an important resource that many of us take for granted – and it is the only utility commodity that we physically ingest. National “Imagine a Day Without Water” reminds us just how valuable our water resources are and how important it is to continue to invest in the water infrastructure necessary to ensure safe and reliable service. Too often we lose sight of the fact that our water infrastructure is aging and is in need of replacement.

This morning I would like to commend the many Pennsylvania water utilities that have taken an active role in replacing their aging infrastructure with the innovative DSIC mechanism. However, there is always more to be done to ensure our water system remains up-to-date. The importance of water – and a safe and a reliable water system – is an issue that deserves our continual attention.

Join us today, on National “Imagine a Day Without Water,” to raise awareness and educate America about the value of water. The events in Flint Michigan serve as a stark reminder how important it is for communities to invest in water infrastructure.