$11 Million Plant Upgrade Strengthens Drinking Water Reliability for Allegheny and Washington County Customers

Upgrades by Pennsylvania American Water help to ensure dependable drinking water service amid changing river conditions

ELRAMA, Pa. (April 16, 2026) – Pennsylvania American Water is completing more than $11 million in upgrades at its E.H. Aldrich Water Treatment Plant in Elrama, Washington County, strengthening drinking water reliability, efficiency, and safety for approximately 527,000 customers in Allegheny and Washington counties.

The majority of the investment, approximately $8 million, is allocated to essential upgrades for the facility's raw water intake and pump station. These improvements became necessary after water levels in the Monongahela River dropped by 3-5 feet when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers removed the nearby Monongahela River Locks and Dam 3 in 2024.

"As source water conditions change and infrastructure challenges arise, we continue to optimize and invest in this facility to efficiently and reliably treat water for our customers," said Tim Patterson, treatment superintendent for Pennsylvania American Water.

Lower-than-expected river levels increased silt and debris at the plant's intake, causing wear and reducing the efficiency of intake screens and pumps. To maintain water service, the company is upgrading intake equipment and pumps to meet customer demand, especially during changing river conditions.

Construction on the intake project started in September 2025, with crews working from a barge and divers replacing intake bar screens and two 35-foot traveling screens. The project includes installing temporary pumps and reconstructing raw-water pumps to prevent disruptions to drinking water service during construction.

In addition to intake upgrades, the company recently completed a $3 million safety improvement project at the plant, which included a new chemical unloading and containment area along with upgraded pumps, piping, and treatment equipment.

Built in 1960, the E.H. Aldrich Water Treatment Plant is a critical regional facility, treating an average of 32million gallons of water per day and capable of producing up to 50million gallons daily to serve communities across southwestern Pennsylvania.

About American Water
American Water (NYSE: AWK) is the largest regulated water and wastewater utility company in the United States. With a history dating back to 1886 and celebrating 140 years in 2026, We Keep Life Flowing® by providing safe, clean, reliable and affordable drinking water and wastewater services to approximately 14 million people with regulated operations in 14 states and on 18 military installations. American Water's approximately 7,000 talented professionals leverage their significant expertise and the company's national size and scale to achieve excellent outcomes for the benefit of customers, employees, investors and other stakeholders. For more information, visit amwater.com and join American Water on LinkedIn, Facebook, X and Instagram.

About Pennsylvania American Water
Pennsylvania American Water, a subsidiary of American Water, is the largest regulated water utility in the state with approximately 1,200 dedicated employees working to provide safe, clean, reliable and affordable water and wastewater services to approximately 2.5 million people.

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