

March 18, 2020

Attn: WWEMA Members, Washington Forum Registrants, Speakers, and Colleagues

The Board of Directors of the Water and Wastewater Equipment Manufacturers Association (WWEMA) has decided to cancel its Washington Forum, scheduled for April 29-May 1, 2020 in Alexandria, VA in the wake of the rapidly changing and unprecedented circumstances of the last week surrounding the spread of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). This was not a decision that was made lightly or without significant deliberation but, in the face of increasing concerns and the guidance of governmental and health agencies, the decision was compelled and required.

Personal and public health safety is our paramount concern and that is why we chose to follow the recommendations of the nation's leading public health experts. On March 15, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Infection (CDC) announced that in-person gatherings of 50 or more people should be postponed or cancelled for the next 8 weeks. This covers the timeframe during which we had planned to hold the Washington Forum.

WWEMA staff and leadership will be evaluating other options to provide some of the programming through alternative venues such as webinars or other electronic medium, recognizing that many of our speakers may be otherwise unavailable in the short-term as they focus on their own public health and environmental responsibilities.

Please be patient as we evaluate the many details that need to be addressed following this decision, including the status of registrations. Meanwhile, attendees will need to cancel their own hotel and travel arrangements directly to avoid penalties. The Alexandrian can be reached by calling (703) 549-6080. The cut-off to avoid a penalty from the hotel is 48 hours prior to arrival. Please contact WWEMA at (703) 444-1777 if you have any questions or encounter any problems in cancelling your hotel reservations.

We know that this COVID-19 situation has had an impact on all of you – personally, professionally, and financially. We remain committed to doing all we can as your Association to keep you up-to-date on the rapidly changing situation and to respond to your requests and suggestions for assistance to the industry. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly at vanessa@wwema.org. Together we will weather this storm and keep each other, our families, and our communities safe.

Michael Dimitriou
WWEMA Chairman of the Board, 2020

Vanessa M. Leiby
WWEMA Executive Director