



MOU WITH VIRGINIA TECH FOR COLLECTION AND COMPILATION OF WATER PIPELINE FIELD PERFORMANCE DATA

Riverside Public Utilities – Water Resources

Board of Public Utilities
February 23, 2026

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BACKGROUND

1. Virginia Tech is conducting a National Collection and Compilation of Water Pipeline Field Performance Data (PIPEiD) research project to track water loss in water utility systems
2. Approximately 500 water utilities and 100 federal facilities participating
3. Virginia Tech, the United States Geological Survey (USGS), California water agencies, and the California Department of Water Resources, are working together in an effort to help utilities cost-effectively reduce water loss from source to tap.
4. RPU was invited to voluntarily participate in research effort requiring an MOU
5. Share existing pipeline infrastructure data
 - a. No customer-identifiable data
 - b. Data security and confidentiality



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DISCUSSION

1. Under proposed MOU, pipeline data will be shared with PIPEiD to be reviewed, standardized, and analyzed
2. Data supports analysis of:
 - a. Pipeline Condition
 - b. Distribution Performance
 - c. Water Loss
 - d. Quality Review of Participating Agencies
3. Data supports national water loss modeling consistent with American Water Works Association and improves estimates for public water systems



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DISCUSSION CONTINUED

4. At project conclusion, RPU receives free access to PIPEiD analytical tools and visual reports
5. The ability to track performance trends and support long term planning with all final decisions remaining with RPU engineering
6. Timeline
 - a. Initial results: Within months of data submission
 - b. MOU term: Through December 31, 2028, with option to extend for updated analyses



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RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Public Utilities recommend the City Council authorize a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Riverside and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University to participate in the Pipeline Infrastructure Database (PIPEiD) research project



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