

Survey: Water Infrastructure Concerns Americans

In the past couple of months, the American people have been flooded with polls and surveys trying to detect political directions that will impact the country for the next few years. And another survey released at the end of October 2010 might have long-term impact equal to what is going on in Washington. This one regards water.

Conducted by the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation, the survey asked likely voters as well as facility and operations managers in business and agriculture what should be done about water infrastructure issues. For instance, it is estimated that each year in the United States, nearly two trillion gallons of water are lost to leaks and broken pipes at an annual cost of nearly \$3 billion, according to Klaus Reichardt, CEO and founder of Waterless Co., Inc.

The majority of respondents named water as the most important service they receive, above electricity, heat, the Internet and cell phones. However, about 70 percent also admitted they take water for granted, believing it is readily accessible in the United States. As to future water problems in this country related to either shortages or infrastructure, slightly more than 50 percent were "somewhat concerned" about these issues.

Among the other findings were these:

- The overwhelming majority believe that government entities should be responsible for fixing water infrastructure problems.
- More than 80 percent believe the government should invest more money into upgrading pipes and related water infrastructure.
- Sixty-three percent of the voters and 57 percent of the business respondents say they are willing to pay the necessary expenses to upgrade U.S. water systems.

