

Pennsylvania Driller



Summer 2004

Water Resources Planning from the Bottom Up

*by Todd Giddings, Ph.D., P.G., Member, Upper/Middle Susquehanna
Water Resources Committee*

The development of our new state water plan is underway, and it is being done first on a regional watershed level. The regional water plans will later be added together to form the new Pennsylvania State Water Plan. We are starting at the “bottom” in the dozens of small watersheds within each of the six large regional watersheds in Pennsylvania. The ground-water and surface-water problems and issues in the small watersheds (the headwater areas) are being identified so they are not overlooked. This is why you should get involved, to contribute information from your personal knowledge of local ground-water problems or issues so they will be addressed in your regional water plan.

Pennsylvania has been divided into six large regional watersheds: Ohio, Susquehanna (split in two at Sunbury), Delaware, Great Lakes, and Potomac. The water resource committees for each of these six regions will be meeting again in October and the agenda always has an opportunity for public comments. To find out where and when in October your regional meeting will be held, go to the Web at www.dep.state.pa.us and type in the keyword “water resources”. On the Act 220 Web page, click on “Regional Water Resources Committee Homepages” and then click on “Meeting Dates 2004”. Meeting locations and driving directions are posted before each meeting. Remember, the “Bottom Up” approach will identify local water issues and problems only if you contribute to the process by participating in the meetings.

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The Pennsylvania Ground Water Association newsletter is published quarterly. Deadline for copy and advertising is February 15, May 1, August 15, and November 1, 2004. For information on placing an advertisement or submitting an article, please contact Jodi Snyder, 7 Long Lane Drive, Hummelstown, PA 17036; telephone 717. 773. 7215 and fax 717. 566. 4587; email jodisnyder@comcast.net.

The President's Report

I hope each one of you had a busy and enjoyable summer. As you will notice, this issue of the *PA Driller* is full of exciting events with which PGWA has hosted and/or been involved. As you may know, Bob Reichart was appointed to the State Water Resources Planning Committee. We are very fortunate to have PGWA represented on this very important committee. Three subcommittees have been formed: public outreach, critical water planning, and policy and integration. Bob is serving on the public outreach and critical water planning areas subcommittees. I am serving on the Potomac Watershed Planning Committee. I received valuable information at my last meeting, and I will share it with you in the insert provided in this issue.

I would like to thank Fry's Plastic for hosting a very valuable Summer Field Conference in June. Please do not hesitate to call on me for any issues which may arise that are important to this industry.

Bill Reichart, PGWA President

Committee Updates

by Jodi L. Snyder, Executive Director

The PGWA Board of Directors would like to update you on the recent work of its committees:

Legislative Committee: Senate Bill 1148 (copy on page 12) was introduced and amends the water well drillers act to add NGWA certification as a requirement for obtaining/renewing your license in the Commonwealth. There is only a slight chance of passage at the end of this year.

Summer Field Conference: A successful Summer Field Conference was held on June 18th. See related article on page 7.

Winter Conference: The Conference schedule will be changed this year to have seminars on Thursday afternoon, January 28th, followed by the reception with the Manufacturers and Suppliers, followed by the banquet. Friday morning will feature more exhibit time and seminars through 3:00 p.m. The Conference will conclude at approximately 3:00 p.m.

Public Awareness: The recent work of the Public Awareness Committee included exhibiting at Ag Progress Days. See related article on pages 10 and 11.

Membership: The current PGWA membership is 311.

Insurance: PGWA has current insurance policies for Directors and Officers and general liability insurance. The Executive Director, President, and Treasurer are also bonded.

Nominating: There are three contractor positions coming up for election at the Winter Conference.

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PGWA General Membership Meeting Minutes

Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania – June 18, 2004

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Several members of the Board, including Jim Hartmann, Judy Bear, Dick Burke, David Powell, Todd Giddings, Executive Director Jodi Snyder, and members of PGWA were in attendance. Fry's Plastic, presenters, exhibitors, and sponsors were thanked for conducting another successful Field Conference.
2. **Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of January 30, 2004, were approved on a motion and a second. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **President's Report.** It was announced that Bill Reichart was not able to attend the meeting because of an emergency with his son, Clay. Well wishes were given to Bob Reichart, as well as condolences for the passing of Bob Reichart's father, William. Bob thanked the members for the lovely flowers that were sent to the funeral home on PGWA's behalf.
4. **Executive Director's Report.** Jodi Snyder reported that PGWA has 310 members.
5. **Treasurer's Report.** Judy Bear reviewed the financial statements and encouraged members to review them, as they are available for inspection at any time. The report was passed on a motion and a second. The motion passed unanimously.
6. **Committee Reports.**
 - **Publishing.** Jodi Snyder reported that the next *PA Driller* deadline is August 15, 2004.
 - **Winter Conference.** Dick Burke announced that the Winter Conference schedule will change. Seminars will be held the Thursday afternoon of the conference until 4:00 p.m. The cocktail party with the exhibitors will follow. The banquet will be held on Thursday, instead of Friday. The conference will conclude at 3:00 p.m. on Friday.
- **Public Awareness.** Dave Powell asked for assistance in staffing the PGWA exhibit at the Ag Progress Days in State College August 17-19, 2004. Judy Bear gave an update on the Master Well Owner Program, of which PGWA is a sponsor. This program educates individuals with private wells on proper construction, testing, well caps, etc.
- **Summer Field Conference.** The members were asked to express questions or concerns about the Summer Field Conference on their evaluation forms.
- **Legislative.** A legislative update was given during the Field Conference event. PGWA is already experiencing difficulty with getting legislation passed to require all licensed well drillers to be NGWA certified.
- **Insurance.** PGWA purchased general liability insurance and

continues to maintain directors and officers liability insurance.

- **Awards.** It was noted that Ernie Smith resigned from the Board of Directors. He was the awards committee chair.

7. Old Business.

- Bob Reichart spoke on Act 220, the Water Resources Planning Act. Bob was appointed to the Statewide Committee. Three subcommittees have been formed: public outreach, critical water planning, and policy and integration. Bob is serving on the public outreach and critical water planning areas sub-committees.
- Todd Giddings reported on an organization moving in parallel with DEP – the Susquehanna River Basin Commission. The Commission has developed a draft of a Ground Water Management Plan. The Plan has good elements and addresses several of PGWA's issues.

8. New Business.

- Bylaws Amendment. A motion and a second were given to approve the proposed Bylaws amendment, which was mailed in late May. The motion passed unanimously.
- Condolences were also expressed to Tom Keyes on the passing of his father in March.
- John Grothaus asked the Board about the new plumbing code and how it will affect the replacement of pumps. The Board will look into it and respond to John.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jodi L. Snyder, Executive Director*



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Please Help the PGWA Collect Data on Water Quality Problems

by Todd Giddings, Ph.D., P.G.

The Pennsylvania Ground Water Association is collecting data on water-quality problems in residential water wells specifically where the water-quality problem was caused by **the way the residential well was constructed**. An example is: no pitless adapter was installed and contaminated water entered the casing through the unsealed hole around the water pipe where it passed through the casing wall. Another example is a well where the installed casing was too short and there was no grout seal around the casing so contaminated water infiltrated down outside the casing and entered the well bore to cause the water-quality problem.

We would like to learn of problems throughout all of Pennsylvania. Currently we have six examples all located in north-central Pennsylvania and all in bedrock wells. **Examples are sought from any region of Pennsylvania**, including both bedrock (open hole) wells and sand and gravel (screened) wells. The information we need includes the construction details such as total depth, casing length, etc., what the quality problem was and how it was caused, the type of aquifer, well location (township if known and county), and when this happened (month if known and year). We would like to learn about a problem even if complete information is not available. The list of problems that we are compiling is **anonymous**, with no well owner's name and no driller's name. We need your name only if we need to ask questions about the information you have submitted.

How will the PGWA use this information? These anonymous water-quality problem examples will be used in our **outreach and education programs** to illustrate the importance of proper well construction to protect ground-water quality. I will be compiling the list, and you can e-mail the information to me at giddings@pennswoods.net or mail it to me at 3049 Enterprise Drive, State College, PA 16801 or fax it to me at 814-238-5927. Thank you in advance for helping the PGWA outreach and education efforts.

PGWA Shirts Available

PGWA has been selling t-shirts and polo shirts at its recent meetings. If you have not purchased one, now is the time to put in your request. We want to be sure to have enough inventory for our Winter Conference. T-shirts are \$10, and polo shirts are \$35. They are royal blue with the yellow PGWA logo. Call (717) 773-7215 or email jodisnyder@comcast.net to put in your request prior to the Conference.

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2004 Summer Field Conference Highlights



Dennis Duty of Baroid and John Buehler demonstrate how to grout heat pump loops in wells with thermal grout



Attendees watch the drilling demonstration for the ground source heat pump loop



Special Thanks

This year's Summer Field Conference would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of so many volunteers. First and foremost, Fry's Plastic donated the use of their land and put in many hours planning the conference, as well as preparing a tasty barbecue dinner.

Our exhibitors once again came through in supporting PGWA, not only financially, but with their wonderful displays and demonstrations that were held throughout the day.

Our demonstrations would not have been possible without the many donations of equipment and time by the presenters. John Buehler not only served as the MC, but he spent many hours in planning the conference along with Rick Raab, Summer Field Conference Chair. Demonstrations included: Proper Use of Pennsylvania One Call; Drilling for Ground Source Heat Pump Loop (rig donated by Rotary Drilling Equipment); Safe Excavating and Shoring Demonstration by OSHA; Installing Heat Pump Loops (backhoe supplied by Groff Equipment); and

Grouting Heat Pump Loops in Wells With Thermal Grout (thanks to Geo-Loop).

A General Membership meeting followed the barbecue dinner. The minutes to that meeting can be found in this newsletter on pages 4 and 5.

Our manufacturers and suppliers also donated much of the food and beverages that were offered throughout the day. We are so grateful to have so many supporters in this industry. Please plan to attend future meetings to see how many ways PGWA works to better your industry.

Handling Complaints About Drillers Who are Not Licensed

by Susan Wood, Assistant Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

After receiving numerous complaints about unlicensed drillers and shoddy workmanship in our industry, Judy Bear contacted DCNR's Assistant Chief Counsel to clarify the Water Well Drillers Act, and enforcement thereof. Following is a copy of the correspondence received pertaining to these issues.

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

The Water Well Drillers Act, the act of May 29, 1956, P.L. 1840 (32 P.S. § § 645.1 et seq.), charges the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) with administering the Act. A person who has a complaint about a water well driller may call DCNR's Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey. The contact person is **Jody Zipperer, (717) 702-2017**. The Bureau will determine from its records whether the driller is licensed and the driller's rigs are permitted as required by the Water Well Drillers Act. If it appears that the driller is in violation of the Act, the Bureau will consult with DCNR counsel. With assistance of counsel, the Bureau will contact the driller and request that he cease drilling until he is properly licensed and his rigs are permitted. The Bureau will advise the driller of the criminal sanctions for violation of the Act.

DCNR does not have jurisdiction to enforce the Water Well Drillers Act, as discussed below. It also should be noted that the Act, which was enacted in 1956 and has never been amended, is neither a consumer protection law nor an environmental protection law. It does not regulate the quality of a driller's work. It only requires that drillers obtain licenses and rig permits from DCNR and that they keep records and file reports.

Criminal Enforcement of the Water Well Drillers Act

The sanctions provided in the Water Well Drillers Act for violating the Act are criminal rather than civil penalties. Because the penalties are criminal, only the state Attorney General and county district attorneys have statutory jurisdiction to

enforce the Act, i.e. criminally prosecute drillers. DCNR does not have this jurisdiction. The Attorney General and the district attorneys have the discretion to decline to prosecute a particular case. Because the penalties for violation of the Water Well Drillers Act are so mild- they range from summary offense to misdemeanor, with fines from \$10 to \$500—it would not be surprising if the Attorney General and district attorneys decided that prosecution of a particular case would not be worth the cost of prosecution.

A prosecution under the Act would more likely to be handled by a county district attorney than by the Attorney General unless the case has statewide implications, in which case the Attorney General might have a particular interest in handling the prosecution. To request prosecution of a driller, the complainant may directly contact the district attorney in the county where the unlicensed drilling took place. However, DCNR strongly recommends that before contacting the district attorney, the complainant contact DCNR's Topographic and Geologic Bureau (see above). The Bureau could then determine from its records whether the driller is licensed and discuss with the complainant the available options if the complainant wishes to pursue the matter further. If the complainant then decides to contact the district attorney, the Bureau would be available to work with the district attorney as needed.

Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law

In addition to or as an alternative to criminal enforcement, a consumer who has a complaint about a driller may file a complaint with the State Attorney

General's Bureau of Consumer Protection. This is a separate division of the Attorney General's office from its criminal division. This Bureau enforces the Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law, the act of Dec. 17, 1968, P.L. 1224, No. 387, as amended and reenacted by the act of Nov. 24, 1976, P.L. 1166, No. 260 (73 P.S. § § 201-1 et seq.). A person who holds himself out as a water well driller and drills a well for a consumer without being licensed could be engaging in an unfair or deceptive practice in violation of this law. Complaints by consumers against such drillers usually arise when the consumer is dissatisfied with the quality of the driller's work.

The Bureau of Consumer Protection has the power to file a lawsuit against the driller. The lawsuit may seek an injunction against further drilling, civil penalties, and restitution of the money paid to the driller by the consumer. This avenue of relief may be more effective for consumers than seeking criminal enforcement of the Water Well Drillers Act.

Consumers may file a complaint directly with the Bureau of Consumer Protection. However, as with criminal matters brought to district attorneys, DCNR strongly recommends that before contacting the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection, the consumer call DCNR's Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey.

The central office of the **Bureau of Consumer Protection may be contacted at (717) 787-9707**. The caller may be referred to one of seven regional Bureau offices based on the county where the drilling occurred.

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DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty Visits

by Todd Giddings, Ph.D., P.G.

Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen McGinty visited the PGWA display table at Penn State's Ag Progress Days exposition in Centre County. Secretary McGinty learned about the PGWA outreach and education programs, studied our clear-plastic see-through operating model water well, and then injected red dye into the ground-water flow model and watched the dye plume flow to the discharge point at the stream. She commented on the effectiveness of the ground-water flow model to teach school children. Next, she visited the Master Well Owner Network display table next to our table, and learned about the Master Well Owner Network educational program from Master Well Owner Ken Straub from Cameron County. Ken was trained as a Master Well Owner in a workshop in St. Marys where Judy and Andy Bear from Coudersport Well Drilling were instructors. To learn more about the Master Well Owner Network training program, go to <http://mwon.cas.psu.edu>.

We were able to talk to and educate hundreds of Ag Progress Days attendees who visited our table during the three days of Ag Progress Days. Once again the clear-plastic see-through operating model water well was a great tool to teach about proper well construction and ground-water quality protection. The ground-water flow model attracted many children to our table, and this provided an opportunity to educate their parents also. Having our table next to the Master Well Owner Network display table doubled the opportunities to educate well owners. Almost all of the farms in Pennsylvania have water-supply wells, so Ag Progress Days is a good opportunity to educate farm well owners, and is the single largest outreach and education program of the PGWA. Thanks to David Powell, Dick Raab, Susan Green, and Judy and Andy Bear for their many hours of educating well owners and their children at the PGWA table this year.



DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty discussing the need for residential well construction standards with PGWA Director Richard Raab



DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty injecting dye into the ground water flow model

PGWA at Penn State's Ag Progress Days

PGWA Director and Treasurer Judy Bear demonstrates the ground water flow model to a crowd of Ag Progress Days visitors



Master Well Owner Ken Straub from Cameron County explains the Master Well Owner Network Program to Secretary McGinty

PGWA member Susan Green and PGWA Director David Powell operating and explaining the ground water flow model



The Importance of Senate Bill No. 1148

by Judy Bear, CWD, CPI, Coudersport Well Drilling

Senate Bill No. 1148, Session of 2004, was referred to the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee on June 9, 2004. Senator Mary Joe White, of Durango County, chairs this committee. Reliable sources have indicated that this bill will be held in committee indefinitely, without coming to the Senate floor for discussion or voting. It is very important that the PGWA direct private well owners to contact this Senator and the others on the Committee to recognize the value to environmental protection of this great state's ground water, and the fact that there are unqualified individuals being permitted to degrade this resource. Hairdressers are trained, licensed and inspected before being able to open their doors. Municipal water system operators are trained, tested and certified before being able to run any municipal water system. And yet, in Pennsylvania, without required licenses for water well contractors, virtually ANYONE can become a water well driller. Pennsylvania well drillers are not required to be trained, certified, or provide evidence of competency.

Currently, environmental damage incurred by the well driller is the responsibility of the homeowner. In most cases, homeowners know very little or nothing about ground water, the lack of state-provided recourse, and they have a false sense of security that they are protected – since ground water and drinking water are SO IMPORTANT, there MUST BE laws. Unfortunately, quality well drilling can sometimes be forgotten in the course of our business – drilling to make a rig payment sometimes becomes the goal.

Read this bill – note the recommended changes (underlined areas). Inform your customers about this bill, and give them the information so they can make a difference in the future of water well drilling in Pennsylvania.

As of July 15, 2004, members of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee are: Mary Jo White, Chair; Edwin Erickson, Vice Chair; Stewart Greenleaf; John Pippy; James Rhoades; Donald White; Raphael Musto, Minority Chair; J. Barry Stout; Anthony Williams; and John Wozniak. Three members of this committee actually

sponsored/cosponsored Senate Bill No. 1148 – and yet the committee is not expected to permit this important, minor change to be presented on the Senate floor. It is vital that you and your customers

contact these legislators and demand that Pennsylvania make water well drillers in our state show their competency by requiring certification before being issued a Pennsylvania Water Well Drillers License.

The General Assembly of Pennsylvania Senate Bill No. 1148 Session of 2004

Introduced by Greenleaf, Erickson, Pileggi, Lemmond, Rafferty, C. Williams, and Wozniak, June 9, 2004

Referred to Environmental Resources and Energy, June 9, 2004

An Act

Amending the act of May 29, 1956 (1955 P.L. 1840, No. 610), entitled, as amended, “An act defining and providing for the licensing of water well drillers; prevention of pollution of underground waters; conferring powers and imposing duties on the Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey; and prescribing penalties and fees,” further providing for license required to drill water wells, for application and for records and reports.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Section 4(a) and 6(a) of the act of May 29, 1956 (1955 P.L. 1840, No. 610), known as the Water Well Drillers License Act, are amended to read:

Section 4. License Required to Drill Water Wells. -- (a) After the effective date of this act, no person shall drill a water well within the Commonwealth, unless he has first secured from the department a license issued in such form and subject to such reasonable rules and regulations as the department shall prescribe, or unless he is drilling such well within the scope of his employment by a licensed well driller. Any person seeking to be licensed to operate a drilling rig shall pass a licensing examination in accordance with section 6(a)(6).

Section 6. Application.--(a) Before any water well driller's license is issued, application shall be made, in writing, to the department on a form prepared and furnished by the department. Such application shall contain a statement showing (1) the name of the applicant, (2) the business address of the applicant, (3) the residence of the applicant, (4) the number of drilling rigs the applicant intends to operate during the license year and a short description of each rig, (5) such additional information as the department may require [.] and (6) proof the applicant has passed a general examination and at least one drilling specialty examination offered by the National Ground Water Association. Such documentation shall be provided to the department through electronic means or other written means by the National Ground Water Association.

Section 2. Section 10 of the act is amended by adding a subsection to read:

Section 10. Records and Reports.--***

(d) The department shall compile and maintain a current registry of water well drillers and water well drilling rig operators. Such registry shall be made available to the public. The department may make the registry available on its World Wide Web site.

Section 3. This act shall take effect in one year.

Sponsors of S.B. 1148

Please thank the following Senators for introducing this important piece of legislation and continuing to move the bill to passage:

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Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

Please feel free to urge concerned well owners to write and/or call these particular policy makers.

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PGWA Joins Penn State Extension, EPA Region III, and PA DEP in Master Well Owner Network

The Master Well Owner Network is a program designed to educate and train 240 volunteers throughout Pennsylvania about water quality, source water protection, and proper well location, construction, and maintenance. Each volunteer of the program will attend a free training workshop within his or her region. Participants will receive a free chemical analysis of their home water supply, a free sanitary well cap, a handbook of educational materials, and more!

David Powell, CWD, CPI, is Chairman of PGWA's Public Awareness and Outreach Committee. He is our contact person with the Network. Typically, the local Penn State Extension agent is contacting a well driller he/she has worked with in the past. A CD Power Point program is available from David Powell to assist in making the presentation, if you are asked to do so. This is a great opportunity for PGWA to reach many people. The MWO (master well owner) makes a commitment to contact 100 people in the next year – the extension agent documents this, and the extension agent maintains follow-up contact. These individuals are also invited to our 2005 Summer Meeting. They may contact you to install their varment proof well cap that was provided at the training. It is important that the PA drillers are aware of this program, and support these MWO's when they call you. MWO's are also available to you if you would like to do a local program for your Rotary, Knights of Columbus, Scouts, etc. Working with you will also help satisfy their required outreach. **Contact Stephanie Odenwold Clemens at (814) 865-2250 or mwon@psu.edu** for names of trained Master Well Owners.

From the Master Well Owner Network newsletter (with permission):

Master Well Owners "Springing" Up Throughout Pennsylvania

The Master Well Owner Network has a strong start with 52 trained Master Well Owners after only two workshops. With six more workshops scheduled through Spring 2005, we anticipate reaching our goal of 240 trained Master Well Owners statewide.

Our intent is to select individuals for this program who are interested in educating others in their community about what they have learned through the training. The ultimate goal is to disseminate the information necessary for people to protect the quality and quantity of their home drinking water, and to ensure that people are more aware of their own land-use activities so that they do not contribute to contamination of water supplies.

If successful, within two years, 24,000 residents in Pennsylvania will be educated through this program.

Master Well Owner Workshop a Success!

Two Master Well Owner Network training workshops were held in the spring of 2004. On April 17, 2004, 21 volunteers from the North Central region attended a training in St. Mary's, Pennsylvania. On May 8, 2004, 31 volunteers from the Capital region attended a training in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. With two workshops completed, these volunteers (now Master Well Owners) can begin spreading their knowledge to people in their local communities that rely on a private water system as their drinking water supply.

Many volunteers had positive comments about the training. One volunteer commented, "The training helped to make me more aware of the necessity for proper well construction and maintenance of my well. It also made me realize the impact my land usages may have on my neighbors."

Workshop content includes the following topics: well construction and location, wellhead protection, landuse impacts, springs and cisterns, drinking water standards, water testing and interpretation, water treatment, and water conservation. A ground water flow model demonstration helps participants to understand pollution transport and ground water flow. A plastic well, supplied by PGWA, illustrates the components that are found in a properly constructed water well.

PGWA trainers included Andy and Judy Bear at the St. Mary's training, and Bob and Todd Reichart at the Capital regional training.

Inexpensive Water Protection

One of the many ways that the Penn State Master Well Owner Network (MWON) recommends protecting your home drinking water is to install a sanitary well cap. A sanitary well cap is attached to the top of your well in the place of a standard well cap. A sanitary well cap creates a watertight seal so that insects, small rodents, and surface water can not enter the well.

Sanitary well caps are very inexpensive (less than \$40/each) and any person constructing a new well should ask their well driller to install one. They should also be installed on existing wells, although a professional should still be involved for safety reasons.

All volunteers of the MWON will be given a free sanitary well cap for their participation in the program.

Upcoming Events

September 25, 2004

Training in Northeast Region. Contact Peter Wulforth (ptw@psu.edu).

October 16, 2004

Training in Southeast Region. Contact Andrew Curtis (arc10@psu.edu).

Fall 2004-Spring 2005

Training for South Central, Northwest, and Susquehanna Regions. Check <http://mwon.cas.psu.edu> for more details

PENNSYLVANIA STATE WATER PLAN

Planning Today for Generations Yet to Come

- Public Participation -



Pennsylvania State Constitution, Article I, Section 27:

"The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people."

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is currently implementing the Water Resources Planning Act (Act 220 of 2002), which calls for the State Water Plan to be updated by March 2008, and updated every 5 years thereafter. To carry out the planning provisions of the law, a Statewide Water Resources Committee was formed to help guide the development of the State Water Plan through a collaborative process. Representing Pennsylvania's geographic diversity, six regional water resources committees were also created to facilitate the development of the regional components of the State Water Plan. Among their responsibilities, the statewide committee is to assist the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), in cooperation with the regional committees, to develop a public participation process to ensure that people throughout the Commonwealth with an interest in water resource issues have adequate opportunities to provide input into the creation of the new State Water Plan.

Major Provisions of Act 220

Act 220 requires the state water plan to contain several key components, including:

- Surface and groundwater inventories;
- **Assessments** and projections of existing and future withdrawal use demands, nonwithdrawal use needs, the current and future ability of public water supply agencies to provide water to their service areas, floodplain and stormwater management problems, navigation needs and transportation facilities, water resources required to serve areas with important or unique natural, scenic, environmental or recreational values of significance, and structural and nonstructural alternatives to address identified water availability problems;

Why Do We Need to Protect Our Water Resources?

Pennsylvania is blessed with abundant resources; however, in the 21st century sufficient water to meet our needs does not just "happen," it must be protected from contamination and from over use. Our daily activities impact the quantity and quality of the water resources in our local watershed. To assure these water resources for future generations, we must manage them wisely.

Pennsylvanians rely heavily on our clean and abundant sources of water for vital everyday functions such as drinking, cooking and bathing, recreational activities like fishing, swimming, and boating, as well as agricultural, energy, industrial, and commercial uses, and use by the indigenous aquatic community. Clean water and healthy flows are vital to fish, wildlife, aquatic communities and plant life, and for sustaining critical habitats such as wetlands. In addition, Pennsylvania's current and future economic growth depends on the availability of quality water resources. Due to these and other demands, we need to take time to assess the links between water quantity, water quality, aquatic habitat, and water use and conservation, and evaluate how they will affect the future of Pennsylvania's economic growth and natural resources protection.

What Are the Benefits of Water Resources Planning in Pennsylvania?

Act 220 envisions a water resources planning process that involves all stakeholders engaged in an effort to answer basic questions such as how much water we have, how much water we use, and how much water we need. By planning for water resource needs using

- **Identification** of potential problems with water availability or conflicts among water uses and users, critical water planning areas where existing or future demands exceed or threaten to exceed the safe yield of available water resources, a process for identifying projects and practices that reduce the amount of water used or increase efficiency of use, practical alternatives for an adequate supply of water to satisfy existing and future reasonable and beneficial uses.
- A **review and evaluation** of statutes, regulations, policies, institutional arrangements, alternatives and recommended programs.

The six planning regions designated by Act 220 include:

- Delaware River Basin
- West Branch, Upper, Middle Susquehanna, and Chemung River Basins
- Juniata River, Lower Susquehanna River, Gunpowder, Northeast, and Elk Creek Basins
- Ohio River Basin
- Lake Erie and Genesee River Basins
- Potomac River Basin

sound scientific data on a watershed basis, decision makers at all levels of government and in the private sector, as well as citizens of the Commonwealth, will be able to assess the cumulative impact of our activities so that we can preserve and protect our water resources for current and future generations of Pennsylvanians. With proper planning, Pennsylvania's water resources are capable of serving multiple uses in a balanced manner. The Statewide Plan will empower the Commonwealth and its citizens to provide a high quality of life and economic prosperity through beneficial growth and economic development.

The updated State Water Plan will promote consistency between state, interstate, county, and local water resource plans. The updated Plan will also allow us to identify existing critical areas where water availability may be insufficient now or in the future.

How Can I Participate in the Process?

Public participation is a critical component of the State Water Plan and there are several opportunities to become involved with local water resource decisions that ultimately can impact your quality of life. Input at the local level is critical to identify the priorities of the public and determine how to best manage the water resources we use. Public meetings and hearings will be held across the state and public participation is encouraged. These meetings will take place in each of the six regional planning areas to better define local water resource problems and opportunities.

Water is one of Pennsylvania's most valuable resources and we need to do a better job of managing it wisely. Updating the State Water Plan is the first step in making sure that our vital water resources are available for future Pennsylvanians to enjoy.

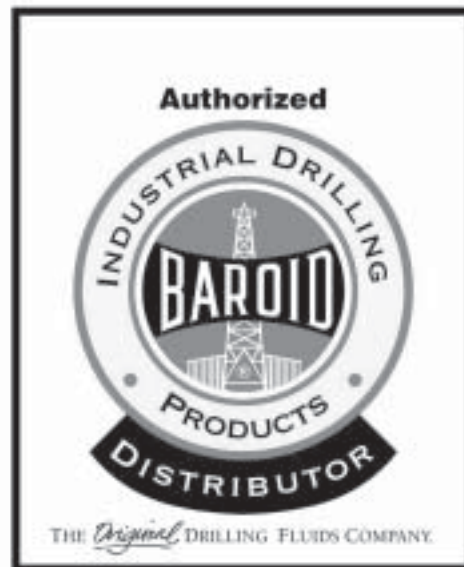
Regional Water Resource Planning Areas



For regional committee meeting dates and locations or for more information on Act 220 and the State Water Plan Update, visit DEP's website at www.dep.state.pa.us, Keyword "DEP Water Resources."

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2004 Meeting Schedule Regional Water Resources Committees

Delaware

October 8, 2004
December 10, 2004

Upper/Middle Susquehanna

October 21, 2004
December 16, 2004

Lower Susquehanna

October 4, 2004
December 6, 2004

Potomac

October 15, 2004
December 17, 2004

Great Lakes

October 12, 2004
December 14, 2004

Ohio

October 18, 2004
December 13, 2004

To find out where and when your regional meeting will be held, go to the Web at www.dep.state.pa.us and type in the keyword "water resources". On the Act 220 Web page, click on "Regional Water Resources Committee Homepages" and then click on "Meeting Dates 2004". Meeting locations and driving directions are posted before each meeting.



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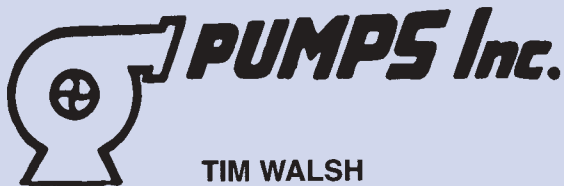


PGWA Membership

2004 invoices were mailed in December. In order to continue to receive the many benefits of membership, please make sure your dues are current. Remember, paying your dues entitles you to use of the Pennsylvania One Call System - free!

If you are unsure of your membership status, please call Jodi Snyder at (717) 773-, or complete another application to the right and enclose payment. **Thanks for your support!**

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PGWA Membership Application

- Contractor - \$75
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- Manufacturer - \$75
- Supplier - \$75
- Technical - \$75
- Additional members from same category - \$30

To the PGWA Board of Directors:

I hereby apply for membership in the Pennsylvania Ground Water Association and, if approved, agree to support the objectives of the Association and to pay the prescribed membership dues.

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Name _____

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