WATER RESOURCES PLANNING (ACT 220) and the STATE WATER PLAN
The Need for Water Planning
Water Plan Vision

- Pennsylvania has abundant and magnificent water resources, which should provide:
  - the basis for an exceptional quality of life for Pennsylvania’s residents
  - an opportunity for outdoor enthusiasts
  - an attraction for visitors
  - unparalleled natural beauty
  - thriving ecosystems
  - agricultural prominence
  - economic prosperity throughout the Commonwealth
Vision – Cont’d

- All those with an interest in Pennsylvania have a stake in the use, enhancement, and stewardship of the Commonwealth’s water resources.

- The Pennsylvania Constitution vests a right to pure water and the values of the natural environment in all Pennsylvanians, and imposes a duty to conserve and to maintain public natural resources for this generation and generations yet to come.
Achieving the Vision

1. The State Water Plan will offer tools and guidance for all those who make decisions that affect the Commonwealth’s water resources or who make decisions based upon the availability of water of adequate quantity and quality.

2. The Plan should be useful to:
   - those who wish to locate and to design their projects so that the availability of water resources does not constrain them.
   - those who wish to preserve high environmental quality where it exists and to achieve it where it does not.
   - local governments with planning, conservation, and economic development responsibilities.
   - Commonwealth and Interstate Compact agencies.
3. The Plan should serve their needs by providing:
   ✓ a qualitative and quantitative description of water resources in Pennsylvania based upon accurate, transparent, and readily accessible data
   ✓ guidance on the use of that description and those data in the decisions that face the Plan’s users

4. The Plan is a starting point for considering the opportunities available to Pennsylvanians for managing the state’s water resources
Act 220 of 2002
Water Resources Planning Act

1. Update the State Water Plan by 2008
2. Register and Report Certain Water Withdrawals
3. Identify Critical Water Planning Areas
4. Create Critical Area Resource Plans
5. Regional Priorities
1. Update the State Water Plan
Water Planning Regions

Regional Water Resource Planning Areas

- Counties
- 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
Water Planning

- 6 Regional Committees and 1 Statewide Committee to develop Plan for DEP approval and adoption

- Plan to be developed by March 2008

- Plan is to include a number of components, or “chapters,” including:
  - Surface and groundwater resources
  - Assessment and projection of withdrawal and non-withdrawal uses
  - Identification of potential problems and CWPAs
  - Assessment of public water supplies
  - Assessment of floodplain and storm water management problems
Water Planning – Cont’d

✓ Assessment of water resources required to serve areas with important or unique natural, scenic, environmental, or recreational values
✓ Process for identifying water conservation practices
✓ Identification of practical alternatives for adequate supply of water
✓ Assessment of structural and nonstructural alternatives to address identified problems
✓ Review and evaluation of existing legal and regulatory authorities
✓ Review and evaluation of water resources management alternatives and recommended provisions to meet needs
✓ Proposed methods of implementing recommended actions and activities
2. Registration and Reporting
User Registration

- Act 220 establishes interim registration requirements by March 2004 for:
  - All public water supply agencies
  - All hydropower facilities
  - All other users whose total withdrawal within a watershed exceeds an average rate of 10,000 gallons/day in a 30-day period
  - EQB to adopt regulations addressing
    - Registration
    - Periodic reporting
    - Recordkeeping of withdrawals

- **NO** metering of homeowner wells
Registration – Cont’d

- Paper forms
- Web registration through GreenPort
- Forms and registration available on the DEP website

http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/DEPUTATE/watermgt/wc/Act220/Registration/Default.htm

1-888-457-6653
3. Critical Water Planning Areas
Critical Water Planning Area

- “Critical Water Planning Area” is a “significant hydrologic unit where existing or future demands exceed or threaten to exceed safe yield of available water resources”

- CWPAs may be designated:
  - In the Statewide Plan
  - In advance of the Statewide Plan by the Statewide Committee and DEP, upon recommendation of a Regional Committee, if justified by evidence developed during the planning process

- DEP and the Statewide Committee to adopt CWPA “criteria” and “process” in 2005
4. Critical Area Resource Plans
Critical Area Resource Plans

- Upon designation of a CWPA, a Critical Area Resource Plan is to be developed.
- CARP is to be developed by the Regional Committee and approved by the Statewide Committee and DEP.
- CARPs shall include:
  - Identification of existing and future reasonable and beneficial uses.
  - Water availability evaluation, including a quantitative comparison of available resources to existing and future uses.
  - Identification of anticipated future needs.
  - Assessment of water quality issues that have a “direct and substantial” effect on water resource availability.
CARPs – Cont’d

✓ Consideration of storm water and floodplain management within the critical water planning area and their impacts on water quality and quantity

✓ Identification of existing and potential user conflicts and alternatives for addressing

✓ Identification of practicable supply-side and demand-side alternatives for assuring an adequate water supply
Delaware River

Longest Undammed River
East of the Mississippi

330 miles
Delaware River Watershed Facts

- Nearly 15 million people (about 5% of the U.S. population) rely on the waters of the basin
- Drains 13,539 mi² (34,659 km²), or 0.4 of 1% of the continental U.S. land area
- 216 tributary streams
- 4 states, 42 counties, 838 municipalities
- 25 Congressional Districts
- 2 EPA regions
Pennsylvania Statistics for the Delaware Basin

- Population – 42% of the 12 million PA residents, living in 14% of PA land area
- 17 Counties
- 508 Municipalities
- 25 State Senate & 97 Representative Districts
- 6,456 square miles
- Over 2000 miles of streams listed as impaired
- Schuylkill River – largest tributary (1,895 sq. miles)
- Lehigh River – 2nd largest tributary (1,361 sq. miles)
- 1 trillion gallons of surface and groundwater withdrawals managed by DRBC annually
5. Delaware Regional Priorities
Delaware River Basin Regional Priorities

1. Sustainable Use and Supply
   - Human and Ecological Needs

2. Waterway Corridor Management
   - Flood mitigation, riparian ecosystems, natural stream channel stability, recreational access

   - Integrated management to sustain our quality of life
   - Preserving restoring and enhancing ecological resources
   - Recognizing communities’ social and economic relationships to natural resources.
   - Non-pt. sources, stormwater management
   - Environmentally sensitive development
Delaware River Basin Regional Priorities

4. Institutional Coordination and Cooperation
   - Partnerships – gov’t., private, NGOs, individuals
   - Define roles
   - Support valid data collection, management and sharing
   - Coordinate planning, investments and infrastructure across boundaries

5. Education and Involvement for Stewardship
   - Sharing an understanding and appreciation of the water resources and commitment
Public Participation Opportunities

- May 2005 – Public Meetings/Hearings in each region to solicit comments from interested persons on water resources planning issues related to the preparation of the regional component of the state water plan
- Regional and Statewide committee meetings
- Public meetings/hearings in each region to solicit input on the drafts of the initial regional plan components to be used in the development or amendment of the state water plan
## 2005 Regional Committee Meetings

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Act 220 Contact Information

Act 220 Hotline: (888) 457-6653

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Chair, Delaware Regional Committee

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Chair, Statewide Committee

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Questions and Comments