

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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IN RE: OHIO REGIONAL WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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BEFORE: RON ROHALL, Chair

HEARING: Monday, September 8, 2008
7:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Seven Fields Community Center
380 Castle Creek Drive
Seven Fields, PA 16046

WITNESSES: Charles Stowe, Todd Dillan, Ernie Smith,
Paul Jobe, Bill Marting

Reporter: Juliette Hoffman

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CHAIR:

Again, I thank everybody who has stuck around for the entire day and then others for the earlier meeting. I'm going to open the public hearing part with a statement here.

I'd like to welcome every one of you this evening to the Ohio Regional Water Resources Public Hearing to solicit input on the draft state water plan.

My name is Ron Rohall and I represent the Ohio Regional Water Resources Committee.

With us this evening are members of the Ohio Regional Water Resources Committee and staff from the Department of Environmental Protection.

At this time I would like to have the committee members and the DEP staff just state your names for the record. I'm Ron Rohall, chair of the committee.

MR. MINER:

Pat Miner.

MR. COURTNEY:

John Courtney.

MR. FLIS:

1 Jeff Flis (phonetic), DEP.
2 MR. RITCHEY:
3 Bob Ritchey.
4 MR. STOWE:
5 Chuck Stowe.
6 MR. IRELAND:
7 Dan Ireland.
8 MR. BLAUVELT:
9 Scott Blauvelt.
10 MR. UHAZY:
11 Roger Uhazy (phonetic).
12 MR. SOFFCHECK:
13 Bob Soffcheck.
14 MR. BROWERMAN:
15 Mitchell Browerman.
16 MR. BRAUN:
17 Jay Braun, DEP.
18 MR. JOSTENSKI:
19 David Jostenski, DEP.
20 MS. CLARK:
21 Marie Clark.
22 MS. MOHR:
23 Lori Mohr, DEP.
24 MR. ZUBUDEA:
25 Andy Zubudea (phonetic), DEP.

1 MR. ADAMS:

2 Duke Adams, DEP.

3 MS. SINKO:

4 Deb Sinko, S-I-N-K-O.

5 CHAIR:

6 That's all the committee members. Thank
7 you. The purpose of this hearing is is to solicit
8 input to the Draft State Water Plan. This hearing
9 satisfies the requirements of the Water Resources
10 Planning Act. Notice of this meeting was published in
11 The Pennsylvania Bulletin on August 23rd, 2008. This
12 meeting was also advertised in several area papers.

13 In order for everyone --- in order to
14 give everyone an equal opportunity to comment this
15 evening I would like to establish the following ground
16 rules.

17 One, we will first call upon the
18 witnesses who have pre-registered to testify at this
19 evening's hearing as included in the schedule of
20 witnesses. After hearing from these witnesses, I will
21 provide any other interested party with the
22 opportunity to testify as times allows.

23 Two, oral testimony is limited to ten
24 minutes for each witness.

25 Three, organizations are requested to

1 designate one witness to present testimony on its
2 behalf.

3 Four, each witness is asked to submit
4 three written copies of his testimony, his or her
5 testimony, to aid in the transcribing of the hearing.

6
7 Five, please state your name and address
8 for the record prior to presenting your testimony.

9 Six, we would also appreciate your help
10 in spelling names and terms that may not be generally
11 familiar so that the transcript can be as accurate as
12 possible.

13 In addition or in place of oral testimony
14 presented at today's hearing, interested persons may
15 submit written comments on this proposal. Comments
16 should be addressed to the Department of Environmental
17 Protection Water Planning Office, P.O. Box 2063,
18 Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063. Comments can also be
19 e-mailed to epstatewaterplan@state.pa.us. Contact
20 sheets with this information are available from DEP
21 staff persons.

22 All comments received at today's hearing,
23 as well as written comments received prior to
24 September 30th, 2008, will be considered by the
25 Regional Water Resources Committee. An official

1 comment/response document will not be prepared for
2 comments received at this hearing.

3 Anyone interested in a transcript of
4 these hearing may contact the reporter here this
5 evening to arrange to purchase a copy.

6 I would now like to call on our first
7 witness. And I'm going to go with the folks who
8 signed up. I don't know if they're here or not, but
9 Todd --- is Todd Dillan here?

10 MR. DILLAN:

11 Yes.

12 CHAIR ROHALL:

13 Okay. Todd, you have ten minutes.

14 MR. DILLAN:

15 Todd Dillan. Address is 933 Old Eden
16 Union Road, Eden Valley, Pennsylvania. I'm the
17 president of Dillan Well Drilling. I'm also on the
18 Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Groundwater
19 Association. I'm certified by the National
20 Groundwater Association in water well drilling and
21 pump installation.

22 Four and a half million people in
23 Pennsylvania use groundwater as their primary water
24 source. This important resource needs to be protected
25 against contamination entering in through improperly

1 constructed residential water wells which currently do
2 not have any regulations. Pennsylvania also has an
3 estimated 80 trillion gallons of groundwater residing
4 underground in its aquifers This vast amount of water
5 is enough to submerge the entire state at least eight
6 foot deep if it was brought to the surface.

7 I would like to recommend if the
8 committee could think this to be important to include
9 this residential water well construction standard as
10 part of one of their priority points in their plan,
11 adding it to the three they already have. And I also
12 would like to thank everyone for their time they spent
13 working on this committee. I know you're taking time
14 out of your busy schedules. Thank you.

15 CHAIR ROHALL:

16 Thank you, Todd. Ernie Smith.

17 MR. SMITH:

18 Yes. My name is Ernie Smith and I am
19 president of Parker Brothers Well Drilling in
20 Hermitage, Pennsylvania, Mercer County. I'm a third
21 generation owner.

22 I first want to thank the committee for
23 the work they put into this and the interest that they
24 have shown. But I, too, hope that the priority of it
25 is moved up from where it is up to one of the major

1 ones. Pennsylvania has the second highest number of
2 residential wells in the nation. The groundwater
3 resources of Pennsylvania are important water
4 resources worthy of protection. And Pennsylvania is
5 only one of two states in the United States that has
6 no legislation or protection for residential
7 groundwater. And because of its importance we'd like
8 to see the priority moved up on your list. Thank you.

9 CHAIR:

10 Thank you. Paul Jobe.

11 MR. JOBE:

12 My name is Paul Jobe from 107 Jobe Road,
13 Greensburg, Pennsylvania, Westmoreland County. And
14 I'd just like to regulate --- or get some regulation
15 for well protection heads and see if --- is there any
16 coding in for liquid manure? Because right now down
17 in the conservation district they're pasturing 100
18 feet for pastures and putting trees in for
19 watersheds, and putting causeways in for sediment
20 control. But I don't see no regulations for liquid
21 manure certain footage from creek lines and
22 watersheds.

23 CHAIR:

24 Okay. Thank you, Paul. Bill Marting.

25 MR. MARTING:

1 I already commented. William Marting,
2 Jeannette, Pennsylvania. I'm a well driller for 50
3 some years. And I just want to thank the Board for
4 all the extra work they've gone to. Just like Paul,
5 I'd like to have it more recognized because it's very
6 much needed and we just need to clean up our act in
7 the water well drilling business.
8 Thank you.

9 CHAIR:
10 Herb Wilson.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER:
12 He's not here.

13 CHAIR:
14 No Herb. Okay. Lori, do we have the
15 signups?

16 MS. MOHR:
17 Chuck Stowe.

18 CHAIR:
19 Chuck Stowe.

20 MR. STOWE:
21 Charles Stowe, 213 Foxburg Road, Parker,
22 Pennsylvania. I'm a supervisor in Allegheny Township,
23 Butler County. Allegheny Township is located off exit
24 42 of Interstate 80. We are concerned about the
25 tolling of I-80 and what it will do to the economy in

1 our area. My congressman, Phil English, claims that
2 87 percent of the tolls collected from the I-80 will
3 go to mass transit. Why should the motorist who uses
4 the Interstate have to pay for mass transit? You may
5 wonder what I-80 has to do with the water plan.
6 However, if the same Harrisburg mentality is applied
7 to the water plan that has been applied to the tolling
8 of I-80, will the residents with private water sources
9 be required to help fund public water systems? I hope
10 not. Thank you.

11 CHAIR:

12 Was there anybody who has not signed up
13 that wanted to provide public testimony? No. Okay.
14 So I hereby adjourn this meeting at 7:38. Okay.
15 Thank you.

16

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18 MEETING CONCLUDED AT 7:38 P.M.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the
foregoing proceeding 918 Rohall
was reported by me, that I have read this
transcript on 9/18/08, and I attest
that this transcript is a true and
accurate record of the proceeding.

Juliette Hoffman
Court Reporter