

Water Resources Planning Act (220) and the State Water Plan, Then and Now

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PENNSYLVANIA'S PIECE OF THE EARTH'S WATER RESOURCES

- 42 inches of precipitation annually
- 83,161 miles of streams and rivers
- 3,900 lakes, ponds, and reservoirs
- 80 trillion gallons of ground water
- Direct connection to 20% of the Earth's fresh surface water



Questions?

- How much water do we have ?
- How much water do we use ?
- How much water do we need?



Question?



- When will the next drought hit Pennsylvania?



History

Pa's only water rights act was passed before the outbreak of World War II and affects only a small percentage of water use.



A History

- Act of July 25, 1913 authorized first "Water Resources Inventory"
- Ten Reports – completed by 1918
- First report *SWP-1 Planning Principles* published in 1975
- Nineteen Sub-basin Reports published from 1978 through 1983



**Act 220 of 2002
Water Resources Planning Act**

- Planning or Process Act
- Establishes a Framework for State Water Plan development



**Act 220 of 2002
Water Resources Planning Act**

- Update the State Water Plan within 5 years
- Register and Report Certain Water Withdrawals
- Identify Critical Water Planning Areas
- Create Critical Area Resource Plans
- Establish Voluntary Water Conservation Program



State Water Plan

- Completed in 5 years and updates every 5 years thereafter
- 6 Regional Components will be developed
- Regional components will be reviewed through an open public process
- Components will be incorporated into the State Water Plan



State Water Plan

- Inventory Water Resources (surface/GW/safe yield)
- Assessment/Projection of Future Use/Needs/ Demands
- Potential Conflicts/Problems
- Critical Water Planning Areas
- Current/Future Capabilities of Public Water Supplies Assessment of Floodplain/Stormwater Problems
- Assessment of Navigation Needs
- Assessment of Significant Water Resources



State Water Plan

- Process for Identifying Water Reduction Projects/Practices
- Identification of Practical Water Supply Alternatives to meet Existing/Future Needs
- Structural/Nonstructural Alternatives to Address Availability Problems
- Review/Evaluation of Statutes/Regulations/Policies
- Review/Evaluation of Water Management Program Alternatives to meet Regional Needs
- Implementation Plan



**State Water Plan
Considerations**

- Interconnection –Ground/Surface Water
- Regional Water Resource Needs and Priorities
- Federal, State, and Interstate Water Resource Policies, Plans, Priorities, Etc.
- Needs and Priorities of Comprehensive Plans and Zoning
- Water Quantity/Quality Necessary to Support Reasonable/ Beneficial Uses
- Balance Multiple Uses
- Distinction Between Long /Short Term Uses
- Benefits/Costs/Environmental and Social Impacts
- Equal/Uniform Treatment of All Water Users



Use of State Water Plan

- Policy and Guidance Document
- Provides Information, Objectives, practices and recommendations to help the private sector and government make informed decisions
- Does not contain regulations, prohibitions, prescriptions



Registration and Reporting

- Requires the the following uses of 10,000 gallons a day or more to be registered and then periodically reported to DEP:
 - All public Water supply agencies
 - All hydropower facilities
 - All users of 10,000 gallons a day or more in a 30 day period



Registration and Reporting

- No fees for registration and reporting
- Work with River Basin Commissions to share information and avoid duplication
- EQB will adopt regulations that will provide for alternatives to metering by water users with withdrawals between 10,000 and 50,000 gallons
- Prohibits the metering of home owner wells

Critical Water Planning Areas

- Areas identified in the process where demand exceeds or is projected to exceed supply
- Developed on a Watershed basis
- Critical Area Resource Plans or “water budgets” will be developed
- Critical Area Advisory Committees will be developed



Critical Water Planning Areas

- Regional Committees and the Critical Area Advisory Committees will develop the plan
- Plan will be submitted for review for consistency with the Official Planning Agency and governing body of each municipality in the identified area
- Regional Committee will recommend plan to Statewide Committee and DEP Secretary



Critical Area Resource Plans

- Include a water availability evaluation
- Assess water quality and water quantity issues
- Identify existing and potential adverse impacts on water resources uses



Voluntary Water Conservation Program

- Formal program to promote water conservation and water use efficiency
- Establish a Water Resource Technical Assistance Center to promote water conservation and efficiency education and technical assistance
- Grants for water resources education and technical assistance



Regional Water Resources Committees

- **Purpose:**
 - Guide the development of Regional Plan Component and recommend to Statewide Committee for Incorporation into the State Water Plan
 - Delaware, Upper/Middle Susquehanna, Lower Susquehanna, Ohio, Lake Erie/Genesee, Potomac Drainage Basins



Regional Water Resources Committees

- **Membership (22 voting):**
 - Four Planning Commission and Conservation District Members (minimum of 2)
 - Two Agriculture (1) Production and (1) Horticulture
 - One Public Water Supply Agency Rep.
 - One Public Waste Water Agency Rep.
 - Three Industrial, Commercial, Energy Development and Production
 - Three Environmental and Conservation Interest
 - Four Water Resource Professional (1) Registered Geologist
 - Three Local Government (other than counties)
 - Department Employee (non-voting)
 - Compact Commission Representative



Statewide Water Resources Committee

- **Purpose:**
 - Recommend to the Secretary the approval and adoption of the State Water Plan, including the regional components following a consultation process.



Statewide Water Resources Committee

- **Membership (24 voting):**
 - 6 from regional committees appointed House and Senate Leadership
 - 6 from cross section of water user interest appointed by the Governor
 - 6 from local government, environmental and professional groups appointed by the Governor
 - DEP, AG, DCNR, PFBC, PUC, PEMA voting members
 - DCED, GCLGS, Compact Commissions (ex officio non voting members)



Critical Area Advisory Committees

- **Purpose:**
 - Evaluate policy, program and management alternatives and advise the regional committee and DEP
 - **Membership:** Gov. Agencies, Agricultural, Public Water Supply, Industrial and other users, Environmental, and others with background in water resources planning and management



Implementation

- **Year One-Two:**
 - Establish Committees and Procedures
 - Initiate development of statewide information system
 - Initial registration
 - Draft priority and guidelines for regional plan components
 - Initiate draft regulations for registration requirements, reporting and record keeping



Implementation

- **Year Two-Three (2004):**
 - Hold Committee Meetings
 - Issue RFP for Regional Plan Components and State Water Plan assistance and award potential contract
 - Complete Initial Registration Process
 - Hold Public Meetings
 - Gather public and committee input
 - Establish Water Conservation and Technical Assistance Center



Implementation

- **Year Three(2005):**
 - Plan development
 - Committee meetings
- **Year Four(2006):**
 - Complete draft regional plan components
 - Hold public meetings



Implementation

- **Year Five (2007):**
 - Complete regional plan components
 - Prepare draft State Water Plan
 - Committee Meetings
 - Deliberative Process
 - Approve State Water Plan (*Feb 2008*)



Questions/Discussion

