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IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY AND SCHEDULE FOR REGIONAL AND STATEWIDE COMMITTEES
November 16, 2003

The following strategy and schedule describes how the interim obligations can be met and identifies key action items the should be addressed by the Regional and Statewide Committees to ensure that the State Water Plan is completed and adopted by the statutory deadline of March 16, 2008.

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES AND PRIORITY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS

2003

September 16 -- Regional Committee membership announced.

October 27 – Initial meeting of all Regional Committees held in Harrisburg.

December -- Hold round of Regional Committee meetings; the agenda should include

- Regional Committee, Statewide Committee and DEP responsibilities
- The past – current State Water Plan
- The future – new State Water Plan
- Planning and scoping 2004 meetings, and beyond
- Regional priorities and objectives

2004 – First Quarter

January -- Hold initial Statewide Committee meeting. This will be an informational and organizational meeting; the agenda should include:

- Welcome and introductions by Secretary McGinty
- Overview of Act 220
- Purpose and responsibilities of the Statewide Committee
- Discussion of practical matters (travel and subsistence reimbursement, and membership terms)
- Perspectives from around the country
- Election of Chair
- Consideration/adoption of bylaws
- Scheduling date an location of next meeting

February-- Hold round of Regional Committee meetings; the agenda should include:

- Regional priorities and objectives
- Water budgeting (USGS)

February -- Hold Statewide Committee meeting; the agenda should include:

- Discussion of draft policies and guidelines for
 - preparing and amending the State Water Plan
 - ensuring public participation in the development or amendment of the SWP
 - identifying critical water planning areas
 - developing critical area resource plans
 - priorities and guidelines for the level of planning detail appropriate for different watersheds and other hydrologic units
- Water budgeting (USGS)

2004 – Second Quarter

April – Hold round of Regional Committee meetings; the agenda should include:

- Chester County Water Resources Plan
- Regional priorities and objectives

April -- Hold Statewide Committee meeting; the agenda should include:

- Priorities and guidelines for the level of planning detail appropriate for different watersheds and other hydrologic units
- Draft policies and guidelines for preparing and amending the State Water Plan
- Ensuring public participation in the development or amendment of the SWP
- Identifying critical water planning areas
- Developing critical area resource plans.
- Discussion of draft regulations establishing requirements for the registration, periodic reporting and record keeping of withdrawals in accordance with provisions of the act
- Statewide data system fees

June -- Hold round of Regional Committee meetings; the agenda should include:

- Discussion of draft regulations establishing requirements for the registration, periodic reporting and record keeping of withdrawals in accordance with provisions of the act
- Regional priorities and objectives

June -- Hold Statewide Committee meeting; the agenda should include:

- Draft policies and guidelines for preparing and amending the State Water Plan
- Ensuring public participation in the development or amendment of the SWP
- Identifying critical water planning areas
- Developing critical area resource plans.
- Draft regulations establishing requirements for the registration, periodic reporting and recordkeeping of withdrawals in accordance with provisions of the act
- Priorities and guidelines for the level of planning detail appropriate for different watersheds and other hydrologic units
- Statewide data system fees

June -- Each Regional Committee holds at least one combined public meeting and hearing within its region to solicit input on water resources management and water resources planning within the region.

2004 – Third Quarter

August – Hold Regional Committee meetings; the agenda should include:

- Discussion of public meeting results and recommendations to the Department and the Statewide Committee on the development of the State Water Plan
- Discussion of draft regulations establishing requirements for the registration, periodic reporting and recordkeeping of withdrawals in accordance with provisions of the act

September -- Hold Statewide Committee meeting; the agenda should include:

- Adopt policies and guidelines for
 - Preparing and amending the State Water Plan
 - Ensuring public participation in the development or amendment of the SWP
 - Identifying critical water planning areas
 - Developing critical area resource plans.
 - Priorities and guidelines for the level of planning detail appropriate for different watersheds and other hydrologic units
 - Statewide data system fees
- Discussion of Regional Committee recommendations made as a result of the public meetings held in each planning area.

2004 – Fourth Quarter

October -- Hold round of Regional Committee meetings; the agenda should include:

- Review policies and guidelines for
 - Preparing and amending the State Water Plan
 - Ensuring public participation in the development or amendment of the SWP
 - Identifying critical water planning areas
 - Developing critical area resource plans.
 - Priorities and guidelines for the level of planning detail appropriate for different watersheds and other hydrologic units
 - Statewide data system fees

November – Hold Statewide Committee meeting; the agenda should include:
Recommend regulations establishing requirements for the registration, periodic reporting and record keeping of withdrawals for DEP to present to the EQB as proposed rulemaking.

December -- Hold Statewide Committee meeting; the agenda should include:

- Regional Plan Component outline

2005

Present regulations establishing requirements for the registration, periodic reporting and recordkeeping of withdrawals for DEP to the EQB as final rulemaking

Hold six rounds of Regional Committee meetings.

Hold four Statewide Committee meetings.

(Agendas will focus on developing the Regional Components to the State Water Plan and integrating six regional components in to one Comprehensive State Water Plan.)

2006

DEP completes initial draft of the regional plan components in consultation with the Regional Committees and the Statewide Committee.

The Department, in conjunction with the Statewide Committee and the Regional Committees, holds at least one combined meeting and hearing in each region to solicit input on drafts of the initial regional plan components to be used to develop the State Water Plan.

Hold Regional Committee meetings as needed.

Hold Statewide Committee meetings as needed.

2007

DEP completes final draft of regional plan components.

Each Regional Committee recommends the regional plan components to the Statewide Committee.

DEP prepares draft of State Water Plan in ongoing consultation with the Statewide Committee.

Hold Regional Committee meetings as needed.

Hold Statewide Committee meetings as needed.

The Statewide Committee approves or rejects the six regional plan components and recommends that the Secretary adopt the regional plan components (if a Regional Committee fails to comply with the requirements of the chapter, the Statewide Committee after providing 90 days written notice to the Regional Committees, shall propose, approve and recommend the regional plan components for that region).

The Secretary approves or disapproves the regional plan components in writing within 90 days of submission. (Within 90 days of receipt of a disapproval notice, that Statewide Committee shall recommend a revised plan.)

The Department, in conjunction with the Statewide Committee, makes the draft of the plan available for public review to solicit input on the draft plan.

The Statewide Committee approves the State Water Plan and recommends that the Secretary adopt the State Water Plan.

2008

The Secretary approves the State Water Plan.

By February 15: Ensure that the Secretary approves the State Water Plan.

Publish notice of adoption of the State Water Plan in the Pennsylvania Bulletin and post it on DEP's web site.

By March 16: Ensure that the notice of adoption is published in the Bulletin and post the final adopted State Water Plan on the DEP web site.