

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Department of Environmental Protection
Office of Water Management

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SUBJECT: Water Resources Planning Process Status and Update

TO: Statewide Committee Members

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As a follow up action to the June meeting of the Statewide Committee, we respectfully submit the following current activities update report.

Regulations

The draft regulations will be presented to the Environmental Quality Board on September 19, 2006.

Discharge Monitoring Reports

Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) data has been completed in the Great Lakes, Susquehanna, and Potomac River Basins with DMR data nearly complete in the Delaware. Additional discharge information is being collected for non-DMR files from DEP mining offices statewide. The Susquehanna River Basin Commission is continuing to collect DMR data in the Ohio River Basin. Discharges will be used within the USGS Screening Tool in conjunction with withdrawal information and USGS derived low flow statistics.

Water Use Analysis Tool (WUAT)

The USGS has been continuing to work with DEP and the DRBC in applying projection methodologies to develop demand projections for all sectors in conjunction with the data from water withdrawal registrations and reports. The initial runs of this GIS-based process have been completed. DEP staff is developing water use factors that will be incorporated in further WUAT runs. Completion of complete draft WUAT output is scheduled for October 2006.

Yield Analysis Tool (YAT)

Work continues on the development of the Yield Analysis Tool. It is expected to be available by the end of October.

Pilot Water Availability Screening

DEP has initiated a process by which DEP staff, in partnership with USGS and the river basin commissions, and input from committees, will perform a series of “pilot” water availability screenings utilizing the USGS budget screening tool and results of the WUAT projection runs. The purpose of these pilot screenings, performed at two “tiers” of detail to simulate statewide application, will be to test the developed methodologies, perform data verification and to better determine the level of effort to perform the screening on a statewide basis. Discussions are underway in developing a scope of work that will lead to an arrangement between DEP, USGS and the river basin commissions to perform the work during the next few months.

Implementation of statewide screening will take place subsequent to completion of all tools, processes, and the completion and review of the pilot.

Registration and Reporting Update

The number of registrations has not significantly increased over the past few report time periods. However, DEP staff is performing water use data system verification and clean up as part of a proposal to seek additional registrations from facilities that have old water use data records from previous water surveys in the 1980’s and 1990’s.

The Department has received and is awaiting DEP Information Technology web review tools to process 2004 and 2005 annual paper and web-based reports from all water use sectors. Reminders to registrants will be made in January 2007 for reporting 2006 withdrawals. With the new web reporting system, registrants can utilize “self-monitoring” functions within the web system to report their water use without involvement of DEP. Registrants will be encouraged to utilize the web-based reporting system to reducing paper work and improve the processing efficiency and use of their information by DEP.

Total Source Registrations

	Apr-05	Sep-06
Public Water Supply Agency	4,239	5013
Agriculture	937	1146
Golf Course	310	583
Mining	331	439
Hydropower	16	13
Thermoelectric	61	110
Other (institutional, industrial...)	1,561	1430
Total Source Registrations	7,455	8734

Total Number of Estimated Sources in PA: 12,000

Public Water Supply Registrations

Public Water Supply (PWS) Agencies in PA	2,172
PWS who have submitted registrations (complete or partial)	1,690
PWS who have not submitted any registrations	482
PWS Sources (from WUDS)	6,431
Registered PWS sources	5013

Subcommittee Status and Reports

CWPA Subcommittee– The CWPA Subcommittee met on Aug. 3 to continue the discussions on the guidelines for development of Critical Area Resource Plans (CARPs). The Subcommittee agreed to send the next version out to the Statewide Committee for discussion and eventual distribution to the Regional Committees.

P&I Subcommittee- DEP staff is currently working with the subcommittee to develop draft text for the marketing document. The subcommittee has held several conference calls over the summer and hopes to have a draft of the document to present to the Statewide committee early in 2007. In addition, the subcommittee has commented on the draft regional atlas specifications drafted by DEP.

Regional Committee Activities

During the August round of Regional Committee meetings, the committee members held a facilitated session to discuss regional action agendas and specifically worked to turn their lists of priorities into “desired outcomes,” with an eye toward the November meetings when the committee members will be working on developing objectives to achieve the desired outcomes and begin drafting initial recommendations. This information will be included in the regional action agendas.