

# Citizens Advisory Council

to the Department of Environmental Protection

P.O. Box 8459 • Rachel Carson State Office Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8459 • 717-787-4527 • Fax 717-772-2291  
Please Note: Our New Fax Number is 717-772-5748

May 16, 2001

The Honorable Mary Ann Dailey  
House of Representatives  
408 South Office Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative Dailey:

Thank you for giving the Citizens Advisory Council to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection the opportunity to review your draft legislation that will address water well construction and licensing of water well drillers and contractors.

The Council supports the approach outlined in House Bill 1591 (PN 1945) and its Senate companion Senate Bill 870 (PN 1003). These bills will help to protect the integrity of the Commonwealth's groundwater resources and offer an additional level of protection to our many citizens that rely on private well water supplies.

A properly constructed well is the first line of defense in protecting public health and the groundwater resources that we all rely upon. Establishing minimum, statewide water well construction, modification and closing standards and requiring training and licensing of water well drillers and contractors are important mechanisms in protecting groundwater quality, and fill critical gaps in existing requirements. In addition, the reporting requirements will help develop and maintain an accurate picture of groundwater use throughout the Commonwealth, and better enable future water resources management efforts.

We support and thank you for your efforts to protect groundwater and public health. We also commend you on your successful coalition building, as evidenced by the many endorsements for this legislation that you have already received. Please call Sue Wilson, Council's Executive Director, at (717) 787-4527 if you have any questions, or if we can provide any further information or assistance.

Sincerely,

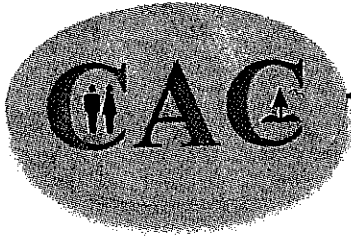
David L. Strong  
Chairperson

Attachment



The following questions remained after the CAC's review of the Water Well Construction legislation:

- Is the definition of "aquifer" consistent with usage of the term in other laws and regulations? We suggest that consideration be given to the addition of the words "in a usable quantity" to the end of the definition of aquifer found on page 3 (Section 3) of the bill.
- On page 22 of the draft legislation, Section 9 (c) states that "Only one water-well construction, alteration or decommissioning operation can be directly supervised by a licensed water-well driller at any given time unless all of the water -well construction, alteration or decommissioning operations being supervised simultaneously are being done for the same client, on the same site and under the same contract with that client." We request information on the basis for this restriction as it may be unnecessarily restrictive to water well contractors.
- The draft addresses both licensing of water well contractors and certification of water well drillers; it appears that the draft mixes the terms 'water well driller' and 'water well contractor' as well as 'licensed' and 'certified', and should be checked to be sure that each section is using the appropriate terms.



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May 16, 2001

The Honorable Stewart J. Greenleaf  
Senate  
19 East Wing  
Senate Box 203012  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Senator Greenleaf:

Thank you for giving the Citizens Advisory Council to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection the opportunity to review your draft legislation that will address water well construction and licensing of water well drillers and contractors.

The Council supports the approach outlined in House Bill 1591 (PN 1945) and its Senate companion Senate Bill 870 (PN 1003). These bills will help to protect the integrity of the Commonwealth's groundwater resources and offer an additional level of protection to our many citizens that rely on private well water supplies.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David L. Strong".

David L. Strong  
Chairperson

Attachment



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