

## **Act 220 of 2002**

### **Water Resources Planning Act**

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

### 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

•**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.

•**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 (2003):**

- 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

•**Year Two (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

•**Year Three(2005):**

- Plan development
- Committee meetings

•**Year Four(2006):**

- Complete draft regional plan components
- Hold public meetings

•**Year Five (2007):**

- Complete regional plan components
- Prepare draft State Water Plan
- Committee Meetings
- Deliberative Process

–Approve State Water Plan (**Feb 2008**)