



PA Water Resources Planning Act (Act 220)

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What is Act 220 (The Water Resources Planning Act)?

Act 220, passed in December 2002, requires the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to update Pennsylvania's State Water Plan to determine how much water we have, how much we use, and how much will be available in the future.

Why update the State Water Plan?

The State Water Plan has not been updated in more than 25 years. As a result, we do not know which areas presently have critical water needs until wells and local water supplies are dry. Since 1900, residential water use has increased from five gallons to 62 gallons daily per person. Total water use in Pennsylvania has climbed to 10 billion gallons per day, and conflicts are increasing over the same sources of water. In addition to increased water use, Pennsylvania has experienced serious drought conditions during eight of the past 10 years.

What does Act 220 require agricultural producers to do?

Act 220 **REQUIRES** any commercial, industrial, agricultural or individual activity that withdraws or uses 10,000 or more gallons of water per day, averaged over any 30-day period, to register and periodically report their water use to DEP. Those activities that use less than 10,000 gallons per day may choose to register **VOLUNTARILY** to help DEP get a more complete picture of water use.

What is the time line for registration?

Mid-September	Pennsylvania agricultural organizations mail pre registration packets to producers.
Mid-October	Target date to return pre registration forms to allow DEP to start processing them by December. However, DEP will continue to process these forms after the October 15, 2003 deadline.
December	Detailed registration forms are mailed out to those that pre-registered. Producers will need to measure or estimate water use from EACH of their water sources. Registration may be done using paper forms or the Web
March 16, 2004	Final registration deadline

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