

Great Lakes & Ohio Regional Water Resources Committees  
Public Hearing  
May 10, 2005  
7:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.  
Erie County Conservation District  
1927 Wager Road  
Erie, PA

## **OPENING STATEMENT**

### **Great Lakes & Ohio Regional Water Resources Committees Public Hearings**

### **State Water Plan Regional Committee Input on Water Resources Management Issues**

I would like to welcome you this evening to the Great Lakes and Ohio Regional Water Resources public hearing to solicit input on water resources management issues in the Great Lakes basin and the Ohio River basin.

My name is Nick Mobilia and I represent the Great Lakes Regional Water Resources Committee. I would also like to introduce Ronald Rohall, chair of the Ohio Regional Water Resources Committee and Bill Gough, vice chair of the Great Lakes Regional Water Resources Committee.

With us this evening are members of the Great Lakes Regional Water Resources committee and staff from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

John Hines  
Executive Director, Water Planning Office

Lori Boughton  
Office of the Great Lakes

Pam Bishop  
Bureau of Regulatory Counsel

Stuart Gansell  
Director, Bureau of Watershed Conservation

Bill Gast  
Division of Water Use Planning

Lori Mohr  
Water Planning Office

The purpose of this hearing is to solicit input on water resources management issues in the Great Lakes Basin and the Ohio River basin. This hearing satisfies the requirements of Section 3115(b)(1)(I)

of Act 220 of 2002, the Water Resources Planning Act, which requires that each regional committee to hold 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. Notice of this meeting was published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on February 5, 2005, and again on April 30, 2005. The meeting was also advertised in the Harrisburg Patriot News and the Erie County Times.

In order to give everyone an equal opportunity to comment this evening, I would like to establish the following ground rules:

1. I will first call upon the witnesses who have preregistered to testify at this evening's hearing as included on the schedule of witnesses. After hearing from these witnesses, I will provide any other interested parties with the opportunity to testify as time allows.
2. Oral testimony is limited to ten minutes for each witness.
3. Organizations are requested to designate one witness to present testimony on its behalf.
4. Each witness is asked to submit three written copies of his or her testimony to aid in transcribing the hearing. Please hand me your copies prior to presenting your testimony.
5. Please state your name and address for the record, prior to presenting your testimony.
6. We would also appreciate your help in spelling names and terms that may not be generally familiar so that the transcript can be as accurate as possible.

In addition to or in place of oral testimony presented at today's hearing, interested persons may also submit written comments on this proposal. All comments must be received by the Water Planning Office on or before June 30, 2005. Comments should be addressed to the Department of Environmental Protection Water Planning Office, c/o Lori Mohr, P.O. Box 2063, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063. Comments can also be e-mailed to [laumohr@state.pa.us](mailto:laumohr@state.pa.us).

All comments received at today's hearing, as well as written comments received by June 30, 2005, will be considered by the Regional Water Resources Committee, as we develop the regional component of the state water plan. An official comment/response document will not be prepared for comments received at this Hearing.

Anyone interested in a transcript of this hearing may contact the reporter here this evening to arrange to purchase a copy.

I would now like to call for the first witness.

*XXXXXXXXX Introduce individuals that pre-registered to testify XXXXXXXXXXXX*

*(If no one has pre-registered to testify, open the floor to any person attending the hearing who wishes to provide testimony. After the last person testifies, please state the following:)*

I hereby adjourn this hearing at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.