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State Water Plan Components: Public Information Document (Marketing – Title To Be Determined Later)

The public information document for the State Water Plan will cover major activities of water users (agriculture, mining, development, etc.). It will highlight the importance of these activities in Pennsylvania, the uses of water and the economic benefits water provides, and successful examples of water use management to engage each reader in the State Water Plan. The document will stress the importance of planning for the future with the State Water Plan as a tool to help resolve conflicts.

A Learning to LEAD project is also underway to develop a marketing strategy to best utilize the marketing document and other State Water Plan promotional opportunities.

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State Water Plan Components: Pennsylvania Water Atlas – Penn’s Waters

The atlas will use and highlight water resources data that are the foundation of the technical analysis. Current water resources information will be depicted using a combination of maps, charts, text and photographs. The atlas will be divided into six regional sections and will include details specific to each basin, such as socio-economic and land use features, regional resources and physical features as well as an explanation of water budgeting and how it will be used in the State Water Plan. An overview of the Statewide Action Agenda and web links for more State Water Plan information and updates will be emphasized.

A web version of the regional atlas will contain more dynamic information, in addition to the static information in the tabletop atlas, thus lending itself more easily to real-time updates. The web atlas will provide an interactive display of regional features, data and facts at a watershed and sub-watershed level. It will also contain the abbreviated results of the technical analyses using GIS tools.

Act 220 Section 3112(a) Plan Contents: Component 10

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State Water Plan Components: Setting the Course - Action Agendas For Our Future

The Regional Action Agendas will contain recommendations and processes for change for each basin. The Regional Priorities, developed by the Regional Committees in 2004, will be the foundation for the Regional Action Agendas. The Regional Committees continue to develop their Priorities and will ultimately state specific desired outcomes and recommendations for local planning and water resources management for 2008, 2013 and for the longer term of 2030. These will include Critical Water Planning Area (CWPA) Recommendations.

The Statewide Action Agenda will include the executive summary, goals, and objectives for the State Water Plan.

Act 220 Section 3112(a) Plan Contents: Component 16

State Water Plan Components: Resources Inventory and Assessment, Including Identification of Potential Critical Water Planning Areas

The identification of critical water planning areas will be accomplished through a two “tier” application of a water budget screening process utilizing a series of demand projection methodologies and a budget-screening tool. The DEP, with assistance of the USGS, DRBC and the SRBC will first use these tools and processes on two pilot watersheds while at the same time conducting a thorough verification process on the withdrawal and discharge data used in the analyses. The pilot work will be followed by a state-wide application of the process that will identify “critical water planning areas” or where demand may exceed supply under current and future conditions.

The USGS Budget Screening Tool is a GIS processing tool by which a technical team of DEP staff with support from USGS staff will compare water availability with demands. The results of this tool will be the identification of watersheds or regions for which demands may exceed supplies during low flow periods. Results of the USGS Screening Tool analysis will be displayed as maps and text via the web using the WAVE or some other display means. The results could be added to the printed version of the Regional Atlas if it is appropriate.

The Water Use Analysis Tool or “WUAT” is a complementary series of processes that are being used by the Department to estimate current water withdrawal demands for which our registration and reporting process may not represent a complete set of withdrawals for certain sectors and to develop withdrawal demand projections for all sectors. The outcome of the WUAT work will be data sets that are input into the USGS Screening Tool to fill in the data “gaps” from registration and reporting and to help identify areas where future demands may exceed resources.

The Yield Analysis Tool will be a GIS based tool that will provide the staff of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC), the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), and the PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) with the ability to perform water resources related yield analysis functions.

Act 220 Section 3112(a) Plan Contents: Components 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

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State Water Plan Components: Issues Analysis

Act 220 requires us to perform an assessment and include recommendations related to navigational needs, stormwater problems, and public water supply assessments. These topics will be released in separate papers and recommendations from these papers will be considered by the regional committees and the statewide committee as they develop the action agendas. In addition, a review and assessment of statutes, regulations, policies, and institutional arrangements will be conducted and summarized in a white paper for committee review and consideration as they develop recommendations for the statewide action agenda.

Act 220 Section 3112(a) Plan Contents: Components 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15

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State Water Plan Components: Supporting Resources

Supporting resources for State Water Plan activities include a Water Conservation Technical Assistance Center, which is currently under development. Other supporting resources that already exist include Critical Water Planning Area and Critical Area Resource Plan Guidance Documents and registration and reporting regulations.

Guidelines for the Identification of Critical Water Planning Areas: Guidelines for the Identification of Critical Water Planning Areas (Document Number 392-2130-014) was published in the *PA Bulletin* as a final technical guidance on Sept. 30, 2006.

Guidelines for Development of Critical Area Resource Plans: Guidelines for Development of Critical Area Resource Plans (DEP ID: 392-2130-015) has been under development and will begin the draft technical guidance publication process. It is anticipated this guidance document will be finalized in late 2007 after further Regional and Statewide Committee comment and receiving comments from the public.

Chapter 110 Draft Regulations: Chapter 110 Water Resources Planning Draft Regulations, which will establish water withdrawal and use registration, monitoring, record-keeping and reporting requirements, will go out for a 30-day public comment period in late 2006/early 2007 with expected finalization later in 2007.