

# **Pennsylvania 2011 Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Report**

**December 8, 2011**

The following information summarizes Pennsylvania's efforts regarding its Water Conservation and Efficiency Program, and is being submitted to the Regional Body and Compact Council pursuant to the requirements in the Agreement Article 300 and the Compact Section 3.4.1.

## **1. Lead agency/agencies and contact persons.**

Lead Agency: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Lead Contacts: Lori Boughton, Chief, Office of the Great Lakes and Northwest Regional Watershed Program Manager, (814) 332-6879; Andrew Zemba, Acting Director, Interstate Waters Office (717) 772-4785.

## **2. Status of the State or Province's Water conservation and efficiency goals and objectives consistent with the Basin-wide goals and objectives.**

Pennsylvania is working to achieve its commitments in Resolution 8 through the establishment of a Water Resources Technical Assistance Center (WRTAC), which is also required by Commonwealth Act 220 (State Water Planning Act). Specific Pennsylvania commitments that elaborate on the regional commitments in Resolution 8, to which Pennsylvania was signatory, are reflected on page 10 of the Executive Summary of the Pennsylvania State Water Plan:

<http://www.pawaterplan.dep.state.pa.us/docs/Publications/3010-BK-DEP4227.pdf>

While Pennsylvania's water conservation and efficiency program is voluntary, the Commonwealth does have conservation and efficiency requirements in place for Public Water Supplies.

Pennsylvania DEP contracted with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) to establish the Water Resources Technical Assistance Center (WRTAC). The establishment of the Center is a requirement of Pennsylvania's Water Resources Planning Act of 2002, and fulfills the commitment in the Agreement and Compact to establish a voluntary water conservation program. After a request for proposal solicitation, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) was selected to develop a plan to establish the center, with the assistance of an advisory committee established by SRBC. The three goals that came out of the planning process were to establish a water conservation and efficiency website: [www.savewaterpa.org](http://www.savewaterpa.org); to establish a nonprofit water conservation organization (Save Water PA) with a board of directors; and to develop a business plan to direct the work of the nonprofit organization.

The website was established in November 2010, a business plan was completed, and the Board of Directors is completing organization. Considering the record precipitation, hurricanes and floods that affected agency priorities in 2011, PADEP is currently working through administrative and fiscal issues to advance development of the website and the nonprofit organization.

The WRTAC is being developed to meet eight key goals that also support the Basin-wide and

regional objectives of the Compact. Pennsylvania's Act 43 establishes that the Water Conservation and Efficiency Program required under Section 4.2 of the Compact shall be a voluntary program, utilizing the provisions of 27 PA.C.S. § 3120 (relating to water conservation). Additional examples of how these goals support the Compact are contained in answers contained in this form. The eight key goals are:

1. Establish guidelines for developing voluntary water use reduction in Critical Water Planning Areas;
2. Identify and compile principles, practices, and technologies to assist all water users in conserving water;
3. Identify and compile principles practices and technologies to encourage groundwater recharge;
4. Develop a statewide program to promote voluntary reduction of water Loss;
5. Establish a voluntary statewide water conservation program for all Users;
6. Develop educational programs for households, industry, and other water users;
7. Facilitate Governor's Water Conservation and Efficiency Award Program and;
8. Establish voluntary water use reduction goals for all users

### **3. Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Overview.**

#### **a) Citations to State/Provincial Water Conservation and Efficiency Program implementing laws, regulations and policies.**

- *ACT 220*: Water Resources Planning Act of 2002 (P.L. 1776, No. 220), 27 Pa.C.S. §3101 et. sq. Still to be implemented in Pennsylvania's water use reporting process, Act 220 requires that capacity be developed for water users to record their voluntary water conservation and efficiency efforts. The implementation timeline is currently 2012.
- *The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact*, 32 P.S. Section 817.21 et seq. Section 5 ("Powers and duties of department") of that PA statute, 32 P.S. Section 817.25, states, inter alia, that "The department shall have the power and duty to:"(2) Administer and implement within the basin a water conservation and efficiency program required under section 4.2 of the compact. Such program shall be a voluntary program, utilizing the provisions of 27 Pa.C.S. Section 3120(relating to water conservation)."
- *Water Rights Act, P.L. 842 (Act No. 365)*. Pennsylvania Surface Water Allocation Program: <http://www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us/dsweb/Get/Document-84336/3920-FS-DEP4107.pdf>

**b) Summary description of the State's or Province's Water Conservation and Efficiency Program including what elements are voluntary and mandatory.**

Pennsylvania's program will focus on developing voluntary water use reduction through efficient water use technologies and water conservation. WRTAC will serve to encourage efficiency in water use by providing guidelines and information on water conservation. The Center will be an enhancement to the State Water Plan by establishing a repository for efficiency and conservation practices and principles and providing a statewide program to promote voluntary reduction of water loss.

**c) For each of the regional objectives identify how the State/Provincial program is consistent with the regional objective.**

- Guide programs toward long-term sustainable water use: WRTAC development was guided openly and collaboratively through the State Water Plan process. Activities are discussed at public State Water Plan meetings, and an advisory board was formed to help provide input. The Board is comprised of representatives from the agricultural, water/power utilities, manufacturing and government sectors. Their input will be used with a view of sustainability. Also, addressing WRTAC Key Goal Number 1 will help guide long-term strategies that incorporate water conservation and efficient water use.
- Adopt and implement supply and demand management to promote efficient use and conservation of water resources: Addressing WRTAC Key Goal Numbers 1, 2 and 3 helps promote efficient use and conservation of water resources.
- Improve monitoring and standardize data reporting among State and Provincial water conservation and efficiency programs: Pennsylvania intends to continue to participate in interstate discussions on this issue, and adaptively manage programs to help support this objective.
- Develop science, technology and research: Pennsylvania has identified developing new technologies as one of three primary goals of the State Water Plan. WRTAC Key Goal Numbers 2 and 3 will also help meet this regional objective.
- Develop education programs and information sharing for all water users: The SaveWaterPa website for sharing information is a key part of the business plan for WRTAC. WRTAC Key Goal Numbers 6 and 7 will also help meet this regional objective.

**4. Description of how the State or Province promotes Environmentally Sound and Economically Feasible Water Conservation Measures.**

Significantly, the majority of water use in Pennsylvania's Great Lakes Basin is attributable to Public Water Supply which requires a water allocation permit, with approvals of systems,

metering, use justification, drought management and water conservation and efficient use elements. Appendix C. speaks to the Guidelines for Designing a Water Conservation Program: <http://www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us/dsweb/Get/Document-67832/3900-PM-WM0001.pdf>

Water use for Natural Gas Development is not currently a large water use in Pennsylvania's Great Lakes Basin, but in anticipation of possible increased use, Pennsylvania requires approved Water Management Plans from gallon one before a well drilling permit is issued. Residual Waste regulations cover disposal of flow back and production water. These Water Management Plans identify sources of water used and encourage recycling and efficient use. By identifying sources, it allows identification and prevention of possible diversions of water outside of the Great Lakes Basin for this industrial activity.

While Pennsylvania's voluntary implementation focus for the WRTAC is the SaveWaterPa website, many of Pennsylvania's universities are deeply involved in water conservation and efficiency issues and education. More specifically, as the Pennsylvania land grant and sea grant university, the Pennsylvania State University has played a leading role through its water resources research center and its extension programs:

<http://www.pawatercenter.psu.edu/>

<http://extension.psu.edu/water>

<http://water.engr.psu.edu/>

##### **5. Description of the State or Provincial Water conservation and efficiency program implementation timeline and status.**

WRTAC's website was implemented in 2010. Development, while on-going, has been affected by personnel and resource constraints, natural disasters and severe weather events which affected prioritization during 2011. Pennsylvania remains committed to further implementation of its commitments through the Agreement and Compact.