



WATER RINGS

The Evolution of the Safe Drinking Water Act

IN THIS ISSUE:

1. The Evolution of the Safe Drinking Water Act
2. Authority Receives Communication Awards
3. North Branch Neshaminy Creek Watershed Assoc.
4. Your Questions Answered - Water Quality Telemarketing Scams



North Wales Water Authority
P.O. Box 1339
200 West Walnut Street
North Wales, PA 19454-0339
(215) 699-4836
www.nwwater.com
email: wizard@nwwater.com

The Safe Drinking Water Act was first passed by Congress in 1974. Since that time a great deal of effort has been put into research of waterborne contaminants. This research has resulted in numerous new rules under the Act. Many of these new rules specify Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL's) for manmade or natural contaminants, as well as new treatment techniques for removal of biological contaminants.

In some cases the new rules are promulgated to err on the side of safety when the science cannot document what level of a contaminant is unsafe or when in some cases the effects cannot be proven or documented. It was always the intent of the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide a margin of safety.

As we learn more about our water supply and establish new MCL's, the water industry must respond by investing capital funds to provide for proper treatment and operating funds to maintain high quality water standards on a yearly basis.

There are three new rules currently in the approval process. They are the Radon, Arsenic, and Disinfection By-

products Rules. According to the American Water Works Association (AWWA), the estimated cost for the water industry to implement these three rules alone runs into the billions of dollars.

At the North Wales Water Authority these rules, except for sampling and administrative costs, will not have any implementation costs associated with them. We currently exceed the proposed standards associated with these rules. In fact, all of the rules promulgated under the Safe Drinking Water Act since completion of the Forest Park Water Treatment Plant in 1994, have not resulted in any additional implementation costs. Forest Park Water is still only one of a handful of technologically advanced treatment plants in the nation that was constructed to meet future standards.

The investment made in Forest Park, on behalf of our customers, is beginning to provide an excellent return on investment when it comes to the cost, or in our case, the lack of significant costs in meeting increasingly stringent water quality standards.



YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Question: We have been contacted by telemarketing companies warning us about the poor quality of our tap water. Is it safe?

Answer: The Authority is aware of telemarketing activities from water treatment companies warning residents of health and safety concerns associated with the public water supply. While there are many reputable firms out there that promote their products in a positive way without making statements regarding the public water supply, there are some that can and do stretch reasonable limits.

Since medical experts recommend that everyone drink between 8 and 12 eight-ounce servings a day it makes perfect sense for our customers to be concerned about the quality of the water they drink. The quality of water we deliver is both healthy and safe for all of our customers and it is not necessary to use treatment devices for health and safety purposes. The main difference between our water, bottled water and water derived from home treatment devices is the absence of chlorine which can, on occasion, alter the taste of the water. As to which you prefer is a matter of choice.

We assure you that the facts are in regarding the safety of our product. Years of monitoring, testing, research and the provisions of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act are all in place to insure that every customer of the North Wales Water Authority is being supplied with an excellent quality water that exceeds all federal standards.

Authority Receives Three Communication Awards

The North Wales Water Authority was the recipient of three 1st Place communication awards given by the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association. The communication categories included Website, 1999 Annual Report and 1999 Water Quality Report.

The North Wales Water Authority prides itself not only on delivering a superior product, but its ability to develop effective communication media for the benefit of its customers. For a copy of any of our publications, please visit our website at nwwater.com.

North Branch Neshaminy Creek Watershed Association

A new citizens organization is being formed to protect the North Branch Neshaminy Creek. The North Branch Neshaminy Creek Watershed Association will be comprised of members of the community interested in protecting the water quality and natural resources of the North Branch Neshaminy Creek and Lake Galena.

The goals of the association will be to coordinate watershed management activities such as community education, water quality monitoring, protection of stream buffers and installation of stormwater controls.

Citizens will be able to address immediate problems in the watershed and to identify future needs as the local environment changes.

Organizational meetings are scheduled for 7 PM Tuesday, May 8, and Tuesday, June 12, 2001 at Peace Valley Nature Center. Citizens are encouraged to attend these meetings and become involved in the North Branch Neshaminy Creek Watershed Association. For more information, call Rachel Mayette of the Bucks County Conservation District at 215-345-7577.

Visit us on-line at nwwater.com

WATER RINGS IS PUBLISHED
QUARTERLY TO SERVE OUR
CUSTOMERS IN:

**NORTH WALES BOROUGH AND LOWER GWYNEDD, MONTGOMERY, NEW BRITAIN,
UPPER DUBLIN, UPPER GWYNEDD, AND WHITPAIN TOWNSHIPS.**