

**CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**Informational Hearing on House Bill 1855
January 10, 2012**

**TESTIMONY OF THE
PENNSYLVANIA GROUND WATER ASSOCIATION
WILLIAM W. REICHART II, PRESIDENT**

My name is William W. Reichart II. I own and manage a Ground Water Services Company based in Hanover, PA. In addition to being a "sixth generation" well driller, I am also the President of the Pennsylvania Ground Water Association, (PGWA). I have also served on the Safety and Well Construction Standards Committee of the National Ground Water Association. I currently serve on the Affiliate States and Emerging Issues Committees of the Water Systems Council. Additionally, I serve on the Potomac River Basin Committee.

The Pennsylvania Ground Water Association is comprised of 667 members/nonmembers who are active in the ground water industry within Pennsylvania. This membership additionally represents 340 businesses operating within the Commonwealth. The PGWA is an organization of companies and persons engaged in drilling or constructing water and geothermal wells in Pennsylvania, manufacturing or supplying equipment and materials to accomplish these tasks, studying, teaching or perfecting related technology, or evaluating or developing ground water and geothermal resources in Pennsylvania.

The PGWA Mission Statement:

- to assist, promote, encourage and support the interests and welfare of the water-well industry in all of its phases generally, and in particular within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- to foster, aid, and promote scientific education, standards, research, and techniques in order to improve methods of well construction and development
- to promote harmony and cooperation between well contractors and governmental and scientific agencies relative to the proper development and protection of underground water resources
- to encourage cooperation of all interested groups relative to the improvement of drilling and pumping equipment
- to encourage, serve, assist, and promote close cooperation with the National Ground Water Association, Inc.
- to collect, analyze and disseminate to the public, facts about the role of the water-well industry in the economy of Pennsylvania and of the nation
- to advance generally, the mutual interests of all those engaged in the water-well industry, in their own and the public interest.

PGWA supports House Bill 1855 as its goal is to protect human health and safety through water resource protection. PGWA further advocates incorporation of the following areas within the resultant water resource protection regulations:

1. creation of minimum state standards for location, inspection, construction, alteration, closure and decommissioning of water wells;
2. establishment of criteria for proficiency-based licensure and certification of water well contractors and drillers;
3. establishment of a State Board of Certification;
4. submission of water quality and well yield reports;
5. "grandfathering" of existing agencies and ordinances;
6. establishment of a Water Well Conservation Fund, that will assist landowners decommission old wells;
7. protection of construction of wells prior to this act from decommission requirements;
8. establishment of a permanent technical advisory committee to DEP to assist in the development of rules and regulations.

Should you have any questions concerning the above or require additional information, kindly feel free to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Pennsylvania Ground Water Association

William W. Reichart II
President