

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
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SRBC PRESENTS GROUNDWATER SPEAKER SERIES

HARRISBURG, Pa. – The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) and partners today announced that a series of free groundwater programs will be held to educate the public, elected officials, environmental and watershed organizations, consultants, water management agency representatives and others about groundwater issues and solutions in the Susquehanna River Basin.

The following information includes the dates, times and locations of the three programs:

- October 19, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (evening session) – “Introduction to Groundwater,” presented by Mike Brownell, Chief, Water Resources Management Division, SRBC. Location: Lower Paxton Township Building, 425 Prince St., Harrisburg.
- October 27, 8:00-9:30 a.m. (morning session) – “Groundwater in Pennsylvania: Practical Applications, Characteristics and Water Wells,” presented by Gary Fleeger, Senior Geologic Scientist, Pennsylvania Geological Survey. Location: Pennsylvania Geologic Survey, 3240 Schoolhouse Rd., Middletown.
- November 4, 7:00-9:00 p.m. (evening session) – “Water Treatment Options for Private Well Owners,” presented by Dr. William E. Sharpe, Forest Hydrology Professor and Bryan Swistock, Extension Associate, Penn State University. Location: Patton Township Building, 100 Patton Plaza, State College.

Please register for participation in the programs. Registration forms and directions to each program location are available on SRBC’s web site at www.srbc.net.

This speaker series featuring groundwater topics is part of SRBC’s “2004, Year of Groundwater” promotion to increase awareness and understanding of groundwater. Among the many groundwater-related activities throughout the year, in June, SRBC released and accepted comments – through September 9 – on its draft plan, *Groundwater Management Plan for the Susquehanna River Basin*. The draft groundwater management plan points to the importance of enhancing public outreach and education, and the groundwater speaker series is part of SRBC’s commitment to that objective.

SRBC Executive Director Paul Swartz said, "Too frequently, people tend to be concerned about water only when there isn't enough of it or when there is too much of it, as has been the case this year. We're encouraged that the public is increasingly interested in the basin's water resources regardless of what current hydrologic conditions in the Susquehanna River Basin may be.

To accommodate different levels of interest and expertise and schedules, the Commission and its partners are offering a range of times and topics. We hope the public and the many other target audiences will take advantage of this ground water speaker series, and also let us know what other topics they would like us to include for future sessions."

The Susquehanna basin is a 27, 510-square-mile area covering portions of upstate New York, about half of Pennsylvania and the area of Maryland where the Susquehanna River drains into the upper Chesapeake Bay. The basin holds about 69 billion gallons of groundwater and nearly half of the basin's 4.2 million residents rely on groundwater for its drinking water supply. SRBC is the governing agency established under a 100-year compact signed on December 24, to protect and wisely manage the water resources of the Susquehanna River Basin.

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