

VI. REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

The Deer Creek Watershed is situated within two states – Maryland and Pennsylvania, and within three counties – Harford and Baltimore in Maryland, and York in Pennsylvania. As a result, the water resources of the Deer Creek Watershed are subject to a variety of state and local regulations, in addition to federal regulations. SRBC – an interstate Compact commission – also regulates water use in the watershed.

The Codes of Regulations of Maryland, Pennsylvania, the federal government, and the relevant counties and towns were reviewed. Regulations that impact water supply are summarized in Appendix A. Regulations that address solely water quality were not included. For the purposes of this evaluation, the most important regulations are those that address appropriation of groundwater and surface water:

- Maryland COMAR 26.17.06 (Water Appropriation or Use)
- Pennsylvania Code Title 25, Section 109
- Federal Regulations Establishing the SRBC (CFR 18.803, Conservation of Power and Water Resources)

The Deer Creek Watershed is subject to several special state and local programs. These programs primarily address water quality, although some aspects of water quality are inseparable from quantity of water supply.

A. Deer Creek Scenic River

Deer Creek was designated a Scenic River by the Maryland legislature in 1973. In 1978, the Deer Creek Scenic River district was established in the Harford County Code to preserve Deer Creek as a free-flowing stream and to preserve and protect its natural and cultural values for present and future generations. The Deer Creek Scenic River Advisory Board reviews proposals for new development within 150 feet of the banks of the creek, and makes recommendations concerning management and preservation of Deer Creek (MDE and Harford County, 2006).

B. Lower Deer Creek Valley Rural Legacy Area (Maryland)

The Lower Deer Creek Valley Rural Legacy Area was established in 1999. The goal of the Maryland Rural Legacy Area program is to preserve the historic rural character of the watersheds while helping to protect their water quality. The focus of the Lower Deer Creek Valley Rural Legacy Area is on acquiring perpetual easements on properties that adjoin Deer Creek, its tributaries, and properties that are adjacent to other protected properties (MDE and Harford County, 2006).

C. Agricultural Section 319 Targeted Watershed

The Deer Creek Watershed has received Section 319 funds as a Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Priority Watershed due to its potential for nutrient loading. The Harford County

Soil Conservation District has been the recipient of Section 319 funds to support the preparation of soil conservation and water quality plans on farms within the watershed.

Other special management areas within the Deer Creek Watershed include state parks (Rocks State Park, Palmer State Park, Susquehanna State Park), county parks (Eden Mill Park, Parker Conservation Area), and the APG Churchville test site.