

EPA To Conduct Groundwater Study In Lancaster County

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)—Starting Monday, May 15, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be conducting a groundwater study which uses red and yellow dyes to trace groundwater flow in Lancaster County.

Though unlikely, residents in Lancaster County, particularly in the Mount Joy and New Holland vicinities, may see red or yellow discoloration of their tap water and local streams for a few hours.

Residents can be assured that

these tests are completely safe, and they can continue to use their water supply for drinking, cooking, bathing, dishwashing, and laundry.

The purpose of the dye tracing tests is to gain a better understanding of ground water flow directions and to determine recharge areas of selected drinking water supplies in Lancaster County. This information will be used to protect groundwater from potential contamination caused by cer-

tain land uses.

These tests will be conducted with the cooperation of the local water authorities, Franklin and Marshall College, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, the U.S. Geological Survey, and local, state and federal agricultural agencies. The Lancaster County Planning Commission and R.E. Wright Associates

are participating with EPA in the Mount Joy area study.

Dye tracing is conducted by injecting ordinary fluorescent dyes into sinkholes, excavations, borings and streams. The dye is moved along the groundwater flow system by rainfall and water injection. Activated charcoal packets are installed in areas where normal groundwater dis-

charge occurs, such as wells and springs. Any dye which flows past the packets is trapped by the charcoal and the quantity is measured in a laboratory. The measured concentration of dye is used to determine approximate groundwater flow velocities. Dye discharge sites relative to injection locations provides information on groundwater flow directions.

SRBC

(Continued from Page A38)

mented within three years of their approval. Authorizing the SRBC to impose penalties and require remedial actions on permit violations.

"We worked very hard and cooperatively with many organizations to get the package to this final step and so I am very pleased

with today's action," said Swartz.

This regulatory revision package does not affect the existing sections regarding consumptive water use. Consumptive uses are those operations where the water is used in such a way that it is permanently lost to the Susquehanna River basin area.

The consumptive use portion of SRBC's regulations are to be

addressed next. Currently, agriculture and municipal water supplies are exempt.

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission is the governing agency established by a 100-year compact signed on Dec. 24, 1970 by the federal government and the states of New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland to protect and wisely manage the water resources of the Susquehanna River Basin.

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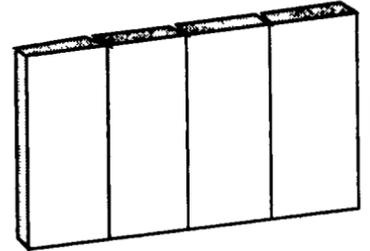
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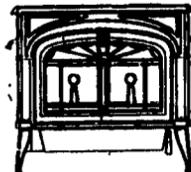
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