

STEWARTSTOWN WATER UPDATE



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Water Quality is Worse than
Expected. Nitrates Close to
Maximum Allowed.

“The ultimate solution to the Stewartstown water supply deficiency is to interconnect with the York Water Company’s transmission line..”

DEP Report / Water Allocation Permit Request

September 14, 1999

EBAUGH’S CREEK – THE FUTURE WATER SUPPLY IS NOT GOOD

The Stewartstown Water Authority for the past 2 years has been trying to receive permission to draw water from Ebaugh’s creek. Their intention is to build a reservoir and use the wells as a backup supply of water. Recently the DEP has granted the Stewartstown Water Authority (SWA) permission to draw water from the Creek. However the list of conditions and time constraints make this unlikely to ever happen. In addition the DEP made several comments questioning the Water Authority if this is the best alternative.

Report Highlights:

- Ebaugh Creek has enough water to supply the towns needs **most** of the time. (Editors Note: Millions of dollars later and the town will still be on Water Restrictions)
- During periods of droughts the stream will be able to provide little if any water to the town.
- There is an endangered species of trees (Umbrella Magnolia) which has been found in the area where the reservoir is planned.
- DEP has some concerns

about the proximity of the creek to the York County Landfill which is listed on the EPA Superfund Sites list since 1987.

- A planned golf course may impact future water quality as herbicides and fertilizers are used to keep the greens green.

DEP Restrictions:

- the permit to draw water is not valid unless the alternative water supply is conducted and submitted to DEP and the alternative supply must be active.

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YORK WATER COMPANY LAKE REDMAN & LAKE WILLIAMS

Lake Williams ran dry this past summer during the drought and everyone became concerned about York Water Companies ability to supply water to its customers.

Reservoir Facts:

- Lake Williams is the primary source of water for York Water Company and holds approximately 900

million gallons of water.

- Lake Redman is the secondary source of water and is used as a backup supply. Lake Redman holds approximately 2.9 billion gallons of water.

With this much water Lake Williams could run dry 3 times before York Water Company is com-

pletely out of water.



Important Reminder:

Election Day is November 2nd, and the polls are open from 7:00 am till 8:00 pm. Voting takes place in the Borough Offices at 6 N. Main Street. (next to Subway)

Publishers Note:

Few times in the history of Stewartstown have residents had a choice of candidates on election day. Many times candidates run unopposed. On November 2nd you will have a chance to pick the candidate who understands the issues that effect your life.



Publisher:
Jeff Bruening
Resident of
Stewartstown
Borough



(CONT.) EBAUGH'S CREEK
OUR FUTURE SUPPLY OF WATER?

(Continued from page 1)
- must initiate a study to identify an alternative source of Water. (York Water Company was suggested by DEP)

Publishers Note: Unlike

past studies the DEP is requiring this study and follow-up is required.
- cannot add any other sources of water to the supply without DEP approval.

WATER RESTRICTIONS CONTINUE
INTO OCTOBER

Water restrictions are still in place in Stewartstown. Even after the record rainfall in September and wet October so far, the wells are still barely supplying the town with water. While the Mandatory water restrictions were lifted on October 4th. Voluntary Restrictions still exist. The end result is that you are still advised to not use any water outside however if you choose to do so the police will not be showing up at your door.

Wells –vs– Reservoirs

You may be asking why are the wells doing so badly even with all of this rain. The answer is quite simple. The wells are replenished when ground water seeps slowly through the grass, rocks and sand to pockets of open space where the water collects. These pockets are called Aquifers and run like streams but underground.

Reservoirs however are much better in that water is immediately collected

when it rains. In addition many time streams supply water to the reservoir. Even the heavy downpours which don't soak into the ground. Even these rains fills the streams and then flow into the Reservoir. A recent example is York Water Company's primary and smaller reservoir Lake Williams rose 10 feet from the drought levels because of the rains caused by Hurricane Floyd.

MORE CONTAMINATES FOUND IN OUR WATER

This past July we wrote about Nitrates in our drinking water and the dangers of Nitrates. At that time knew that the Nitrate level averaged in the 4-7 PPM (parts/million) range in the Stewartstown Water Supply. However according the latest "1998 Report to Consumers on Water Quality" provided by the Borough Water Authority the levels of Nitrates

range from 4.93 – 9.94 PPM. The EPA limit is 10 PPM. Considering that testing for such dangerous contaminants is often skipped, the possibility that our water quality rose above these limits is likely. Exceeding 10 PPM exposes our children to unnecessary risk and could result in the wells being shutdown by the EPA.

LEAD & COPPER: In addi-

tion the report shows high levels of lead and copper. It should be noted that lead paint was banned, years ago because of the lead poisoning. Now we find out we are drinking it.

Publishers Note: Many of the contaminants found in our Water supply are not found in the York Water Company's water.