

Announcement Sheet - Special Notices

Free Program for PA - Citizen Science and the Citizen Groundwater/ Surface water Database

The Concept- The Need- The Purpose - The Private Well Owner Outreach Program in Pennsylvania
by Mr. Brian Oram, PG

For the past 20+ years, I have been conducting water quality analysis, baseline testing, and conducting education programs for the citizens of Pennsylvania. Even though our groundwater resources are one of our most important assets, there are limited data on the quality and quantity of regional groundwater. While working at Wilkes University, I helped establish a "Citizen" Groundwater and Surface water Database. Even though I no longer work full-time at Wilkes University, I am working with Dr. Brian Redmond and Dr. Sid Halsor on the development, formation, and creation of this community resource. This regional water quality database is an unbiased warehouse of water quality data that are supported by fellow "Citizens" of this Commonwealth. After reviewing this information, I would hope you will take action and support the Citizens Groundwater and Surfacewater Database and Contribute Data to the PA Private Well Owner and Watershed Survey (see link below).

The database will provide information about the current state of groundwater and surface water quality and serve as a basis for monitoring impacts related to Marcellus gas drilling and other activity in our region. The database initiative is the first of its kind in northeast Pennsylvania and the initial database targeted private wells in Luzerne and Columbia Counties. We are reaching out to build partnerships throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania so the database can include other counties in the area, i.e., Bradford, Carbon, Columbia, Luzerne, Lackawanna, Monroe, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Sullivan, Wayne, and Wyoming County, but data are accepted from throughout Pennsylvania.

The purpose of the database is twofold. It will be used to help us better understand the current and future groundwater and surface water quality for the region. The database will also be used **to generate educational materials** relating to regional water quality. **It is for research and education purposes, and will not be sold or used for any commercial purpose.** The database is managed by Dr. Brian Redmond and Dr. Sid Halsor.

To protect your privacy, your name, address, or other contact information will **NOT** be included within the database.

To participate, please go to <http://www.bfenvironmental.com/pawaters.php>

Please participate in the Private Well Owner and Watershed Group Survey for Pennsylvania:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NMG6RQ3>