

WATER BREAK

With Tony Bellitto - Executive Director NPWA



Everyone today seems to be talking more and more about "going green" and finding new ways to protect the environment. The North Penn Water Authority is no exception. We're making sure that we too are doing our part to be more conscious of environmental stewardship. Certainly, as part of our main mission of providing a high quality drinking water supply to 30,000 customers, we have been involved for many years in watershed protection efforts to ensure that our surface water and ground water supplies are kept in good condition. A cleaner raw water supply will require less treatment and less energy usage at our plant to produce our final product of treated water that meets or exceeds the highest quality standards. We also speak to local community groups and schools about the importance of proper hazardous waste disposal practices for homes and businesses to protect the environment.

But beyond that, we've taken additional measures in our internal business practices to ensure that we continue to do our part to be responsible stewards of the environment. In our office, we have partnered with our local solid waste disposal company to recycle more materials than we ever have before, including office paper, cardboard, glass, metals, and other products that can be reprocessed. We have also conducted an energy audit of our operations center to identify areas where we could further reduce energy consumption. With that in mind, we recently replaced our building's flat black roof with a more energy efficient white roof that will better reflect the sun's heat. We will also budget next year

for the replacement of all our interior building lighting with newer light fixtures and bulbs that use less energy. We're also making sure that the building heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems are kept running as efficiently as possible to save energy.

We encourage all our customers to look for ways that you too can assist in "going green" in your own homes and neighborhoods.

After Hours Emergency Number: 215-855-9945

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Schools, and Churches.

**A dedicated, professional workforce committed
to providing the community with a safe, reliable,
and economical water supply**



WATER CURRENTS

NORTH PENN WATER AUTHORITY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER - 2008 Volume 9/No. 4

NPWA TOPICS:

WATER BREAK

- Going Green!

WATER STATS

WATER NEWS

- Water Conservation and Supply
- Seasonal Reminders

TOYS FOR TOTS

WATER STATS

Delaware River Basin Water Daily Storage*

(as of September 30, 2008)

Average Daily Water Storage

Percent Above Average

196.491 billion gallons

179.031 billion gallons

9.75%

Rainfall

(expressed as inches)

January 2008 through September 2008

20 Year Average for January through September

28.45"

33.89"

*Source: www.state.nj.us/drbc/data.htm



WATER CURRENTS



WATER NEWS Water Conservation and Supply

The North Penn Water Authority supports the local watershed organizations in their stream clean-up and preservation efforts. Each year, volunteers from around the area join together with various watershed organizations to protect the area waterways. The North Branch Watershed Association, which was formed to improve, protect, and preserve the North Branch of the Neshaminy Creek, held its annual stream clean-up in September. Volunteers removed old bikes, metal scraps, and other debris from the creek.



The North Branch Watershed Association also works to protect Lake Galena, the Authority's surface water supply reservoir.



One of the ways the group has acted to protect Lake Galena is by planting riparian buffers. During storm events, these vegetative plantings help to slow run-off water thereby reducing the amount of sediment and contaminants that enter the lake. The Authority appreciates the efforts of these volunteers. If anyone is interested in joining the North Branch Watershed Association, please contact Meghan Rogalus, Watershed Specialist, at the Bucks County Conservation District at 215-345-7577, ext. 107.

In addition to serving customers through a treated surface water supply, NPWA has wells spread throughout its distribution system. Assisted by grant money from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the Authority is currently conducting a wellhead protection study. The results of this study will assist the Authority in protecting the integrity of its groundwater supply.

Because of the Authority's conjunctive use of ground water and surface water supplies, NPWA has been able to provide its customers with an ample supply of water even in times of low rainfall. As mentioned in prior newsletter issues, the Authority recently upgraded the treatment plant to ensure an on-going ability to meet the water needs of customers. Through water management planning and support of water preservation measures, the North Penn Water Authority continues to serve customers with a safe, economical, and continuous water supply.

Seasonal Reminders

Winterizing Tips: During the cold winter months, if you experience "no water" in your home, check all faucets to see if the problem could be related to a frozen pipe in your home's internal plumbing. As the property owner, you are responsible for repairing the home's internal plumbing. To avoid freezing pipes and costly repair bills, we suggest the following winterizing tips: (1) Wrap and insulate pipes in unheated areas such as basements, closets, attics, or crawl spaces; (2) Caulk windows near water meters or pipes as well as where the pipe goes through walls; (3) Replace or cover cracked or broken windows; (4) Locate and tag your master valve just in case pipes freeze and rupture.

Hydrants: Hydrants throughout the NPWA distribution system are equipped with markers to assist the fire department in finding them if they become covered in snow or grown over with weeds or shrubs. Please don't tamper with the hydrant markers and please call our office if you notice a marker has been removed or vandalized. After a snow storm, please clear (or have someone clear for you) the snow and ice from around the fire hydrants located in front of your properties. This allows the fire department and the Authority's crews quick access to the hydrant in case of a fire, or for a necessary repair.

Spring Hydrant Flushing Program: Our program of nighttime flushing and inspecting the hydrants should start, weather permitting, at the end of March and run through the middle of May. As flushing time approaches, notices of hydrant flushing dates and locations will be posted in local newspapers and announced on WNPV Radio (1440). You can also check the message portion of your bill or our website at www.northpenwater.org for this information.

TOYS FOR TOTS



For the ninth year, the North Penn Water Authority will be a drop-off site for The Toys for Tots Program sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps. As you are doing your holiday shopping, please consider purchasing an item for a child up to 18 years of age, such as toys, books, art supplies, disposable cameras, music CDs, or gift cards. Last year, the Authority's employees, customers, and area companies generously donated over 700 items, with over 4,100 items having been collected over the past eight years. The drop-off bin is in our front lobby area, and will be in place Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. until December 19. Thank you very much for your continued support in providing needy children with a better Christmas.

