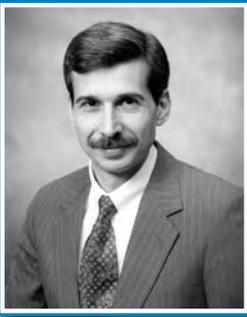


# WATER BREAK

With Tony Bellitto - Executive Director NPWA



The subject of MTBE has been a recurring topic in the media. The acronym stands for methyl tertiary-butyl ether. It is a chemical that was added to the manufacture of gasoline several years ago in parts of the nation with a high incidence of air pollution. The additive helps the fuel in vehicles burn cleaner and improves air quality. Unfortunately, MTBE has also caused serious groundwater contamination problems at numerous sites around the nation where the gasoline has leaked from underground storage tanks. MTBE has been known to travel farther and faster than other gasoline constituents, and it can be expensive to remove from groundwater aquifers. When a water supply well becomes impacted, it must either be abandoned or cleaned up with costly treatment.

Legislation is now pending in both branches of the Pennsylvania state government that would remove MTBE from gasoline. This proposed phase-out of the additive is also strongly supported by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Several states have already banned MTBE, rather than wait for action by Congress. Whether such a ban should be phased in over a period of time, whether the oil companies or others should be liable for the cleanup costs, and whether alternatives such as corn-based ethanol as an oxygenate are feasible options are all the subject of strong debate and lobbying from impacted parties.

Water utilities are hopeful that a ban on MTBE will become law soon so that this threat to groundwater aquifers can be eliminated. It is hoped that an alternative gasoline additive can be found that will have the benefit of reducing air pollution without the drawback of polluting water supplies when released from leaking tanks. In the meantime, North Penn Water Authority continues to regularly monitor all our groundwater wells and surface water supplies to ensure that the water quality delivered to our customers consistently meets or exceeds all the required federal and state drinking water standards.



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

Speakers, Tours and Films are available through NPWA for Civic Organizations, Schools and Churches.

Address letters & comments to:  
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## WATER CURRENTS

NORTH PENN WATER AUTHORITY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER - 2004 Volume 5/No. 3

### NPWA TOPICS:

#### WATER BREAK

The Danger of MTBE

#### WATER NEWS

2004 Poster Contest Winners

6th Annual North Penn Area Relay for Life

Toys for Tots Program

## WATER STATS

<b>Delaware River Basin Water Daily Storage*</b> (as of July 16, 2004)	<b>242.8 billion gallons</b>
Average Daily Water Storage	<b>244.7 billion gallons</b>
Percent below average	<b>0.76%</b>
<b>Rainfall</b> (expressed as inches) January 2004 thru June 2004	<b>15.98"</b>
20 Year Average for January thru June	<b>19.87"</b>

\*Source:  
[www.state.nj.us/drbc/data.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/data.htm)



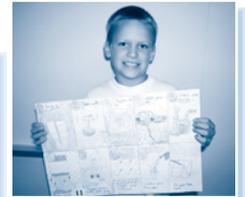
# WATER CURRENTS



## WATER NEWS

### POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

In recognition of Drinking Water Week in May, the Authority sponsored a poster contest. Fifth grade students from Inglewood, Franconia, Oak Ridge and Nash Elementary Schools along with St. Maria Goretti School entered 154 posters with the "Water Works Wonders" theme. Posters were displayed at the Montgomery Mall with 118 shoppers selecting the winning posters. The winning posters represented students who attended Inglewood, Nash and Oak Ridge Elementary Schools. Awards and gift certificates were presented to the students at their various schools. All students participating received a copy of our interactive CD titled, "Explore your Watershed" along with a matching mouse pad and Certificate of Participation. The mall location provided an opportunity to increase the public's awareness of the need to protect water resources and encourage conservation efforts. Thanks to all the students who participated in the contest.



**Congratulations to the 2004 Drinking Water Week Poster Contest winners: (left to right) Kasandra Lambrou, First Place; Tusrefa Mahajabin, Second Place; Jason Skyrn and Blaire Wilkie, tied for Third Place.**

## North Penn Water Authority Participates in American Cancer Society 6th Annual North Penn Area Relay for Life

North Penn Water Authority participated in the Relay for Life event that was held on June 26-27 at the Penndale Middle School Track in Lansdale. The weather was beautiful; not a rain cloud in sight for the over 55 teams who participated in this community fund raising event in the fight against cancer. The Relay is a 24 hour event, starting at noon Saturday and continuing overnight through noon Sunday.

Although this was the Authority's first year participating in the event, the North Penn Water Authority won 2nd prize in the campsite decorating contest. To tie into the purpose of the Authority to provide safe, high quality water, the members chose "Thirsting for a Cure" as its group name and utilized a Wild West cowboy theme, complete with desert



**Some NPWA members on the "Thirsting for a Cure" team.**

and Denise Preston, Susan and Mike Sarnocinski, Lorraine Girone, Denise Zirkel, Gary Raser, Bill Berry, Bill Smith, Bill Hoffman, Marlene McKenzie, and team captain, Marianne Morgan.

NPWA team members raised \$1,400 from family and friends they asked to sponsor them on the walk. Employees at NPWA also raised an additional \$461, with monthly raffles organized by the team's captain, bringing the Authority's total raised for the fight against cancer to \$1,861. Final team totals for the 2004 event for all teams that participated are not yet available, since donations are still coming in. Last year, the total money raised for the entire North Penn Area Relay for Life event was over \$175,000.

The "Thirsting for a Cure" NPWA team included Tony, Sharon, Eric and Juliana Bellitto, Dale and Susan Reichenbach, Dan

## TOYS FOR TOTS PROGRAM

While it may be "rushing the season" just a little, the holidays will be here in just a few months. For the fifth 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. 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 certificates. The drop off bin will be in the Authority's front lobby area from the last week of October until December 17. Please mark it on your



calendar. Last year, the Authority's employees, customers and area companies generously donated 770 items. Thank you for your continued support in providing needy children with a better holiday.