



Aquashicola/Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy

Summer-Fall 2015

P.O. Box 360, Kresgeville, PA 18333

www.apwc-pa.com APWC.NEPA@gmail.com

The Bottled Water Myth

Deer Park Water, part of the global food giant Nestle`, is looking at a site in Kunkletown, Eldred Township to build an extraction facility. They plan on pumping out 200,000 gallons per day (gpd) from a spring that feeds Buckwha Creek. They will drill several wells near the spring to actually raise the 200,000 gpd. This amounts to 1,400,000 gallons per week. There will be 25-30 tanker trucks per day, at all hours, 50-60 round trips. Only Nestle` and the property owner will benefit from this operation.

If a residents' well should go dry, Nestle` will hire a hydrogeologist to investigate. The resident would have to pay for an independent opinion .

The Pennsylvania Constitution Section 27 states: "clean air, pure water- are the common property of all people - as trustee, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all." "All" means everyone-**Not just Nestle!**

Nestle` CEO Peter Brabeck-Letmathe

"Water is of course the most important raw material today in the world. It's a question of whether we should privatize the normal water supply for the population. And there are two different opinions on the matter. The one opinion, which I think is extreme, is represented by Non Governmental Organizations, who bang on about declaring water a public right. That means that as a human being you should have a right to water. That's an extreme solution"

This interview can be viewed on our website, www.apwc-pa.com.

Water is the most important commodity today. If we poison our water, we will become extinct. Period.

- **97% of water on Earth is salt water.**
- **3% of this is fresh water.**
- **Only 1% of this fresh water is potable. We can't drink fossil fuels.**

Why Water Bottlers Are Bad for Your Community

- 1) Pumping out groundwater can result in well and stream levels to drop. Proving why the levels dropped can be very difficult and costly.
- 2) There are hidden costs to the community, such as road wear and tear, and loss of property values.
- 3) Local employment: none, as the truck drivers are not local, and the pumping station is mostly automated. Eric Andreus, the representative for Deer Park, claims that jobs are opening up in Breinigsville. This is not an easy commute. It is over 35 miles away with an estimated driving time of 46-53 minutes with no traffic.
- 4) Loss of local control. If a corporation gains control of a town's water rights, residents will not be able to access local water in times of drought. The situation in California is a great example of this policy. Nestle` wants to pump out even more water, in spite of a record drought! Or take the case in Fryeburg, Maine. The town is being sued by Nestle (for the fifth time now) because the town does not want them there. Their lawyers actually argued to the Maine Supreme Court that *the company's right to grow market share superceded the town's right of control!*
- 5) Once bottled water companies move in, they are difficult to get out. Typically, they try to get long term leases. That is the plan on the Gower property. That will be a twenty five year lease.

Environmental Impacts of Bottled Water

Every day in the U.S. approximately 60 million water bottles are disposed of. Over 1.5 billion tons of this plastic is not recycled, but instead ends up in landfills or littering our roadsides. The organization "Food and Water Watch" estimated that only between 1-2 out of 4 bottles are actually recycled. These PET (polyethylene terephthalate) bottles take over 300 years to degrade. As they break down they leach phthalates and other synthetic chemicals into the soil and groundwater. These chemicals inevitably end up back in the food chain. These bottles also consume enormous amounts of fossil fuels and water to produce, store, and transport. If you value our natural resources, say "**NO!**" to bottled water.

A Solution: Choose tap Water!

Tap water in the US is regulated by oversight agencies. Water utilities are required by law to provide customers with a yearly water quality report, and provide notification of violations. Private well users should get their water tested on a regular basis. Typically, a very thorough test is in the \$100-150 range.

There are a few reasons people give for preferring bottled water over tap water. The main objections are rust/ sediment, strong chlorine taste, and convenience. These objections can be easily addressed.

A particulate filter will remove rust/ sediment. An activated charcoal filter will remove these and chlorine taste as well.

The Britta pitcher (\$25) is easy to use. Pour your tap water in the top, let it filter through. Pour out of the lower spout. Refill as needed. We have had quite a lot of experience with this, it works great and is convenient to use! Britta uses the charcoal filtration method.

A sink filter attaches to your faucet, no tools needed, and allows you to pour directly from your faucet into your glass or reusable water bottle. PUR (\$20-30) uses a charcoal and ion exchange system that even filters out metals, industrial chemicals, pesticides, herbicides, and even microbial cysts! Our research found that at \$1. to \$4. per gallon, *bottled water was at least 300 times the price of filtered tap water!*

Petition Update

In May, we met with the new people at DEP that will be handling EV Petitions. We were part of a group that included Clean Water Action, Trout Unlimited, and several Riverkeepers. Under the Corbett regime, no action was taken on ANY Petition. Governor Wolf has appointed Josh Lookenbill to fill the position held by Tony Shaw, who has retired. DEP will put two-three Petitions in a “bundle” and plans to review two bundles per year. Aquashicola Creek is in the first bundle, so it looks like we will finally see some action!

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2015

Memberships are good for one year from the date that they are started or renewed. A number of our members joined us last August, and some renewed Spring or early Summer 2014. If you are in this category, I have enclosed a Membership Renewal form with this newsletter. We hope you will continue to support this organization. We have a long history of doing good things for the environment in this area. Memberships are an extremely vital source of our funding.

I thank you in advance for your support!

Carolyn Lange, Membership Secretary

UPCOMING COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS

ROSS TOWNSHIP DAY SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2015

APWC will have a booth there, as we do annually. This is a very nice community tradition. There are many types of vendors, crafts, food, entertainment, educational opportunities, and activities for all ages. There is a playground for children, and a one-mile nature trail right on the premises. It is a beautiful spot with lots to do, so come out and join the fun! Hours are 11:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. Location: The Van Buskirk/Haney Park by the Ross Twp. Municipal Bldg. 258 Anchorage Rd. Saylorsburg, PA 18353. Admission is free. Contact West End Open Space for more information.

FRIENDS OF CHERRY VALLEY FALL FESTIVAL

SATURDAY OCTOBER 17, 2015

Join the Fall Fun at the Moreton Homestead! The house and the barn are beautifully preserved, historic buildings. The house is a stone home that dates to sometime around the Revolutionary War. The barn was probably built in the 1800's and features hand-hewn chestnut beams. The property itself has woods, rolling fields, and a pond that is fed by crystal-clear mountain springs. The Moreton property is in the Aquashicola Creek watershed. Please come out and join us-you can see some of the beauty that we are fighting to preserve. APWC will (of course!) be there, and there are many Family-oriented activities planned for the day. Admission is free. Hours: 10:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. Location: off of Mountain Road in Saylorsburg, PA 18353. For more information please see www.friendsofcherryvalley.com