

# Division of Water Updates

November 17, 2011



# Regulatory Development Processes



# Regulations Require Periodic Updates!

- **Current Delaware Regulations Governing the Construction and Use of Wells (Adopted 1997)**
  - Changes in the drilling industry
    - New ground water heat pump technology
    - Evolving standards for grouting
  - Changes in well permitting procedures
    - Permits are processed and issued nearly 100% electronically
    - Applications can be submitted online (30% of total)



# New Provisions

- Adopt permit process changes
- Classify fire wells as public wells
- Allow waivers for minor deviations (no formal variance)
- Beef up sanitation and disinfection requirements
- Better grouting and sealing standards
- Water quality tests for domestic wells  
(Governor's Initiative)



# NEXT STEPS

- Final sign-off by the RRRC
  - Legal review
    - Public comment
      - Public hearing
        - Adoption

Target adoption date – Spring 2012



# Additional Regulatory Updates

- Regulations governing the Combined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO)
- Regulations governing On-Site Wastewater Treatment and Disposal



# Regulatory Update Division of Water, Ground Water Discharges Section

- *Regulations Governing the Design , Installation and Operation of Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems*
- Schedule
  - December—Submit final draft version to the Registrar's Office
  - January 2012—Advertise public hearing
  - 2012—Hold public hearing



# Highlights of Regulations

- Licensing
  - Tiered approach and adding one additional license category
- Systematic elimination of Cesspools and Seepage Pits
- Statewide pump out and inspection properties utilizing septic systems that are sold or otherwise transferred to other ownership
- Requiring tracking of septic system pump outs
- Flood zones/FEMA standards
- Performance standards for systems



# Highlights of Regulations

- Incorporating and updating Spray Regulations
  - Addition of Spray on Demand
  - Joint effort with DDA and DNREC
  - For permitting and compliance



# DRBC Natural Gas Regulations

- Commission posted final draft on November 8
- Commission vote scheduled for November 21
- Regulations effective 60 days after vote is majority in favor



# Natural Gas Regulations

- Requires financial assurance
- Requires natural gas development plans for six or more wells
- Requires approval for bulk water use
- Requirements for wastewater treatment within the basin
- Rely on host state regulations for well specifications

