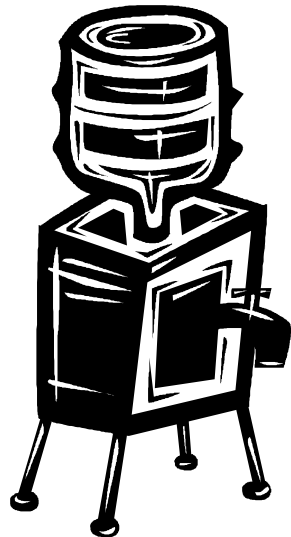


YOUR WATER YOUR RIGHTS



If the quality or quantity of your water has been affected by mining, the mining company must replace it and pay costs for it forever!



According to the law, the mine operator **MUST** provide you with a temporary water supply promptly.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO SIGN ANYTHING



If you are approached by anyone to sign a waiver, **DO NOT** sign it until you thoroughly understand what it



- **FIRST**, contact your watershed group and ask them to review it.
- **SECOND**, make sure you have had a pre-mining survey (this tests your water prior to mining) conducted by either Department of Environmental Protection or you can do your own through a certified lab.
- **THIRD**, review your rights to a replacement water supply. If your water is affected, the replacement supply should be of the same quality and quantity, and as reliable as the original
- **FINALLY**, remember, you have the right to contact your attorney at any time.

WHAT IS IT WORTH TO YOU?

Without water, you cannot get a sewage permit or mortgage your house, which will make your property difficult or impossible to sell.

There are two types of replacement water supplies. Make sure you are adequately compensated. The following costs are estimates and may vary from area to area.



WELLS: can be drilled for an average of \$50/foot. The average well is 150 feet (though usually deeper in areas affected by mining) for an average cost of \$7,500. This does not include casing at \$6.50/foot for a minimum cost of \$975, or testing and treatment which varies from \$300-\$7,000. At times the water is untreatable. **THE TOTAL FOR INSTALLATION OF A WELL IS BETWEEN \$8,775 AND \$15,475**, which does not include any maintenance, upkeep, electricity, pump replacement, or treatment.

PUBLIC WATER: If you do not already have access to a public supply of water, **INSTALLATION OF A TOP AND CONNECTION IS (ESTIMATED) \$1,300**. If a main water line needs to be extended, the cost could be as much as \$200,000. These numbers do not include the perpetual payment of a water bill.

A natural water supply is irreplaceable. Before you sign a waiver, consider the true value of your water and its importance for the future value of your property.

Should you decide to sign a waiver, you could be:

- Signing away your rights to a replacement water supply and the worth of your water supply
- Signing away your rights to the value of your property, possible forever
- Responsible for future costs of wells, maintenance, biological treatment, and pump installation

Waivers are forever and you **DO NOT** have to sign one.

If you are already experiencing problems with your water, its quality or quantity, and you believe that mining is responsible, you have the right to submit a citizens complaint form.

Content provided by: Loyalhanna Realty, the Environmental Protection Agency, The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and the Indian Creek Water Authority.

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If you have any further questions, contact the following environmental groups and government agencies:

Mountain Watershed Association

www.mtwatershed.com
(724) 455-4200

Center for Coalfield Justice

www.coalfieldjustice.org
(724) 299-3550

PA Department of Environmental Protection

www.dep.state.pa.us
(724) 925-5500

OH Division of Natural Resources

www.dnr.state.oh.us
(614) 265-6633

WV Department of Environmental Protection

www.dep.state.wv.us
(304) 759-0595

Office of Surface Mining

www.osmre.gov

The information in this brochure in no way constitutes a legal opinion, rather, it is a list of suggestions.

For additional copies of this brochure or other MWA publications, please contact the

Mountain Watershed Association
PO Box 408 Melcroft PA 15462
Phone: (724) 455-4200
www.mtwatershed.com

Remember!



Consider the value of your water, both as a resource and in property value. Don't sign anything before knowing your rights and their responsibilities.

Beware of the 'Supplemental C' portion of the mining permit, which, if signed, could void your rights to your property and water, possibly forever.

Make copies of all documents. When in doubt, you are always entitled to consult with an attorney.

The DEP is responsible for offering a water supply survey before any actions are taken.

If you sign a waiver, you may lose entitlement to a replacement water supply and/or rights to compensation.

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What Happened To My Water?



 Mountain Watershed Association

Protecting, preserving and restoring the Indian Creek watershed and surrounding areas

We All Need Clean Water