



Contact:
Angie Rosser
304-437-1274
arosser@wvivers.org

SB 625 – House Judiciary

Revising exceptions from FOIA provided for in the Aboveground Storage Tank Act

Public Access to Information for Effective Source Water Protection Planning

SB 625 clarifies that public water systems may identify potential contaminant sources that are already subject to public disclosure when engaging the public in source water protection planning.

As water systems are preparing Source Water Protection Plans due July 2016, they are involving the public. Language in current code is not clear what information water systems can share regarding potential contaminant sources, even though many of those sources are currently within the public domain in the form of accessible databases, websites and signage.

There were two stakeholder meetings in the Senate to reach agreement on SB 625. The measure passed the Senate unanimously. Participating stakeholders include: *WV Bureau for Public Health, WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, WV Manufacturers Association, IOGA, WVONGA, WV American Water, Advocates for a Safe Water System, WV Environmental Council, WV Rivers Coalition.*

The WV Public Water System Supply Study Commission* was established by the Legislature to provide annual policy recommendations. Commission members recommended clarification of public access to information as reflected in SB 625.

***COMMISSION MEMBERS:** Rahul Gupta *Bureau for Public Health*, Jimmy Gianato *WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management*, Tim Ball *WV Municipal League*, David Acord *WV Public Service Commission*, Michael McCawley *public health expert appointee*, Pam Nixon *Citizen Representative appointee*, Terry Polen *WVDEP*, Rick Roberts *professional engineer appointee*, Amy Swann *WV Rural Water Association*, Evan Hansen *WV Rivers Coalition*, Ed Watson *hydrologist appointee*, Jeffrey McIntyre *WV Business Industry Council*, Rebecca McPhail *WV Business Industry Council*.