



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Geographic Information System Updates
- 1 CMOM Regulations
- 2 House Bill 51 – New Tapping Fee Legislation
- 2 Did You Know?
- 3 Pennsylvania UCC Update
- 3 Vulnerability Assessment Update
- 3 PMAA Employee of the Year Award
- 4 Latest Developments
- 4 ARRO Offices

ARRO provides advice, design, project management, and consulting services for a wide range of infrastructure including water, wastewater, and transportation services.

DYNAMICS

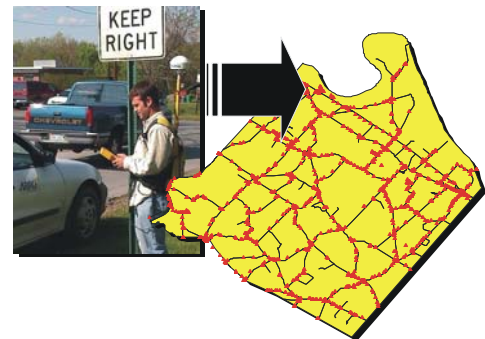
ARRO BOOSTS GIS SERVICES

Throughout the past year, ARRO's Geographic Information System (GIS) Department has been refurbished and re-energized with a new approach, a new philosophy, and a new procedure to help ensure that existing and potential clients are not only satisfied, but also excited about their product. A new approach to GIS was implemented including the primary utilization of the Global Positioning System (GPS) for municipal data collection.

A GPS functions by collecting the coordinates of geographic features via reception of satellite signals. The ultimate goal of the collection process is to produce a GIS layer capable of geographic and/or information query. Because of increased federal requirements for infrastructure documentation (GASB-34, NPDES Phase II, CMOM), the combination of a GPS feature collection scheme and GIS utilization has become a viable, cost-effective option.

ARRO has successfully performed this routine for several municipalities.

The goal is to make our clients self-sufficient in terms of mapping and analysis. Following data delivery, we offer a 4-hour training course that instructs the client on how to perform daily operations. It is these tasks that often comprise up over 90% of the municipality's GIS need. Advanced training and telephone technical support are also offered.



For further information, please contact Brian A. Higgins at 610-495-2106.

CMOM REGULATIONS FORTHCOMING

The proposed CMOM (capacity assurance, management, operation, and maintenance) regulations are part of the sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) rule that will affect sanitary sewer collection systems throughout the United States. These regulations will expand the NPDES program to include collection systems. Owners of municipal sewer systems will be required to develop a program to ensure adequate system capacity, facilitate capital investment planning, improve documentation and record keeping, and promote increased operation and maintenance attention to the collection system to improve system performance and reliability.

For more information on the proposed CMOM and SSO regulations or to discuss the impact of these proposed regulations on your system, contact Michael D. Sassaman, L.O. at 610-374-5285.

HOUSE BILL 51 – NEW TAPPING FEE LEGISLATION

On December 30, 2003, PA Governor Ed Rendell signed House Bill 51 into law. House Bill 51, or Act 57, specifies the fees that municipal authorities can charge as tapping fees for new users for sewerage and water supply systems. The new legislation contains several new requirements as compared to the old tapping fee legislation (Act 203).

The new law specifies the fees that may be charged for connection to sewerage or water systems. Fees charged may include a connection fee, customer facilities fee, and/or tapping fee.

The specific components of the tapping fee include a capacity part, a distribution or collection part, a special purpose part, and a reimbursement part. The law details the costs which may be used in the calculation of the tapping fees, as well as the methodology for calculating the

tapping fee. The law also defines the water or sewer flow rates to be used in calculating the special purpose part of the tapping fee.

The new law allows for tapping fees to be challenged. Additionally, the new law includes provisions for property owners to challenge the fees charged for the review of plans, construction inspections, and administrative, legal, and engineering services.

Authorities have until June 30, 2005 (18 months from the date the bill was signed into law) to update tapping fees. The law contains grandfathering provisions for authorities with long-term contracts or long-term financing which allows for an increased time for recalculating tapping fees. This applies to joint authorities with 6 or more municipal members which are prohibited from increasing user fees pursuant to a contract executed before January 1, 2003. In such cases,

authorities have 15 years to recalculate fees. In addition, authorities with financing which closed before July 1, 2003 with a 15-year term for construction of new facilities in which tapping fees were relied upon to support debt service have 5 years to recalculate fees.

For more information on the new tapping fee legislation or to learn how ARRO can assist you in updating your tapping fees, contact Cynthia L. Zawrotuk, P.E. at 717-560-2760.



DID YOU KNOW?

The 64,000 square mile Chesapeake Bay watershed is home to more than 13 million people and 3,600 animal species. It includes the District of Columbia and parts of six states: New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, and West Virginia.

The Bay consists of approximately 18 trillion gallons of water, has a water surface area of 3,227 square miles, and has an average depth of 21 feet. 185 miles in length, the Bay is 30 miles wide at its widest point and 4 miles wide at its narrowest point. The Chesapeake Bay watershed has a ratio of 15 parts land

to 1 part water. This compares to a ratio of 2 parts land to 1 part water in the Great Lakes watershed region. This means that the Chesapeake Bay must process more land-based pollution than other water bodies.

The health of the Bay depends on each of us. Careful water use, wise selection of household and agricultural/horticultural products, sensible handling of household wastes, and proper wastewater handling and disposal are some of the ways that individuals can help clean the pathways to the Bay.

Source:
Maryland Department of the Environment
"Your Bay, Your Watershed" Fact Sheet



Photo Credit: NOAA

PENNSYLVANIA UCC UPDATE



The final Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code (UCC) Administration and Enforcement Regulation was published in the January 10, 2004 Pennsylvania Bulletin.

The municipal election period (opt in, opt out period) will begin on

April 9, 2004 and run through July 8, 2004. All municipalities must notify the PA Department of Labor & Industry (L&I) of their decision, before the UCC takes effect, and they will have thirty calendar days after making their formal decision to submit notification. Any municipality that fails to submit the required notification postmarked on or before August 7, 2004 will have opted out of enforcement by default.

A special election form and a copy of a model UCC adoption ordinance will be mailed to all

municipalities (and be available on the UCC website) in the near future. As L&I receives municipal election forms, it will make available and regularly update an electronic listing of these decisions.

ARRO is registered with PA Department of Labor & Industry as a certified third party inspection agency. For more information on ARRO's building code services, contact Christopher M. Paff at 610-331-9324.

WATER SYSTEM VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT UPDATE

The 2002 Bio-Terrorism Act requires every community water system serving a population of greater than 3,300 people to conduct a vulnerability assessment of the system. Small water systems serving populations of 3,301 - 49,999 must complete and submit a vulnerability assessment to US EPA by June 30, 2004. If your water system falls into this category, ARRO recommends that if you haven't

already done so, you initiate work on a vulnerability



assessment immediately in order to meet this deadline.

ARRO has completed a number of these assessments for our clients and we can provide valuable assistance in complying with this federal requirement. For more information on vulnerability assessments, contact Samuel A. McClintock, Ph.D., P.E., DEE at 717-560-6066.

ARRO SPONSORS PMAA EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARD

ARRO is pleased to announce that it again will sponsor the Employee of the Year award organized by the Pennsylvania Municipal Authority Association (PMAA). This award acknowledges an individual's contribution to community service as well as service to the Authority. The awardee will receive a personalized plaque and a \$750 monetary award to

an institute of higher learning or non-profit organization. Nomination for the "Authority Employee of the Year" may be made by any active PMAA member. In order to nominate a candidate, a letter of not more than 100 words must be sent by the nominator 30 days prior to PMAA's Annual Convention. For more information contact Maxi Cotto at 717-560-6061.

NOTABLE QUOTE

Great thoughts speak only to the thoughtful mind, but great actions speak to all mankind.

Emily P. Bissell

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Latest Developments

Borough of Lititz, PA

The Borough of Lititz has awarded ARRO a project to design the replacement of an existing 4-inch diameter water line, existing storm sewer inlets and pipe, and partial road reconstruction on Lincoln Avenue from Broad Street to Chestnut Street. Temporary water service will be provided to residents during the replacement project. Lincoln Avenue is a state road and therefore a PENNDOT Highway Occupancy Permit is required to perform the work.

Borough of Columbia, PA

ARRO has been awarded Phase II of the Barber Street Improvements Project. The project includes total reconstruction of a portion of Barber Street from Tenth Street to Eleventh Street, and milling and overlay of

another portion of Barber Street from the end of Phase I to Florence Street. Also included in the project is the replacement of existing curbs and sidewalks, the construction of new curbs and sidewalks, and the installation of storm sewer facilities. The project is being partially funded by a Community Development Block Grant.

Borough of Quarryville, PA

The Fifth Street Improvements Project in Quarryville has been awarded to ARRO. The project includes water line replacement, curb and sidewalk replacement, new curb and sidewalk construction, storm sewer installation, and road resurfacing from State Road to Chestnut Street. From Church Street to Summit Avenue, the project includes curb and sidewalk construction and road reconstruction.

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