

**TESTIMONY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES & ENERGY COMMITTEE
INFORMATIONAL HEARING ON STORM WATER MANAGEMENT 7/15/96**

Panel: Richard J. Peltz, Deputy Secretary for Local and Area Transportation
Christopher J. Johnston, Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary
William R. Coup, Bureau of Municipal Services Manager
John M. Hrubovcak, Esq., Penn DOT Office of Chief Counsel
Carl Tosi, Maintenance Manager, Engineering District 6-0

Good afternoon. The Department of Transportation welcomes the opportunity to testify on the issue of storm water management.

Penn DOT became involved with this issue through the requests of Representative Steil, Senator Heckler and Rep. Melio. Initially, Representative Steil brought this issue to the Department of Transportation's Municipal Advisory Committee to address local roadways and storm water issues.

The Department offered to convene a working group of interested agencies and organizations to address storm water responsibility issues. The working group represents local municipal governments and state agencies including the Department of Environmental Protection and Penn DOT. The Department of Transportation believes this effort could be expanded to include additional groups as well as other state agencies and interested parties who seek resolution to the problems associated with storm water management.

The Department has acted as a facilitator to bring groups together to discuss the responsibilities of storm water runoff. This issue goes well beyond the Department of Transportation's responsibilities in managing such runoff. The Department will continue to design, construct and maintain those drainage facilities located within our rights of way which are meant to handle normal rainfall runoff. However, it is the Department's conviction that jurisdiction over storm water management be provided to a bonafide existing entity who would be given the authority to ensure that a unified approach to storm water management exists. This includes the ability to construct, maintain, and inspect storm water facilities. House Bill 979 begins to address these issues.

Stormwater management is a large problem in suburban and urban areas. Impacts include: Flooding and drainage damage to local roads and bridges, watershed conservation losses, and damage to public and personal property. The list is extensive and indicates the critical nature of this issue.

Act 167, the Stormwater Management Act of 1978 was a good start in addressing the problem, however, issues related to responsibility and coordination, maintenance, and inspection still seem open to interpretation. H.B. 979 or a version thereof would be beneficial in addressing these complicated issues.

The storm water working group intends to work closely with the legislature on H.B. 979 which promotes a regional storm water facility management approach. Although

0

the Department of Transportation recognizes that additional work needs to be accomplished in seeking consensus on this difficult issue, the Department supports the concept of a regional storm water management approach.

The Department commends Representative Steil, Senator Heckler and Representative Melio for bringing this issue the attention it deserves. The Department is looking forward to working with the legislature and the working group to continue to review and suggest possible storm water management remedies.

At this time, our panel would be happy to answer any questions.