

Amity Township to complete water connections

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By Denise Larive, News Writer

The Amity Township Board of Supervisors has resolved a year of red-tape with the state that has prevented new public water line connections for seven homes on Thalia Lane.

Public water connections will lessen residents' exposure to Tetrachloroethylene (Perchl-oroethylene), also known as PERC, that is in the residents' well water.

Nineteen residents in the area of Monocacy Creek Road and Thalia Lane were told in September 2009 by the state Department of Environmental Protection that their wells were contaminated by PERC.

Township Solicitor Brian F. Boland said the last seven sewer connections on Thalia Lane are expected to be completed by June 30.

He said the final connections will occur through a grant from the DEP.

The township will hire a contractor through a bid process and Pennsylvania American Water Company will do the stub work to the individual meter boxes.

Boland said the township will be reimbursed by the DEP for all administrative and construction costs.

He said the township will also seal off the current wells and is part of the project costs that are reimbursable.

DEP's Environmental Clean-up Program Manager John Krueger said PERC cannot be removed from the bedrock.

He said the DEP first became aware of the contamination in 1985 and that it originated from a dry cleaning business that may have been located in the Valley View Mobile Homes area, 1 Valley View Road, Birdsboro.

The DEP has provided bottled water to residents since January 2007.

Krueger said all of Valley View's 200 units were connected to public water in April 2008.

Board Chairman Robert R. Yanos said the PERC is a safety issue and all residents in the area need to be connected to public water.

In other business:

- The board unanimously approved a one-tenth increase to the employee pension plan that covers 17 employees.

The benefit plan was increased two previous times — last year from 1.3 to 1.4 percent and the year before 1.2 to 1.3 percent.

The state's Public School Employees' Retirement System is 2.5 percent.

- Amity Township Police Chief Kent A. Shuebrook said his department's officers have written 150 tickets this winter for vehicles parked on public streets following one-inch of accumulated snow.