

Report for 2004DE41B: Undergraduate Internship: A Water Resource Threat Analysis for Delaware

- Water Resources Research Institute Reports:
 - Johnson, Janet, Matthew DeSanctis, 2005, A Water Resource Threat Analysis for Delaware, Delaware Water Resources Center, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware, 29 Pages.

Report Follows

Undergraduate Internship Project #3 of 9 for FY04

The Delaware Water Resources Center and the University of Delaware College of Arts and Science co-sponsored **Matthew DeSanctis'** internship evaluating "A Water Resource Threat Analysis for Delaware". Matthew is investigating Delaware water supply protection security measures and standards and is assessing current risk. His advisor is Dr. Janet Johnson, **UD** Department of Political Science.

"My DWRC research project has allowed me to pursue a topic that has long fascinated me. Exploring water security in Delaware has been a challenging undertaking, but I feel understanding the complexities of this issue will help in making recommendations in the future." -- Matthew DeSanctis

Abstract:

In the days, weeks, and years following September 11, 2001 a variety of complicated security issues emerged and have captured the attention of our nation. While issues such as foreign military operation and airport security garner an impressive amount of attention from both media and the general public, perhaps even more important issues remain to be addressed. Consequently, the issue of our nation's water supply security is a concern that cannot be ignored.

The availability of a safe and secure water supply is among civilization's most fundamental needs. America has long enjoyed one of the world's safest supplies of water, yet, after the tragic events of September 11th the permanent availability of this resource could no longer be guaranteed or taken for granted. While the federal government has taken steps to secure our water resources, the states must also address their own distinct needs while simultaneously implementing federal standards.

Discussion of water supply security reveals a multitude of actors, agencies, organizations, and various forms of legislation, illustrating the complexity of the issue. While certainly acknowledging that water supply security, like any other topic surrounding such a critical field, possesses an inherent amount of sensitive information; delineating the information that is available to the public could effectively address this critical issue. In preliminary investigation of the available data pertaining to the subject, no succinct source of aggregate information could be found specific to Delaware. Thus, the scope of this paper is to effectively evaluate the state of water supply security in Delaware post 9/11 allowing for a full and complete review of all involved actors, in both the public and private sectors, relevant legislation (at the state and federal level) and the various contributions they afford to the safety of the water supply in Delaware.