



East Coast Plans for Dry Spell

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While droughts sound like a problem for the West Coast, the East is not immune to water issues. Will it be ready in case of a dry spell? Join the D.C. Bar Sections on May 20 for the program “[Eastern Water Resources: Planning for When the Well Runs Dry.](#)”

The expert panel, including Jason Oyler, regulatory counsel for the Susquehanna River Basin Commission; Daniel Inkelas, Office of the Chief Counsel at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and Hope Babcock, professor of law and co-director of the Institute for Public Representation at the Georgetown University Law Center, will discuss cutting-edge issues unique to the administration of water in the eastern United States. Haninah Levine, an associate at WilmerHale LLP, will serve as moderator.

“Our hopes for the event are to raise awareness within the D.C. environmental law community of the important issues surrounding water availability and limited water resources in the [region],” Levine said in an e-mail. He added that these issues are often overshadowed by discussions of water quality and water pollution in the eastern United States and by issues of water availability in the western United States. Levine said that the organizers also hope to spotlight some of the practitioners and academics who are doing exciting work on these issues, both in Washington, D.C., and elsewhere in the region.

Oyler said he will outline trends he sees in water use within the Susquehanna River watershed. “Specifically, I know that people are interested in the impact of development of the Marcellus and other unconventional Shale Plays, and also the development of electric power generation,” he said.

Babcock, an expert on environmental and Native American law, will address three relevant issues for eastern water law: the gradual movement from a common law riparian doctrine toward a more regulated system, the public trust doctrine that limits what can be done with water, and Native American tribal water rights.

The panel discussion will take place from 12 to 1:15 p.m., and doors will open at 11:30 a.m. The Water Quality and Water Resources Committee of the D.C. Bar Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Section will present this discussion in cosponsorship with the American Bar Association’s Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources.

The discussion will be held at the D.C. Bar Conference Center, 1101 K Street NW, first floor.

For more information, contact the D.C. Bar Sections Office at 202-626-3463 or e-mail SectionsEvents@dcbar.org.