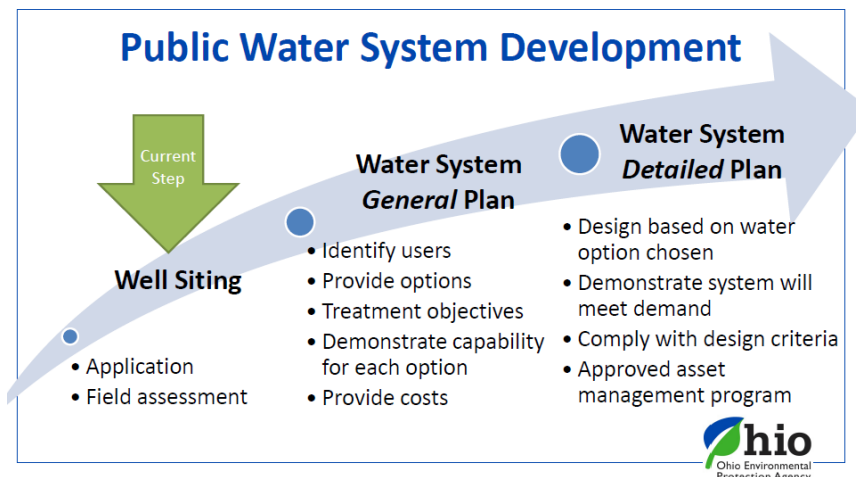


Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Information Session:

The purpose of the meeting was to explain the process that the Ohio EPA uses to review applications to develop public water systems. In November 2018, Artesian of Pioneer (AOP) submitted an application for one well site application for Production Well #1. In December 2018, the OH EPA made a field visit to assess the proposed location. On February 6, 2019, the OH EPA responded with conditions for well site approval. On March 12, 2019, the OH EPA had a voluntary (not required by the permitting process) information session to share the process and answer questions. The OH EPA will accept public comments postmarked on or before March 15 on the well site location permit request. Once the public comment period closes, the OH EPA will make a final decision on the location for Production Well #1.

Next Steps if the Location Permit is Granted:

If the well site location is approved, the well will be drilled, a pumping test completed, and water samples taken for analysis. To move forward in the process, AOP will then be required to submit a Water System General Plan outlining the details in the schematic below. Many of the questions attendees asked would be addressed in this General Plan. EPA representatives indicated that they knew very few details in regards to the 'big picture' project. The public will have an opportunity to share comments with the OH EPA at this step before approval of the General Plan. If approved, the next step for AOP will be the submittal of the Water System Detailed Plan. Public input will be accepted in this step also. If approved, the first well site will become active as a public water system. One of the permitting requirements is a 'redundancy of equipment.' AOP will therefore have at a minimum two production wells. The second production well will follow the same permitting process outlined below.



Right now, very few details are known about the project, aside from what is shared in the news, and many questions were asked about the potential impacts to the aquifer and area wells. The representatives said more information will be needed from the petitioner and additional information will be gathered on the aquifer including a hydrogeological survey. An additional consideration during the permitting process will include an 'alternatives analysis' or looking at how necessary the project is for the proposed users, another concern voiced several times at the meeting.

The OH Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be involved in the permitting process also and it was made clear that the OH EPA defers to the OH DNR for withdraw concerns and monitoring. The OH DNR also monitors compliance with the Great Lakes Compact. Once the General Plan is submitted and more detail on production is known then the project may trigger additional permitting for the Great Lakes Compact through the OH DNR. An effort will be made to include the OH DNR in future public meetings should any be scheduled, so questions regarding withdraws can be answered. I do not know about their permitting process at this time.

Public Records Available:

<http://edocpub.epa.ohio.gov/publicportal/edochome.aspx>