

WATERS AT RISK

PENNSYLVANIA'S 4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

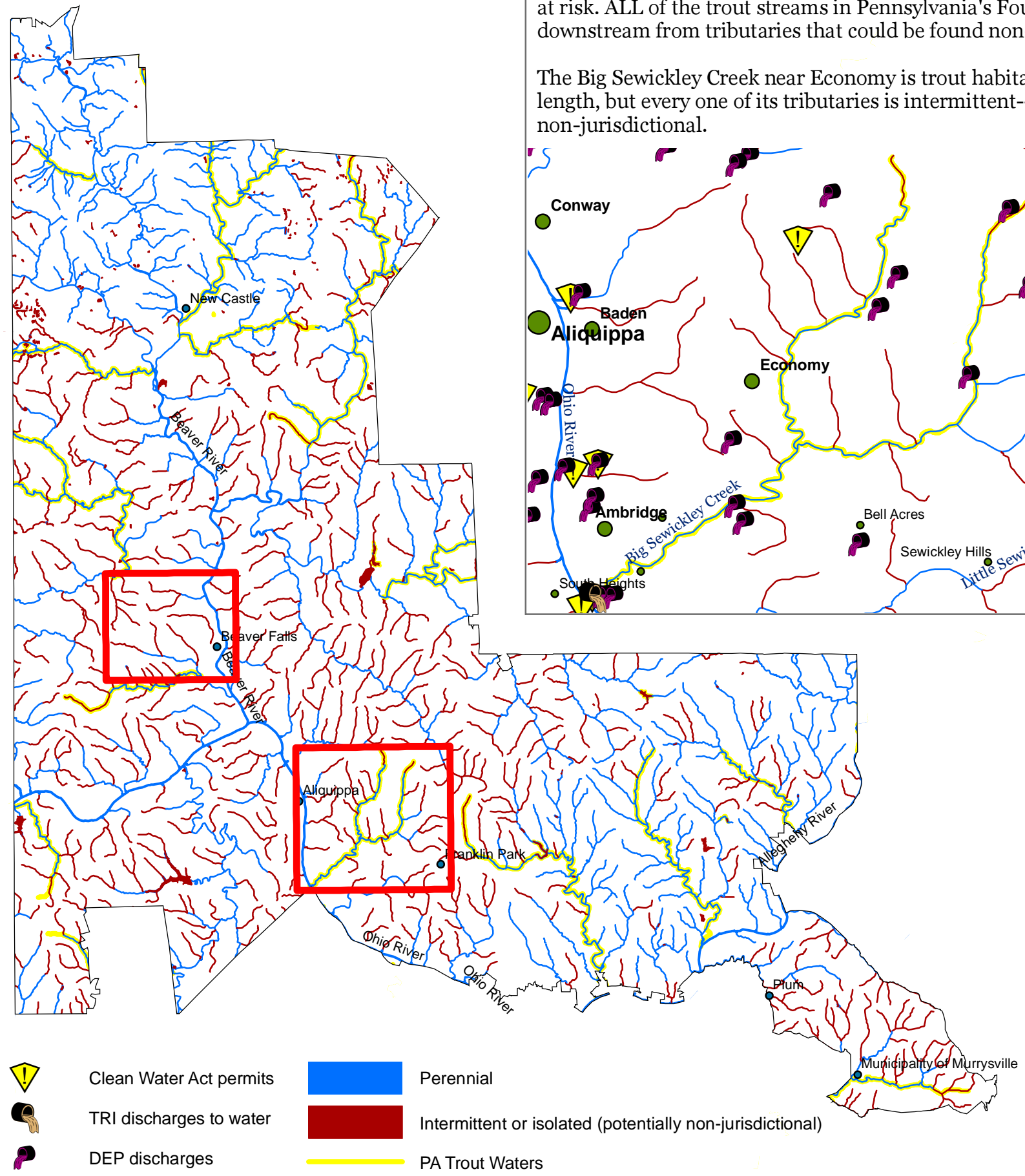
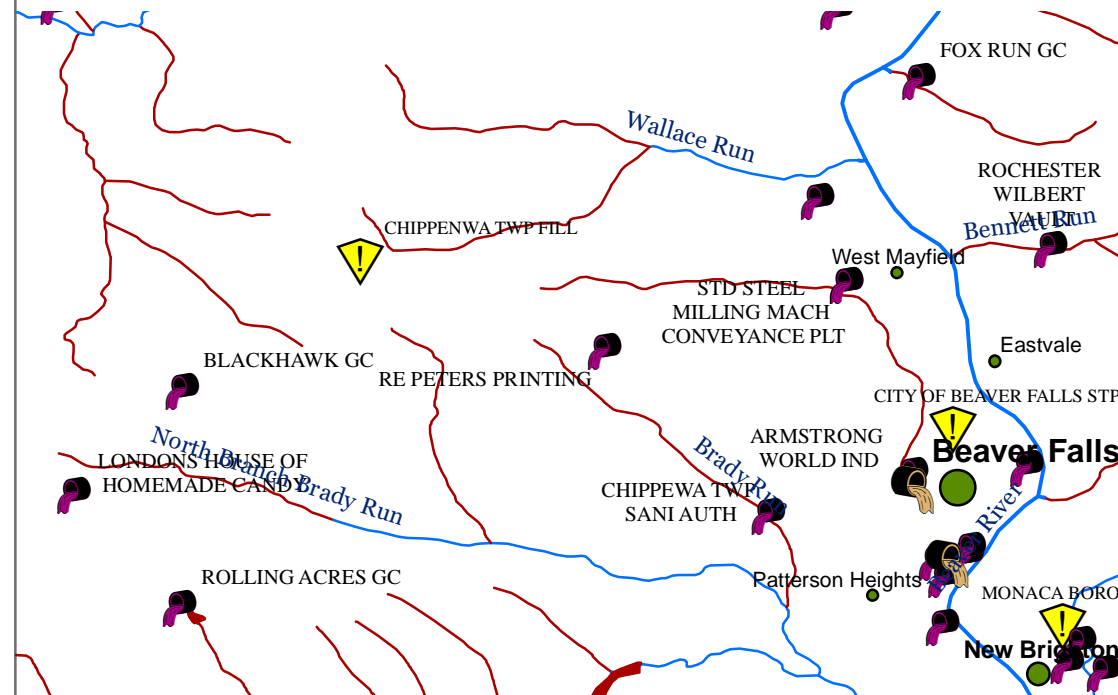
Waters in these maps are colored according to their vulnerability of being exempted from the federal Clean Water Act. Red shows where either the Army Corps of Engineers or lower courts have interpreted Supreme Court decisions as "non-jurisdictional", not covered by the Act.

It is important to note that not all Corps offices and not all courts have the same standards. In the absence of clearer guidance, clean water policy is being set case-by-case by local judges across the country.

Pollution Reporting

The Clean Water Act regulates water pollution by issuing permits. But polluters across the country have challenged the Act's jurisdiction because of the Supreme Court rulings.

Most Pennsylvania streams have headwaters which might be judged non-jurisdictional under the new, weaker standards. Around Beaver Falls, many facilities discharge to water but could be exempt from the Clean Water Act because the streams are intermittent. In these cases, the burden of permitting and enforcement falls entirely on the state.



Fishing and clean water

Despite their importance for tourism and food, most fishing areas are at risk. ALL of the trout streams in Pennsylvania's Fourth District are downstream from tributaries that could be found non-jurisdictional.

The Big Sewickley Creek near Economy is trout habitat its entire length, but every one of its tributaries is intermittent--and potentially non-jurisdictional.

