

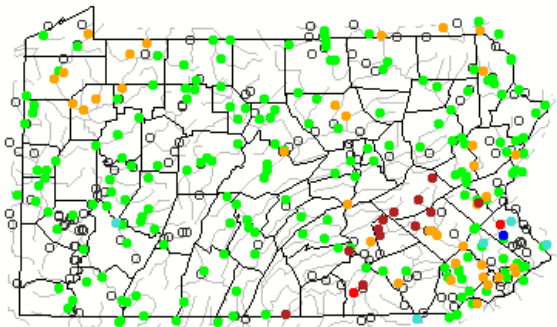
The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) monitors rivers and streams nationwide using stream gages that track water level, flow rate, and in some places basic water quality parameters.

This gaging network is funded primarily through the U.S. Department of Interior's budget but is heavily supplemented by cooperative partnerships with over 1,500 state, local, and tribal entities, including industrial and power facilities. Despite this long-standing combined vested interest in collecting stream information, the network is at risk due to federal budget cuts. USGS offices are facing lease terminations, staff reductions and spending freezes, which directly threaten stream gage maintenance.

The stream gages maintained by this program are essential tools in preparing our communities for growing water demands and the ongoing threat of floods and droughts. They provide real-time data that:

- save lives by enabling early flood warnings
- protect agricultural livelihoods, businesses, and municipal water supplies
- inform smart, cost-effective infrastructure planning

Consequences of losing gages include reduced flood and drought preparedness and economic harm to farms, utilities, and transportation. There is simply no equivalent information available from any other source. The nation cannot function without a reliable monitoring network.



*Every day millions of Pennsylvanians are positively impacted by the operation of these monitoring stations across the Commonwealth*

In the Susquehanna River Basin area in New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland, USGS operates and maintains stream and river monitoring at 146 locations, ranging from small rural trout streams to major rivers flowing through our large cities. These stations are consulted on a daily basis for:

- making flood forecasts and predicting areas likely to be inundated by rising waters
- operating flood control dams and evaluating levees and floodwalls
- tracking the onset of drought conditions
- determining if and when water conservation measures need to be implemented
- determining if new water demand requests can be accommodated

Even boating and fishing enthusiasts know their local gage and use its information to identify a good time to get out on the water! Please voice your support for continued operation of these essential stations.