

THE SUSQUEHANNA

The Susquehanna River is the nation's sixteenth largest river and is the largest river lying entirely in the United States that flows into the Atlantic Ocean. The Susquehanna and its hundreds of tributaries drain 27,510 square miles, an area nearly the size of South Carolina, spread over parts of the states of New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland.

The river meanders 444 miles from its origin at Otsego Lake near Cooperstown, New

York, until it empties into the Chesapeake Bay at Havre de Grace, Maryland. The Susquehanna contributes one-half of the freshwater flow to the Bay.

The Basin borders the major population centers of the east coast, and although relatively undeveloped, has experienced problems of water pollution and overuse. The Susquehanna River flows through three states and is classified as a navigable waterway by the federal government,

thereby, state, regional, and national interests are involved.

the Congress of the United States and the legislatures of New York State, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, provides the mechanism to guide water resource management of the Susquehanna River Basin.

THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

The Compact, which went into effect on January 24, 1971, also established the Susquehanna River Basin Commission as the agency to coordinate these water resources efforts.

Commission Members

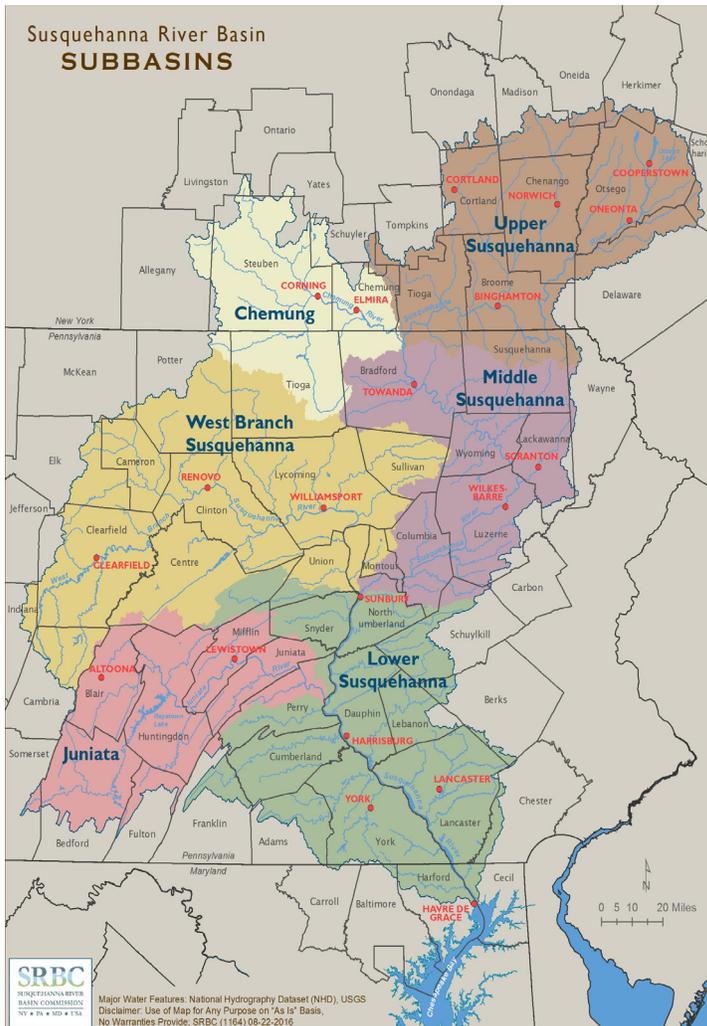
Each member state/jurisdiction is represented by a commissioner who serves as the spokesperson for the government that he or she represents. In the case of the federal government, the commissioner has been identified in legislation as the Division Engineer, North Atlantic Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. For the three states, the commissioners are the governors or their designees. The commissioners also appoint alternate commissioners.

The commissioners, or their alternates, meet quarterly to act on a variety of programmatic and administrative matters, including applications for projects using water; adopting regulations, policies, and budgets; and enacting various planning and management activities. Each of the four commissioners has a single vote.

Under the leadership of the Executive Director, technical and administrative personnel support the daily operations of the Commission.

THE COMPACT

In the late 1960s, a broad group of concerned citizens saw the need for a federal-interstate coordinating agency to lead the conservation, development, and administration of the Basin's resources that would preserve and enhance its value as a scenic and recreational asset for the people who live in the Basin. The need to coordinate these efforts, along with those of three states and the agencies of the federal government, led to the drafting of the Susquehanna River Basin Compact, which was signed into law on December 24, 1970. The Compact, as adopted by



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, which is defined in the Compact, is to enhance public welfare through comprehensive planning, water supply allocation, and management of the water resources of the Susquehanna River Basin.

To accomplish this mission, the Commission works to: reduce damages caused by floods; provide for the reasonable and sustained development and use of surface and ground water for municipal, agricultural, recreational, commercial and industrial purposes; protect and restore fisheries, wetlands and aquatic habitat; protect water quality and instream uses; and ensure future availability of flows to the Chesapeake Bay.

The Commission is uniquely qualified to carry out this mission. As a federal-interstate compact commission, its focus is defined by the natural boundaries of the river Basin rather than the political boundaries of the member states. As such, the Commission serves as a forum to provide coordinated management, promote communication among the members, and resolve water resource issues and controversies within the Basin.



RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

Commission staff develops and implements the programs as directed by the commissioners and as found in the Commission's Comprehensive Plan. The four priority management areas of the Comprehensive Plan are listed below, along with the vision for each and the associated indicators of success for demonstrating effective implementation and management of the Plan. Cutting across all four areas is the Commission's commitment to addressing climate change and meeting the needs of underserved or disadvantaged communities within the context of environmental justice.

Water Supply

Vision: All users of the Basin's water resources have reliable, conflict-free, and sustainable water supply for current and future generations, even as demographic, economic, and climate conditions evolve.

Indicators of success: Avoidance of water availability deficits, increased water conservation and reuse savings, and additional water supply storage and consumptive use mitigation.

Water Quality

Vision: The waters of the Basin meet or exceed water quality standards and are able to support desired water supply, aquatic life, and recreational uses.

Indicators of success: Improving water quality trends and indicators, fewer contact recreation closures, reduction of stream impairment listings, and increases in waterways under an elevated protected status.

Flooding & Drought

Vision: Basin communities will be prepared for and equipped to mitigate the effects of flooding and drought in a changing climate, minimizing loss of life and property, economic disruption, and adverse environmental impacts.

Indicators of success: Improved flood and drought early warning products that incorporate climate adaptation, more widespread forecast and mitigation coverage, increased water supply storage and backup sources, better community engagement with institutional resources and partnership opportunities, and reduced flood and drought damages.

Watershed Management

Vision: Integrated land use and water management practices allow watersheds to function in a natural and sustainable manner to protect and improve the quantity and quality of water resources in the Basin.

Indicators of success: More unaltered flow regimes, reduced stormwater generated pollutant loads, reduced occurrence/extent of invasive species, reestablishment of native species to historic ranges, and increased reforestation along streams.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Commission completes much of its work through four program areas. These programs include:

Project Review

The permitting arm of the Commission's regulatory program, the Project Review team receives and reviews applications for water withdrawals and consumptive water use, makes recommendations to the commissioners for actions on those applications, and helps to develop key standards guiding how, when and where the Commission's policies and regulations are exercised.

Compliance & Enforcement

The enforcement arm of the Commission's regulatory program, the Compliance Program works to ensure that water related projects have the appropriate approvals and operate within the constraints of those approvals. Site inspections, quarterly reporting requirements, and an extensive project database are some of the essential tools used by the program.



Monitoring & Protection

Monitoring and Protection scientists collect data to better understand the interactions of biological, chemical, and physical traits of streams throughout the Basin. These activities include water quality monitoring/sampling for macroinvertebrates & fish, stormwater, nutrient and sediment loadings, and abandoned mine drainage. Key protection efforts include operation of systems that provide real-time monitoring in sensitive watersheds and in the vicinity of drinking water supplies, establishing Total Maximum Daily Load criteria, assessing risks to drinking water sources, and characterizing the cause and extent of impairment to Basin waterways.

Planning & Operations

Planning and Operations provides technical support to the other programs and is tasked with assessing the nature and quantity of water use in the Basin. The Planning and Operations team also leads coordination efforts to help ensure that Basin agencies and residents are prepared to withstand and react to flooding and drought conditions.

