



# Susquehanna River Basin Low Flow Management, MD, NY, & PA

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
**FACT SHEET as of February 1, 2015**

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**AUTHORIZATION:** Section 729 of Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 1986, as amended by Section 202 of WRDA 2000 and Section 2010 of WRDA 2007

**TYPE OF PROJECT:** Ecosystem Restoration

**CONTRIBUTION TO CHESAPEAKE BAY:** Directly contributes to achieving protection and restoration goals established by the 2009 Executive Order 13508 and the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Program Agreement to restore clean water, recover habitat, and sustain fish and wildlife.

**PROJECT PHASE:** Feasibility

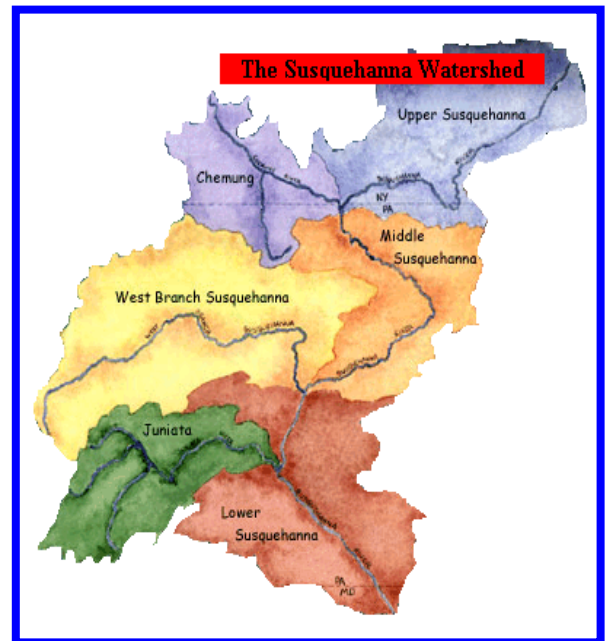
**CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST:** Senators **Mikulski** and **Cardin** (MD), **Casey** and **Toomey** (PA), **Schumer** and **Gillibrand** (NY); Representatives **Harris** (MD-1), **Ruppersberger** (MD-2), **Delaney** (MD-06), **Shuster** (PA-09), **Marino** (PA-10), **Barletta** (PA-11), **Pitts** (PA-16), **Cartwright** (PA-17), **Gibson** (NY-19), **Hanna** (NY-22), and **Reed** (NY-23)

**NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR:** Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC)

**BACKGROUND:** The Susquehanna River Basin drains an area of 27,500 square miles, covering half of Pennsylvania, and portions of New York and Maryland. This landmass encompasses over 43 percent of the Chesapeake Bay's total drainage area.

While the basin is noted as one of the most flood-prone in the Nation, there is increasing concern over the growing demand for water as the population of 4.1M people continues to grow. Consumptive water use continues to increase throughout the basin with sector uses of power production, municipal supplies, and agriculture sharing the highest demand. As such, there is a need to address low flow issues and the increasing demand on the water resources of the basin. The opportunity exists now to address strategies to pool and release water to offset the growing demands and consumptive uses of water in the basin. To that end, it would be useful to examine low flow release schemes for available water supplies, environmental restoration and flows to better sustain aquatic habitat and conservation strategies to offset the rising demands.

On December 4, 2008, the Baltimore District and SRBC executed a cost-sharing agreement for the Susquehanna River Basin Low Flow Management Study. This watershed assessment furthers USACE's ecosystem restoration efforts in support of Executive Order 13508 for Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration. Phase I of this study was completed in June 2012 with the Susquehanna River Basin Ecological Flow Management Study Phase I Report. This report identified how the range of flows affects the aquatic ecosystem within the sub-watersheds of the Susquehanna River Basin, with



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particular emphasis on low flow conditions and developed flow recommendations based on existing information and data for immediate application to existing water management programs. A follow-on phase will expand upon phase I and result in a final watershed assessment that will: 1) identify and assess management measures to provide flow management for ecosystem health during low flow periods in the Susquehanna River basin; 2) identify and assess future water use patterns that may impact water availability for human use and ecosystem function during low flow periods in the Susquehanna River basin, and; 3) begin preparing, with basin partners, for climate change impacts to water use, availability, and aquatic ecosystem health in the Susquehanna River basin due to changes in precipitation patterns and temperature regimes.

**STATUS:** Phase I was completed in June 2012 with the Susquehanna River Basin Ecological Flow Management Study Phase I Report. Phase II, the final phase of the study, is expected to begin pending execution of the cost-sharing agreement amendment.

<b><u>BUDGET (\$):</u></b>	<b><u>RECON</u></b>	<b><u>Investigations</u></b>	
		<b><u>FEAS</u></b>	
		<b><u>Phase I</u></b>	<b><u>Phase II</u></b>
<b><u>Total Estimated Cost</u></b>	\$329,000	\$380,000	\$1,020,000
Federal Cost	329,000	285,000	765,000
Non-Federal Cost	0	95,000	255,000
<b><u>Federal Funds Data</u></b>			
Allocation thru FY 2013	329,000	291,300	0
Allocation for FY 2014	0	1,000	0
President Budget FY 2015 <sup>1</sup>	0	0	0
Allocation for FY 2015 <sup>2</sup>	0	0	TBD
Balance to Complete	0	0	757,700

**NOTES:**

<sup>1</sup> The President typically sends the budget to Congress in February each year. Upon release, budget amounts for the USACE Civil Works programs and specified projects are posted online at the HQUSACE website in a program budget press book at <http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/Budget.aspx>.

<sup>2</sup> The final FY 2015 allocation amounts will be made available upon final approval pursuant to the Energy and Water Appropriations Act's continuing funding requirements.

**SCHEDULE:**

**FY 2014 Completed Work:** With funding received, work continued toward executing the cost-share agreement amendment for the final phase of the project.

**FY 2015 Scheduled Work:** Previous year carry-in funds in the amount of \$29,587 could be used to start the watershed assessment including existing conditions narrative pending execution of the cost-share agreement amendment.

**COMPLETION:** With optimum funding, the watershed assessment could be completed in two years.

**For more information** regarding the Susquehanna River Basin Low Flow Management project, contact Kimberly Gross, CENAB-PP-C, (410) 962-3457, [Kimberly.u.gross@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kimberly.u.gross@usace.army.mil)



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