

# DRBC Currents

Delaware River Basin Commission

Winter 2000/2001

## New Comprehensive Plan Underway DRBC Staff Gears Up

As directed by the "Resolution on the Protection of the Delaware River Basin" signed by the four basin state governors, the DRBC is moving ahead with the task of developing a new comprehensive water resources plan for the basin.

The current comprehensive plan (CP) is basically a loosely organized collection of DRBC policies, rules, and projects. Moreover, the existing CP does not present a basinwide vision or long-range goals and directions to guide water resources management now and in the future.

The process for updating the CP is being addressed in two phases. First, the commission's existing CP will be compiled and organized into a more coherent document. Former DRBC Chief Engineer David Everett, who retired in

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## President Signs Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Bill

### White Clay Creek Also Added to National System

The United States Congress gave its final approval to two bills in October 2000 that added a section of the lower Delaware River and the White Clay Creek to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Both bills were signed into law by President Clinton.

Over half of the non-tidal Delaware River is now included in the national system.

In a congratulatory letter to U.S. Rep. Rush Holt (D-N.J.), President Clinton wrote, "As you know, the future of the Delaware River, the longest free-flowing river in the eastern United States, is vital to the economy of the regions surrounding this important waterway. Wild and Scenic River designation will encourage natural and historic resource preservation and protect precious open space. By allowing local municipalities to sustain and protect the Delaware River as one of our

national treasures, this law will help to ensure the vitality of these communities and the quality of life of their citizens."

The Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Rivers Act adds a 65-mile section to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, linking the Delaware Water Gap and Washington Crossing, Pa., just upstream of Trenton, N.J.

The White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic Rivers System Act designates approximately 190 miles of segments and tributaries of

the White Clay Creek as components of the national system. The creek flows from southeastern Pennsylvania to northwestern Delaware and eventually joins the Christina River, a tributary to the Delaware River. It is the

first wild and scenic river designation in the state of Delaware.

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*"Wild and Scenic River designation will encourage natural and historic resource preservation and protect precious open space."*

*The Delaware: Part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System*



WARREN HUFF

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## Executive Director's Report:

# What a Difference a Year Makes!

By Carol R. Collier

In striking contrast to 1999 when we found ourselves in the grip of a serious drought, Mother Nature proved to be quite kind to the Delaware River Basin during 2000.

In the January 8, 2001, hydrologic conditions report prepared for the commissioners, DRBC staff noted that we ended 2000 with water storage in the three New York City Delaware Basin reservoirs at above normal levels. The new year began with these three reservoirs holding 244 billion gallons (bg) of water, or about 54 bg above the long-term median storage level for that date. That's nearly 59 bg above the level of one year ago!



Ms. Collier

While the hydrologic conditions we experienced in 2000 brought a sigh of relief to the farmers who were hard hit by the drought of 1999, they were not welcomed by all. Upper Delaware fishing and boating interests were negatively impacted by Mother Nature's liquid generosity in 2000. This situation prompted a busload of people to meet with the commissioners and share their concerns on November 15.

When dry conditions exist and stream flows suffer, the U.S. Supreme Court Decree of 1954 requires water releases from the three New York City Delaware Basin reservoirs in order to meet a minimum-flow target on the Delaware River at Montague, N.J., just below Port Jervis, N.Y. The reservoirs and dams are located in New York State's Catskill Mountains on three tributaries to the main stem Delaware River—the West and East Branches and the Neversink River.

During dry times like the summer of 1999, it is estimated that reservoir releases account for as much as 90 percent of the flow in the upper Delaware. The cool and plentiful water coming from the reservoirs is quite favorable for fish habitat and anglers. According to New York State officials, trout fisheries in the upper Delaware attract an estimated 55,000 angler trips annually and contribute more than \$17.7 million to the area's economy.

In 2000, however, the Delaware River did not need any extra help from reservoir releases to meet the minimum-flow target at Montague. The absence of these releases significantly dropped the stream flows below the dams on the three tributaries and affected fish habitats.

In an effort to protect these important habitats on the particularly hard-hit West Branch of the Delaware River, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection agreed to release higher conservation flows from the Cannonsville Reservoir until October 31, 2000, to maintain a flow of 200 cubic feet per second at Hale Eddy, N.Y.

As was noted on the front page of the Spring 2000 *DRBCurrents*, a study sponsored by the DRBC is currently underway to determine the relationships of river flow to various stream uses. This flow needs study will help decision makers to understand the multiple benefits of flow augmentation by reservoirs. The events of the summer of 2000 clearly show the timeliness of and need for this important study.

The Delaware River Basin serves the most densely populated and industrialized area in the United States. We all place huge demands on the basin's water resources, but we are clearly at the mercy of weather's whims.

A May 2000 editorial appearing in *The Intelligencer* (Doylestown, Pa.) compared last spring's weather to 1999 and summed up things pretty well:

*"A time to give thanks?  
Certainly. A time to relax  
our vigilance? Certainly not."*

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# Tailoring Watershed Protection to Meet Community Needs

## Pocono Creek Pilot Study Underway

It is difficult at the present time to develop a cohesive watershed plan that addresses multiple water resource issues in a unified manner. Since existing regulations typically force a piecemeal approach to watershed management, elements like land use, water quality and quantity, and surface and ground water are often treated separately at the expense of cost-effective and innovative solutions.

A new approach, goal-based watershed management, is based on active community participation. It starts with local communities setting both water resource and socioeconomic goals for their watershed.

*Water resource goals* holistically address water quality, water quantity, fish species and habitat, and streambank erosion. Through the goal-setting process, important water resources within the watershed that should be preserved and enhanced are identified.

*Socioeconomic goals* address future conditions needed to support the local economy and the desired quality of life for residents. These include important economic sectors that should be preserved and strengthened as well as community and development patterns that should be encouraged.

Once the goals are established, management strategies are developed to meet them. These strategies are evaluated in terms of their costs and other socioeconomic impacts. Then, the communities select and implement the preferred approach. Watershed protection is achieved by tailoring protection measures to meet each watershed's unique characteristics as well as the communities' priorities and needs.

### The Pocono Creek Pilot Study

The DRBC and Monroe County Conservation District have received a Growing Greener Initiative grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to study this new approach to watershed management. The Pocono Creek Watershed in Northeast Pennsylvania has been selected as the study site.

Other partners include the Monroe County Planning Commission, Brodhead Watershed Association, DEP, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, U.S. Geological Survey, and Villanova University. The seven municipalities within the watershed—Hamilton, Jackson, Pocono, Stroud, Tobyhanna, and Tunkhannock Townships as well as Stroudsburg Borough—are actively involved in the project.

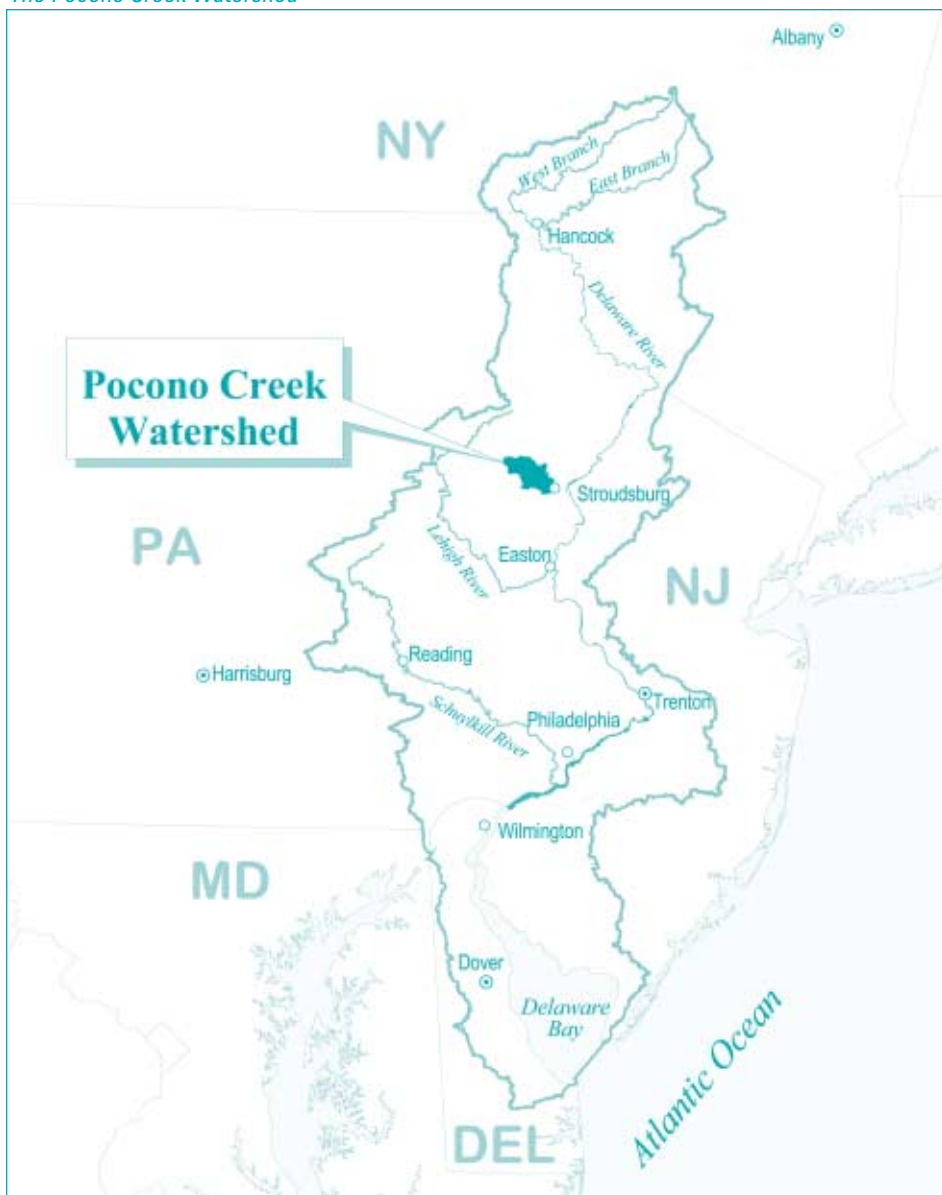
### The Pocono Creek Watershed and Its Suitability for the Study

Pocono Creek is a tributary to McMichael Creek in the Brodhead Watershed. Its major tributaries include Dry Sawmill Run, Wolf Swamp Run, Scot Run, Bulgers Run, Reeders Run, Rocky Run, and Cranberry Creek. Interstate 80 and State Route 611 bisect the 46.5-square-mile watershed. Land use is mainly residential and also includes the commercially developed Route 611 corridor, Big Pocono State Park, Camelback Ski Area, the Nature Conservancy's Tannersville Cranberry Bog, and state gamelands. Pocono Creek is designated as a High Quality-Cold Water Fishery under Pennsylvania's water quality regulations.

The Pocono Creek Watershed is an excellent area for the pilot study because of its high-quality water, coupled with tremendous growth. The watershed has demon-

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The Pocono Creek Watershed



# Educators Join DRBC Staff in High School Science Project

Two New Jersey high school science teachers spent much of their summer with the DRBC participating in the 21st Century Science Teacher Skills Project.

Kirsten Conover of Moorestown High School and Phil Levy of Lacey Township High School presented the results of their practical experience project, "Biological and Chemical Monitoring of the Lower Delaware River and Its Tributaries," at a September 2000 symposium hosted by Monmouth University in West Long Branch, N.J. This event also featured presentations by 10 additional teachers who participated in five other projects during the summer.



*Teacher Phil Levy gathers macroinvertebrate samples on the Wickecheoke Creek in Hunterdon County, N.J.*

The two teachers helped DRBC staff members gather biological samples at a number of tributaries in New Jersey for later assessment, as well as record physical data and observations. They also assisted in the continued chemical monitoring of water quality along the lower Delaware River and its tributaries. This information will be used by the DRBC to identify reference sites, which will provide a model for stream comparisons.

Kirsten and Phil used what they learned to develop a number of classroom activities. One is a short course in limnology, or the study of inland water bodies, that can be incorporated into the ecology section of a biology curriculum. They also developed a number of activities that can be used in biology and chemistry programs. These include estab-

lishing a monitoring program for a local stream, measuring the pH, conductivity, and dissolved oxygen in a variety of water bodies, investigating contamination in local water supplies, researching local aquatic life, and setting up a simple monitoring program near schools.

Monmouth University piloted this summer program in an effort to improve high school mathematics and science teachers' understanding of how the disciplines they teach are used in society. The primary objective of the program was to enrich classroom teaching by giving teachers practical experience to solve current problems in science and technology. A second objective was to improve math and science teacher retention by providing connections with the larger scientific community and a summer stipend to supplement teachers' salaries.

Congressman Rush Holt (D-N.J.) sponsored the 21st Century Science Teacher Skills Project through a grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education.

## DRBC Web Site Recognized

The DRBC's web site has been selected as a Links2Go Key Resource under the topic of water quality.

According to the notification the commission received from the Woburn, Mass., company, "When Links2Go says your page is a Key Resource, we mean that your page is one of the most relevant pages related to a particular topic on the web today, using an objective statistical measure applied to an extremely large data set."

Links2Go goes on to say, "The only way to get listed as a Key Resource is to achieve enough popularity for our analysis to select your pages automatically.... Fewer than one page in one thousand will ever be selected as a Key Resource."

In addition, the "Importance of Stream Gages" page now appearing on the DRBC web site is being featured on the U.S. Geological Survey's web site (<http://water.usgs.gov/>) for its wealth of valuable information. The stream gages page was developed by DRBC staffers Gail Blum and Rick Fromuth.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT, *continued from page 2*

"A time to give thanks? Certainly. A time to relax our vigilance? Certainly not.... If rain suddenly becomes a scarce commodity again, it won't take long for the ground to dry up and water supplies to diminish."

Three short years ago, the three New York City Delaware Basin reservoirs were full until nearly the end of July. Yet, by the end of 1998, we found ourselves in a basinwide drought warning and facing the prospects of a DRBC drought emergency declaration.

Unfortunately, the important question is not whether history will repeat itself, but when.

For the time being, let's give thanks ... and remember to use our water wisely. That, of course, includes practicing water conservation every day. As Benjamin Franklin said over two hundred years ago, "When the well's dry, we know the worth of water." Let's not wait for the next drought to appreciate the "worth of water."

Visit the DRBC web site at [www.drbc.net](http://www.drbc.net) to learn more about the importance of water conservation, including water saving tips.

## NEW COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UNDERWAY, *continued from page 1*

1999 after serving a 32-year-career with the commission, was hired as a seasonal employee to codify the existing CP. It is envisioned that this document will be organized into a loose-leaf binder, so when sections are updated, which occurs regularly at commission meetings, the revisions can simply be inserted into the appropriate part of the plan.

In the second phase of the project, a new CP will be developed over a two- to three-year period. The CP will establish an integrated, holistic framework for near- and long-term water resources management. It will address the entire spectrum of water-related issues specified in the Delaware River Basin Compact, including surface- and ground-water supply, water quality, regulation and maintenance of in-

stream flows, protection of environmental resources, flood protection, recreation, and power generation. The CP will include the development of performance measures and indicators by which to gauge progress in achieving the goals of the plan. It also will address intergovernmental and non-governmental roles and relationships with regard to the management of the basin's water resources. A broad-based Watershed Advisory Council has been established to provide guidance to the commission with the plan's development. The commission will be developing a scope of work and schedule for the CP over the next six months.

The DRBC is pleased to announce that Esther Siskind has been selected to lead the effort. Over the past year, Ms. Siskind

served as the commission's water resources planner and primary staff liaison to the DRBC's Water Management Advisory Committee. She previously worked for the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, where she managed large water resources management projects.

The commissioners also approved the hiring of consultant Mike Personett to help "jump start" phase two of the update process. Mr. Personett, who helped develop recently enacted legislation in Texas providing for a new regionally based state water plan, brings a wealth of experience to the job.

*For more information, visit the DRBC web site at [www.drbc.net](http://www.drbc.net), or contact Esther Siskind at (609) 883-9500, ext. 202.*

## Internet Resource Available for Educators and Students

The Delaware River Watershed Education Task Force has launched an on-line resource to help teachers and students of all ages learn about the Delaware River Basin and general water issues.

The Internet site, hosted by the DRBC, can be found at [www.drbc.net](http://www.drbc.net) (choose Ed. Web).

"Ed. Web" visitors can access maps, general information about the Delaware River Watershed, educational resources and lesson plans, environmental field trip ideas, upcoming educational opportunities throughout the basin, and a student showcase. "Ed. Web" also includes numerous links to other web sites offering information specific to the Delaware River Basin as well as general water subjects.

The web site is a work in progress. Educators are invited to share information, such as lesson plans about the watershed, a favorite web site, or a recommended field trip location. Those interested in contributing to "Ed. Web" should contact DRBC Assistant Public Information Officer Clarke Rupert at (609) 883-9500, ext. 260, or by e-mail ([crupert@drbc.state.nj.us](mailto:crupert@drbc.state.nj.us)).

The original members comprising the Delaware River Watershed Education Task Force include representatives from Alliance for a Sustainable Future, DRBC, Heritage Conservancy, National Park Service, New

Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Pocono Environmental Education Center, Princeton Univer-

sity, and Stroud Water Research Center. People interested in joining the task force should contact Russ Johnson, Heritage Conservancy, at (215) 345-7020, ext. 107.

## Dates Set for Delaware River Sojourn

The Delaware River Sojourn, an annual event to heighten the awareness of and appreciation for the longest undammed river east of the Mississippi, will be held June 15 through June 23, 2001.

Participants in the event paddle over 150 miles, combining canoeing, camping, and educational programs. This year's sojourn is titled "2001—A River Odyssey."

For additional information, visit the DRBC web site at [www.drbc.net](http://www.drbc.net) periodically, or contact the Delaware River Greenway Partnership at (908) 996-0230.

*Canoeists head for shore and a break during last year's sojourn.*



# Committee to Refine Flood-Warning Proposal

The DRBC's new Flood Advisory Committee, which is looking into ways to improve flood-warning systems in the basin, held its first meetings in September and December 2000. The committee will be chaired during its first year by Solomon Summer, director of the eastern regional office of the National Weather Service (NWS). Clark Gilman, who directs flood plain management at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, will serve as vice chair.

The NWS has the responsibility of providing flood forecasting services for the basin's streams. In addition to rainfall forecasts and runoff modeling, the NWS bases its forecasts on precipitation and stream data collected from a basin-wide monitoring network. This network includes stream gages operated by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and precipitation gages operated by the NWS, as well as other local, state, and federal agencies. A number of private citizens also participate by reporting readings from precipitation gages.

The stream gages are often cooperatively funded by the USGS, along with other public and private organizations throughout the basin. The gages serve other important purposes in addition to flood warning. More information on the basin's stream gages can be found on the DRBC web site.

The monitoring network is critical for flood warning. Gages must be located so they will benefit flood-prone areas and must include radio or satellite telemetry to provide the NWS with fast access to the data. The task of the Flood Advisory Committee is to evaluate the existing network against these criteria and develop a proposal that will improve the warning system. Each of the member organizations has been asked to identify known problem areas.

The Flood Advisory Committee will refine a proposal developed in 2000 by DRBC staff in consultation with the NWS. In addition to an improved monitoring network, this proposal includes development of prototype flood-stage forecast maps. The computerized maps translate flood-

stage forecasts into areas of flood inundation, showing roads and buildings that would be under water. These maps can be a valuable emergency management tool.

The flood-warning and mapping proposal has received the endorsement of the Delaware River Basin Congressional Task Force. Copies of the proposal are available from the commission. Once the proposal is refined, efforts to seek funding will continue.

While the focus of this proposal is on river flood warning, the problem of flash flooding also is recognized. Flash flooding in small watersheds can occur so quickly that there is little time for forecasting. The NWS and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have programs to help communities anticipate flash floods. Advancements in Doppler radar technology and more responsible stormwater and flood plain management are keys to reducing losses from flash flooding.

*For more information, visit the DRBC web site at [www.drbc.net](http://www.drbc.net), or contact Rick Fromuth at (609) 883-9500, ext. 232.*

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## WATERSHED PROTECTION, *continued from page 3*

strated its commitment to planning for the future and to environmental protection, through such efforts as its exemplary county, municipal, and volunteer water quality monitoring programs. Just as important, the watershed has a tourist- and recreation-based economy that relies on the preservation of its natural resources.

### **Possible Study Outcomes and Role of Municipalities and Local Stakeholders**

An exciting feature of this approach is the freedom it allows for developing an innovative management plan. Just as every watershed is different, so too should each watershed plan be unique. Goal-based watershed management is performance-based, rather than prescriptive. The objective is to set environmental goals and standards that must be met and to provide support to local governments and organizations in evaluating different approaches to meet them.

Different goals can be set in different parts of the watershed. Existing state and federal regulations will determine the mini-

mum environmental standards necessary to protect the existing quality and uses of Pocono Creek. The local communities may want more stringent water resource goals in all or parts of the watershed. Once the goals are set, the partners will develop possible management scenarios, which will most likely be different in different areas of the watershed, depending on the goals set for each area. The partners will then evaluate the net costs and other socioeconomic issues for each management scenario.

While the technical and agency partners will help list the possible alternatives and their environmental outcomes, it is the municipalities that must select the final plan elements. The "what" (environmental goals and standards) is set by both the local community and the regulatory agencies; the "how" (ways to meet the goals and standards) is entirely a local decision.

There can be a host of solutions. Some may be nonstructural, such as educating

the community about lawn care and stream stability, and controlling runoff with vegetation. Others may be based on better integrating water resource protection into land-use planning, or may

**Goal-based watershed management is performance-based, rather than prescriptive.**

stress the relationship between stormwater control, ground-water recharge, stream quality, and land use. Finally, some solutions may involve the more traditional approaches of point-source regulations and structural controls.

The most important aspect is that the local stakeholders within the Pocono Creek Watershed will have a voice in shaping their watershed's future by developing and implementing management approaches that will ensure a sustainable quality of life, environment, and economy.

*To obtain additional information about the study, visit the commission's web site at [www.drbc.net](http://www.drbc.net), or contact Esther Siskind at (609) 883-9500, ext. 202.*

# Changing of the Guard

## New DRBC Chair Takes Office

Delaware Governor Ruth Ann Minner succeeded Thomas R. Carper as DRBC chair when she was sworn in as her state's chief executive on January 3, 2001.

Former Governor Carper, now a United States Senator, had been serving since July 1, 2000, as DRBC chair for the year 2000–2001.



Governor  
Ruth Ann Minner

Governor Minner previously held the positions of lieutenant governor and state legislator, and is the first woman in Delaware's history to win its highest elective office.

Her term as DRBC chair will extend until June 30, 2001.

The DRBC commissioners previously elected federal government representative Major General Jerry L. Sinn and Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge to serve as vice chair and second vice chair, respectively, during the year 2000–2001.

The Delaware River Basin Compact requires the annual election of officers, which historically has been based upon rotation of the five commission parties.

New York Governor George E. Pataki served as chair during the year 1999–2000, which ended on June 30, 2000.

In a recent development, New Jersey Governor and DRBC Member Christine Todd

Whitman was selected by President George W. Bush to be administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. New Jersey Senate President Donald T. DiFrancesco will finish the remainder of her gubernatorial term, which ends in January 2002.

## New Federal Appointments

Colonel Gregory G. Bean has been appointed as alternate to DRBC federal representative Gen. Sinn, and Lieutenant Colonel Timothy Brown was named the new federal advisor during the summer of 2000.



Colonel  
Gregory G. Bean

Col. Bean is Deputy Commander and Deputy Division Engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' North Atlantic Division, which is headquartered at Fort Hamilton, New York. Lt. Col. Brown is commander of the Army Corps of Engineers' Philadelphia District.



Lt. Colonel  
Timothy Brown

Col. Bean replaces Col. George C. Clarke, who joined the Defense Threat Reduction Agency in Virginia. Lt. Col. Brown replaces Lt. Col. Debra M. Lewis, who was reassigned to the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon.

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

## Water Snapshot, April 20–29, 2001

This popular, basin-wide, water quality sampling event that takes a "snapshot" of the waters of the Delaware River Basin will be celebrating its sixth year this spring. It serves as an important educational, outreach activity around Earth Day, April 22, bringing attention to the need for water quality monitoring and providing much-deserved recognition to those volunteers who participate in water quality monitoring programs throughout the year.

A new addition to this year's program is the DRBC report, *Snapshot: A Report Card on the Health of Delaware River Basin Waterways*. This 12-page publication describes Water Snapshot and briefly explains the key components in measuring water quality.

This report, along with additional information about Snapshot, is available on the DRBC web site at [www.drbc.net](http://www.drbc.net) or by calling the commission at (609) 883-9500, ext. 260.

## Student Leadership Summit, May 6–8, 2001

Middle and high school students and teachers studying aspects of the Delaware River Watershed are invited to share research and stewardship initiatives on local watersheds at the Delaware River Watershed Student Leadership Summit May 6–8, at the Tuscarora Inn in Mt. Bethel, Pennsylvania.

The summit will include a "Bike and Boat" experience on the Lehigh River, student presentations, watershed discussions, creative activities, keynote speakers, teacher workshops, and special seminars relating to leadership, mapping, chemistry, and biology.

The cost is \$100 per person, which includes lodging, meals, field trips, and extras. For those who only want to attend the student presentations on May 7, the cost is \$25 per person (lunch included).

For more information, contact Bonnie Tobin, Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks, at (610) 982-0161, or e-mail [BTobin@dcnr.state.pa.us](mailto:BTobin@dcnr.state.pa.us). Visit the DRBC web site at [www.drbc.net](http://www.drbc.net) for additional information and updates.

## PRESIDENT SIGNS WILD AND SCENIC BILLS, *continued from page 1*

Both new laws implement recommendations from earlier, congressionally mandated studies by the National Park Service, which enjoy widespread local support. DRBC staff participated in the development of both plans.

According to the National Park Service, when Congress created the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System in 1968, it envisioned a cooperative system that would rely on the combined efforts of state, local, and federal governments, along with individual citizens and nongovernmental organizations. The system was intended to be flexible enough to provide a means for communities to protect their rivers in a way that is sensitive to the needs and concerns of the people who live, work, and recreate along the rivers.

The lower Delaware bill was introduced by Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.)\* and cosponsored by Senators Rick Santorum (R-Pa.), Robert Torricelli (D-N.J.), and Arlen Specter (R-Pa.). Similar legislation was introduced and co-sponsored by U.S. Reps. Holt, Jim Greenwood (R-Pa.), Marge Roukema (R-N.J.), Patrick Toomey (R-Pa.), Rob Andrews (D-N.J.), and Chaka Fattah (D-Pa.).

The White Clay Creek bill was introduced by Sen. Joseph Biden (D-Del.) and co-sponsored by Sen. William Roth (R-Del.)\* Similar legislation was introduced and co-sponsored by U.S. Reps. Joseph Pitts (R-Pa.), Michael Castle (R-Del.), and Rob Andrews.

Two reaches of the Delaware River totaling 107 miles were previously added

to the national system in 1978. One section extends 73 miles from the confluence of the river's East and West branches at Hancock, N.Y., downstream to Milrift, Pa.; the second is a 34-mile stretch from just south of Port Jervis, N.Y., downstream to the Delaware Water Gap near Stroudsburg, Pa.

In addition, the Maurice River and several tributaries, including Menantico and Muskee Creeks and the Manumuskin River, were added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System in 1993. The Maurice, located in New Jersey, is a Delaware Bay tributary.

\*The terms for Senators Lautenberg and Roth expired in January 2001.

# PCB Contamination: Seeking a Remedy

Three meetings are planned in February and March to educate the public about the presence of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) in the Delaware River and Bay and to explore ways to reduce the amount of this toxic substance.

The meetings will be held February 21, March 14, and March 26 in Wilmington, Philadelphia, and Mt. Holly, respectively. They will include a presentation on PCBs in the river and estuary, a panel discussion

addressing the diverse issues related to PCBs, and a question-and-answer period. Additional information can be found on the DRBC and Delaware Estuary Program (DELEP) web sites ([www.drbc.net](http://www.drbc.net) and [www.delep.org](http://www.delep.org)).

One possible solution to the PCB problem is the establishment of TMDLs (total maximum daily loads), which set the quantity of a compound that may enter a water body daily without causing exceedence of

water quality standards or causing fish consumption advisories. Once a TMDL for PCBs is determined, decisions will have to be made on how that new, lower loading number can be met. It will require an analysis of inputs from tributaries, runoff, point sources, air deposition, and sediments, and then the development of PCB reduction plans.

The commission is the lead agency in this effort, working with the three estuary states (Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The commission's Toxics Advisory Committee (TAC) is assisting the scientific development of the TMDL. All TAC meetings are open to the public.

Anyone interested in being placed on a mailing and/or e-mail list about the PCB process should contact Chris Roberts at [croberts@drbc.state.nj.us](mailto:croberts@drbc.state.nj.us) or (609) 883-9500, ext. 205. Please state whether you prefer regular mail or e-mail notices.

## PCB Meetings

### February 21, 2001

Carvel Building  
820 North French Street  
Wilmington, Del.  
6:30–9:00 p.m.  
(Snow Date: February 26)

### March 14, 2001

Academy of Natural Sciences  
1900 Benjamin Franklin  
Parkway  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
6:30–9:00 p.m.

### March 26, 2001

Burlington County Human  
Services Building  
Lecture Hall B  
Route 541 & Woodlane Rd.  
Mount Holly, N.J.  
6:30–9:00 p.m.



P.O. Box 7360  
25 State Police Dr.  
West Trenton, NJ 08628

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*"When the well's dry, we know the worth of water."*

*– Benjamin Franklin, Poor Richard's Almanac*