



Delaware River Basin Commission

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Carol R. Collier

Executive Director

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December 29, 2006

Honorable Ruth Ann Minner
Governor of Delaware
Legislative Hall
Dover, DE 19901

Honorable Jon S. Corzine
Governor of New Jersey
State House
P.O. Box 001, West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08625

Honorable George E. Pataki
Governor of New York
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Honorable Edward G. Rendell
Governor of Pennsylvania
Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Honorable Governors:

I am writing in response to your letter dated September 21, 2006, calling for the formation of an interstate task force to address severe flooding along the Delaware River and requesting a preliminary flood mitigation action plan by the end of the year. I am pleased to report that the Delaware River Basin Interstate Flood Mitigation Task Force, convened in October of 2006, has produced a draft set of recommendations for alleviating and mitigating flooding impacts along the river and its tributaries. Task Force members contributed hundreds of hours of their time to the evaluation of options and to the sometimes heated negotiation of a consensus action plan, and the DRBC staff provided effective coordination and technical support. The dual purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update on the status of the draft report and to outline a process for “vetting” the recommended measures with the public at large.

The Task Force is comprised of 32 members representing a broad array of government interests (both legislative and executive) and private sector and non-profit perspectives. It has identified a total of 44 consensus recommendations for a more proactive, sustainable and systematic approach to flood damage reduction. The recommendations are based upon a set of six guiding principles, which concern floodplain restoration, floodplain protection, institutional and individual preparedness, local stormwater management and engineering standards, and the use of structural as well as non-structural measures. The recommendations address seven focus areas: reservoir operations, structural and non-structural mitigation, stormwater management, floodplain mapping, floodplain regulation, and flood warning. A Recommendations Overview, organized by focus area, is attached. The Task Force has concluded that no set of mitigation measures will entirely eliminate flooding along the Delaware River, but the members believe that a combination of measures will improve the basin’s resiliency – its capacity to prepare for and recover from flooding – in the future.

A copy of the 80 page draft report is being distributed to task force members and DRBC alternate commissioners this week for a final review, following which, four public meetings will be scheduled – one in each of the four basin states – in late January or early February. The Task Force will meet in February to consider public feedback and to prioritize actions, as well as to formulate comments and responses before a final set of recommended measures is submitted for your consideration. The Task Force wishes to meet annually, commencing in 2008, in order to monitor progress in implementing the action plan.

I thank you for the opportunity to coordinate this effort and will continue to work with your respective representatives on the commission to develop a final product for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol R. Collier". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Carol R. Collier
Executive Director

Attachment

c: Mayor Bloomberg
DRBC Alternate Commissioners