



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Baltimore District  
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**Background:** The Corps of Engineers has been asked to develop a comprehensive water resources plan for the Swatara Creek watershed, through local sponsorship by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC). The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) and other private entities have contributed towards the Non-Federal funding. The total study cost is \$200,000, with a 50/50 split between Federal and non-Federal funding sources. The study was initiated in February 2001. In June 2002, the scope was modified to narrow the scope of the study to focus on water supply issues only and increase the level of detail. The remaining tasks identified in the modified scope are scheduled to be completed by June 2003.

**Status:** This planning initiative is being undertaken by the Baltimore District, Corps of Engineers, under the Planning Assistance to States Program, as authorized by Section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974. The Corps will work in cooperation with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC), the Capital Region Water Board (CRWB), and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). This investigation will be conducted concurrently with the development of a Plan of Study for a Phase II Lower Susquehanna River Basin Study.

The revised scope includes six tasks: Data Inventory; Public Participation; Analyze Gathered Information; Plan Formulation; Evaluate Alternatives and Develop Management Plan; and CRWB Participation.

The purpose of this study is to identify all reasonable and environmentally sensitive alternatives for surface and groundwater management in the Swatara Creek Watershed, which will protect and enhance water-use requirements through the year 2030, if feasible, and based on available data. The study will focus on gathering pertinent available information (water supply studies, etc.), conducting technical workshops and stakeholder meetings, and developing recommendations to address the various water supply needs in the Swatara Creek watershed. The study will focus on the entire watershed, which includes all or portions of the following Pennsylvania counties: Berks, Schuylkill, Dauphin and Lebanon.

Progress to-date for this investigation has included initiating an inventory of water resource data and information sources, identification of applicable regulations, land use constraints, and hosting the introductory workshop, analysis of the gathered data including assessment of large water suppliers, general water balance calculations, and groundwater resource assessment. A public meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2003 to present the data collection and analysis (problem identification), general water supply alternatives and preliminary criteria for evaluating alternatives.

**For more information** regarding this study contact Ms. Susan B. Hughes, CENAB-PL-E, (410) 962-4995, or e-mail: [susan.b.hughes@usace.army.mil](mailto:susan.b.hughes@usace.army.mil)