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Background: The protection of the Susquehanna River watershed has been an area of concern to many stakeholders in South-Central Pennsylvania, including several State-wide and Regional agencies, municipalities, and local citizen groups. It is recognized that the benefits of these initiatives can be optimized if a comprehensive plan is developed which incorporates existing watershed and land use data, as well as information on current and future problems affecting both the water quality and quantity issues of water resources. The Corps of Engineers has been requested to develop a comprehensive water management plan for the Lower Susquehanna River Basin, through the local sponsorship of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC). The study is being conducted in phases. The Phase 1 effort is to collect available information, perform a preliminary analysis of this existing data and to develop a Plan of Study for the comprehensive water management plan for the Lower Susquehanna River Basin. The Phase 1 total study cost is \$100,000, with a 50/50 split between Federal and non-Federal funding sources. PADEP and other entities have provided Non-Federal funding. The LSRB Phase 1 study was initiated in October 2000.

Status: This planning initiative is being conducted through 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, as amended. The Corps will work in partnership with the Susquehanna River Basic Commission (SRBC), the Capital Region Water Board (CRWB) and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP).

The study will focus on the Lower Susquehanna drainage, which includes all or portions of the following 8 counties in South-Central Pennsylvania: Perry, Dauphin, Lebanon, Cumberland, Franklin, Adams, York and Lancaster, as well as other surrounding counties that contribute to the Lower Susquehanna. The Lower Susquehanna Water Management Plan will be developed in two phases. The goal of Phase I is to develop a detailed Plan of Study (POS) for Phase II efforts, through comprehensive documentation and assessment of data and water needs of South-Central Pennsylvania.

The Phase 2 scope of work was completed in May 2002 and regional workshops accomplished. The Phase 2 Plan of Study lays out a plan to develop a management plan that will provide the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and local municipalities with information necessary to make decisions on the allocation, utilization and conservation of the water resources of the region. The goal of the Phase 2 effort is to develop a watershed management plan for today and the future that meets the competing water resources needs, economic development, and the environment across the Lower Susquehanna River Basin. The Phase 2 study is expected to cost approximately \$1 Million and be completed in approximately 30 months. The COE is currently working with project sponsors to complete a Phase 1 report, which documents the preliminary data analysis and identifies the water resources problems of the basin.

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