

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SRBC AND NWS REVIEW IMPACTS OF THE APRIL 2-4
FLOODING IN THE SUSQUEHANNA BASIN,
SUSQUEHANNA FLOOD FORECASTING & WARNING SYSTEM
PROVIDED EARLY AND ACCURATE WARNINGS**

Experts Warn That Rain Thursday and Friday Could Renew Flood Threats

HARRISBURG, Pa. – During the weekend of April 2, heavy rainfall over the southeastern New York part of the Susquehanna River Basin produced flooding unlike anything experienced there since 1936. Early flood warnings from the Susquehanna Flood Forecasting and Warning System (Susquehanna System) enabled the National Weather Service (NWS) to issue warnings spurring local officials to evacuate residents and help them secure their property. SRBC and NWS officials warn that rain predicted for this afternoon through Friday morning could cause flooding, with rivers and streams still swollen and soils saturated from last weekend's rain event.

According to the NWS, which currently has flood warnings or watches in effect for much of the Susquehanna basin, the basin will receive general rainfall amounts of one inch of rain, with the most being 1.5-2.0 inches in southeastern Pennsylvania. In New York, any flooding is expected to be minor. In Pennsylvania, heavy rain including thunderstorms may cause small streams and creeks to flood. Residents and businesses located in high-risk flood areas are advised to stay tuned to local television and radio and news broadcasts, and to be prepared to respond.

“Many communities in Pennsylvania are expected to experience minor flooding, particularly close to the main stem Susquehanna River. While the impact could vary from community to community, the flooding will likely be limited to the historically high-risk, flood prone areas along the smaller waterways,” said Dave Ondrejik, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the NWS State College, Pa. office.

The heavy rainfall last weekend generally ranged from two to four inches across eastern New York and Pennsylvania, and combined with existing snowmelt produced widespread flooding in south-central New York and north-central Pennsylvania. In Eastside Sayre, Bradford County, Pa., 200 residents were evacuated in advance of record flooding on the North Branch Susquehanna River. About 250 homes were evacuated and many businesses were flooded in Broome County, N.Y. Evacuations also took place in Tioga County, N.Y., and in Lycoming County, Pa. Highway and road closures, and basement floodings, were reported throughout New York's southern tier and in north-central Pennsylvania.

The Susquehanna Flood Forecasting and Warning System, managed by the NWS and the U.S. Geological Survey, generates the data used by the NWS to make flood predictions and issues watches and warnings.

Paul Swartz, Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) Executive Director said, “As was the case last September during Tropical Storm Ivan, the Susquehanna System performed extremely well during the most recent flooding. The timely and accurate flood forecasts issued by the National Weather Service gave community and emergency manage officials the time they needed to make appropriate evacuation decisions.”

SRBC once again called on Congress to restore direct funding for the Susquehanna System. Last month, SRBC issued a resolution calling for direct \$2 million line-item appropriation to be restored in fiscal year 2006, which begins on October 1, 2005.

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission is the governing agency established under a 100-year compact signed on Dec. 24, 1970 by the federal government and the states of New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland to protect and wisely manage the water resources of the Susquehanna River Basin. The Susquehanna River starts in Cooperstown, N.Y., and flows 444 miles to Havre de Grace, Md., where the river meets the Chesapeake Bay.

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