

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 4, 2004

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**SRBC Introduces Susquehanna Map Package:
Supporting Watershed Groups Program**
Applications Available and Currently Accepted

Harrisburg, Pa. – The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) today announced its new Susquehanna Map Package program. Through fall 2005, SRBC will produce, at no charge, customized map packages for up to 50 eligible groups, to enhance their work in watershed planning. Eligible groups include watershed organizations, lake associations and county conservation districts in the Pennsylvania portion of the Susquehanna River Basin. SRBC will distribute applications to known organizations (see list at www.srbc.net). Applications also are available at www.srbc.net or by calling SRBC at 717-238-0425. Completed applications must be mailed to SRBC and postmarked no later than June 15, 2004.

The Susquehanna Map Package program is made possible by a Growing Greener grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. SRBC is working in partnership with the Eastern and Western Pennsylvania Coalitions for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds & Rivers and the Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access clearinghouse.

Paul Swartz, SRBC executive director said, “SRBC and the Commonwealth are committed to supporting local watershed restoration and remediation efforts, and mapping remains an important tool in the overall process. Being able to provide customized mapping service for watershed associations and other eligible groups will go a long way to helping these organizations protect our watersheds.”

Each group will receive a Susquehanna Map Package tailored to the group’s watershed. The map package will include a map featuring four geographic themes of the watershed – geology, land cover, soils and watersheds – on one map. Abandoned mine lands, political boundaries and hydrologic features such as wetlands will be incorporated, where applicable (see sample map at www.srbc.net). In addition, each map package will include a CD-Rom containing electronic versions of the map, the data depicted on the map and software for groups to create their own customized maps and to perform basic geographic analyses.

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission is the governing agency established 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.