

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

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MEDIA ADVISORY

NOTICE OF PRESS CONFERENCE

July 18, 2008

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SRBC TO BE JOINED BY SENATOR WINNER, ASSEMBLYMAN O'MARA, ELMIRA WATER BOARD AND NYS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION TO ANNOUNCE NEW EARLY WARNING SYSTEM TO PROTECT PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

WHAT: The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) will be joined by Senator George Winner, Assemblyman Tom O'Mara and officials from the Elmira Water Board and NYSDEC to announce the pending start-up of the Susquehanna Basin Early Warning System (EWS) in the Chemung and Upper Susquehanna regions. The EWS is designed to protect public health and safety when spills occur. Specifically, the EWS will provide advance information to the Elmira and Binghamton water supply systems when chemicals and other pollutants from spills are flowing downstream toward their water intake pipes. This advance information will allow the water treatment plant operators to respond quicker to maintain the quality of water distributed to their 300,000 plus combined customers. This improved response time will protect public health and safety, enhance overall efficiency and ultimately help contain costs for the water treatment systems and ultimately their customers.

In the post-9/11 environment, concerns regarding the protection of drinking water supplies remain heightened. The EWS will help the water supply system operators detect and respond more quickly to potential contaminants affecting drinking water supplies.

WHEN: **Tuesday, July 22, 2008, 11:00 a.m.**

WHO: **Paul Swartz**, Executive Director, SRBC
Senator George Winner, 53rd District
Assemblyman Thomas O'Mara, 137th District
Ray Yacuzzo, Special Assistant to the Commissioner, NYSDEC
Mark LaDouce, General Manager, Elmira Water Board

WHERE: Elmira Water Board Pump Station, 645 Winsor Avenue, Elmira

DIRECTIONS: From downtown Elmira, proceed west on Church St (State Route 352). Turn left onto Hoffman Street. Take Hoffman Street to its end at the river. The pump station is at the intersection of Hoffman and Winsor Avenue.

SRBC: SRBC is the governing agency established under a compact signed on December 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 the Chesapeake Bay. SRBC web site: www.srbc.net