

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
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**FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING SYSTEM
USERS' CONFERENCE
REGISTRATION CLOSES NOVEMBER 6**
*Conference To Focus on Enhancements In Data Collection
and Flood Forecasting Technology*

Harrisburg, Pa. – The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) today reminded the public that registration for the Flood Forecasting and Warning System Users' Conference for the Middle Susquehanna Subbasin will close in two weeks, on November 6. The Subbasin includes all or portions of Bradford, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Montour, Northumberland, Schuylkill, Sullivan, Susquehanna and Wayne Counties.

The conference will take place on Thursday, November 13 at the Best Western-East Mountain Inn in Wilkes-Barre, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Participants will learn about the region's existing flood forecasting and warning system, and the National Weather Service's flood forecasting and prediction products.

The Users' Conference is intended for those who respond to flood emergencies, disseminate information to the public, work in flood management, or are impacted by flooding. Participants would include representatives of local, state and federal emergency management agencies; media; local, regional and state planning agencies and flood protection programs; elected officials; chambers of commerce; and business and industry.

Registration materials and more information about the conference are located on the SRBC web site at http://srbc.net/flood_forecasting/workshop.htm

The conference will cover a variety of flood forecasting topics including how the existing warning system works, how the dissemination of flood forecasts could be improved and elements of a successful local flood forecast system. Participants will also receive a demonstration of the National Weather Service's forecasting products, and a chance to critique and provide feedback to improve the Susquehanna River basin flood forecasting system.

Paul Swartz, executive director of SRBC said, "SRBC is pleased to organize the Users' Conference. One of the most important things that we hope to get out of the conference is valuable feedback from the individuals who respond to flood emergencies – they're the people who use the basin flood forecasting system, and their ideas will help shape it into the best system that it can be."

The conference is sponsored by the Susquehanna River Basin Flood Forecast and Warning Interagency Committee, and the conference organizing partners include the Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center, National Weather Service, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Geological Survey, WNEP-TV 16, Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters and Luzerne County.

SRBC 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 Commission. 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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