

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
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**SRBC PARTICIPATES IN THE
OCTOBER 18 WORLD WATER MONITORING DAY**
Organizations Can Report Monitoring Data Through December 18

HARRISBURG, Pa. – The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) today commended the organizers and participants involved in water quality monitoring as part World Water Monitoring Day. This international effort is a partnership project dedicated to increasing awareness of the quality of our rivers, lakes, estuaries and other waterbodies through hands-on monitoring and data reports. The project's 24 coordinators, sponsors and partners include U.S. and international non-profit organizations, federal agencies, businesses, educational projects, environmental and technical research foundations and the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administration, of which SRBC is a member.

The central goal of World Water Monitoring Day is to encourage volunteer monitoring groups, water quality agencies, students and the general public throughout the world to test for and report on four key water quality indicators: temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen and turbidity. Groups worldwide collected data from September 18 through October 18. These participating groups and any other organizations or individuals who collected data during that period have until December 18 to report their findings on the internet at www.worldwatermonitoringday.org. All the data will be compiled and released in the annual World Water Monitoring Day summary reports.

“As an agency that has been actively involved in water quality monitoring since the early 1980s, the Commission knows the importance of collecting, analyzing and recording data year-after-year,” said Paul Swartz, SRBC Executive Director. “The Commission encourages other agencies, organizations and the citizens in the Susquehanna basin and worldwide to record their monitoring data on the monitoring-day web site.”

Among its many monitoring activities, SRBC collects water discharge, nutrient and suspended sediment data during storm and baseflow conditions, and maintains a longterm database that is used by SRBC and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay Program to calculate annual loads and analyze trends. The information also helps Pennsylvania, New York and Maryland develop appropriate strategies for watershed management. For more information on SRBC's nutrient and sediment monitoring program, go to www.srbc.net/nutrientprogram.htm.

Swartz said, “Through years of consistent and comprehensive monitoring, the Commission has determined that the long-term trends in nutrient and sediment concentrations have improved in

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the Susquehanna basin. Good monitoring data allow the Commission to make such assessments and provide a value-added service to the basin's environmental protection agencies.”

The Susquehanna River Basin is the largest watershed on the Atlantic Coast of the United States, draining a 27,510-square-mile area that includes more than 32,000 miles of streams. The main stem Susquehanna River originates at Otsego Lake in Cooperstown, New York, and flows 444 miles through Upstate New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland. It empties into the Chesapeake Bay at Havre de Grace, Maryland.

SRBC is the governing agency established under a 100-year 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.

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