

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
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**SRBC PARTICIPATES IN THE
OCTOBER 18 WORLD WATER MONITORING DAY**

Supports Worldwide Project By Providing Its Nutrient and Sediment Monitoring Data

HARRISBURG, Pa. – The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) today urged groups and individuals involved in water quality monitoring to take part in World Water Monitoring Day on October 18. 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 more than 20 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. Participating groups were to collect data from September 18 through October 18, but they 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 monitoring since the early 1980s, we know first-hand the importance of monitoring water quality,” said Paul Swartz, SRBC Executive Director. “In support of World Water Monitoring Day, SRBC will post its recent monitoring results on the monitoring-day web site, and we encourage other agencies, organizations and citizens in the Susquehanna basin and worldwide to do the same.”

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 monitoring, SRBC has determined that the long-term trends in nutrient and sediment concentrations have improved in the Susquehanna basin; although the

above normal precipitation and significant flooding in 2003 and 2004 have elevated pollutant levels, at least for the short-term.”

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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