INFORMATION SHEET

8/01

Susquehanna River Basin Commission 1721 North Front Street • Harrisburg, PA 17102 • 717-238-0423 • http//www.srbc.net

THE CONOWINGO POND
An Interstate Water Body

What is the Conowingo Pond?

The Conowingo Pond is a reservoir on the Susquehanna River formed by the Conowingo Hydroelectric Dam. The dam, which is located in Maryland, just 10 miles upstream from the mouth of the Susquehanna, is owned by Exelon's subsidiary Susquehanna Electric Company. It is the largest of the four hydroelectric projects on the lower Susquehanna River.

The Conowingo Pond is located on the Maryland/Pennsylvania state border, making it an interstate body of water. About two-thirds of the pond is in Pennsylvania. It covers 8,650 acres and reaches a depth of 90 feet at its deepest point. From the Conowingo dam, the pond extends some 15 miles upstream to the base of the next hydroelectric dam, Holtwood.

The Conowingo Pond supplies water for what uses?

In addition to serving Exelon's Conowingo Hydroelectric Project, the pond is also a source of water for:

- Exelon's Muddy Run Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Project, Lancaster County, Pa.
- Exelon's Peach Bottom Nuclear Power Plant, York County, Pa.
- City of Baltimore public water supply
- Chester Water Authority public water supply (serving southeast Pennsylvania and northern Delaware)
- recreational uses, including boating, fishing, swimming, and camping
- protection of downstream uses

Are there other requirements affecting the Conowingo Pond?

In 1980, as part of relicensing proceedings, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) established an important condition governing the operation of the Conowingo Hydroelectric Project. FERC requires the dam to make continuous conservation releases in order to maintain certain minimum flows below the dam in order to protect:

- downstream fishery habitat and fisheries operations
- the migratory cycle of the anadromous fish species that return to the Susquehanna River to spawn

Another benefit of maintaining minimum flows is the reduction of salinity levels in the tidal reach of the river where several public water suppliers have intakes.