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### **Delaware Basin States and New York City Announce New Reservoir Plan Agreement**

**PHILADELPHIA** – New York State, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and the City of New York announced that they have signed a one-year agreement for a new interim flow program intended to protect fisheries habitat downstream of the New York City (NYC)-Delaware Basin reservoirs, enhance flood mitigation and repel the upstream movement of salt water in the Delaware Estuary. The Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) continues to protect the future of Philadelphia's water supply through active involvement in the flow negotiations.

“PWD actively participates in the management of the City's water resources everyday from its headwaters in NYC to the bay and works at all levels to protect this important resource for the citizens of Philadelphia,” remarked Philadelphia Water Department Commissioner Howard Neukrug. “We look to continue to work with our partners on long-term solutions for protecting our water resources against threats from climate change and sea level rise, the introduction of new pollutants to our rivers and streams and prevention of unmanaged development growth and subsequent deforestation of our watershed protected areas of the river basin.”

Diversions and releases of water from the three city reservoirs (Cannonsville, Pepacton, and Neversink) are jointly managed by the four states and NYC under the terms of a 1954 U.S. Supreme Court Decree that settled an interstate water dispute between New York State, New York City and the lower basin states.

This new agreement, which will be in effect June 1, 2011 through May 31, 2012, will make better use of the shared water in the three City reservoirs, located in the headwaters of the Delaware River through the use of New York City's new Operations Support Tool (OST). The OST, a sophisticated monitoring and modeling system developed in 2010 by the NYC Department of Environmental Protection, will enable the Decree Parties (four basin states and NYC) to better manage the movement of water throughout the reservoir system and the Delaware River Basin. This new tool allows better prediction of reservoir-specific water storage levels, water quality and inflows, which will guide selection of releases from the three reservoirs to the Delaware River.

In addition, reservoir releases under the new agreement will be adjusted to repel the upstream migration of salty water from the Atlantic Ocean that moves up the tidal Delaware River during low-flow conditions. As salt-laced water moves upriver, the City of Philadelphia and other public water suppliers can be affected along with industrial surface water users.

The Decree Parties will evaluate the interim reservoir management plan over the next year and use the experience to help guide the development of future agreements.

The agreement can be viewed on the web site of the Office of the Delaware River Master, which administers the provisions of the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court Decree, at <http://water.usgs.gov/osw/odrm/>.

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