

Presented to an advisory committee of the DRBC on April 5, 2016. Contents should not be published or re-posted in whole or in part without the permission of the author(s) or the committee. Opinions herein do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the DRBC or the Commissioners. The accuracy of data, calculations and interpretations are the sole responsibility of the presenter.

Delaware River Basin Commission
Regulated Flow Advisory Committee

“Awaiting an Accord”

Presentation by
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*Lake Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center, Hawley, PA
April 5, 2016*

AWAITING an ACCORD

The Decree Parties have been unable to reach agreement on the implementation of any significant changes to the OST/FFMP since its inception in 2011. (approx. 5-years)

This deadlock has resulted in the failure to address multiple cases of avoidable and preventable damage to the ecology and economy of the upper Delaware region, during periods of high air/water temperatures; dewatering events; and low flow conditions on the East Branch and Neversink rivers.

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In order to protect the ecology and economy of the upper Delaware River region, we have requested that the following three interim procedures (safeguards) be put into effect while the Decree Parties continue their negotiations:

- Thermal Relief Program (TRP),
based on temperature targets, and a habitat bank.
- Moderation of the Rate of Reduction in Directed Releases,
based on "Waiting for the Rain".
- Distribution of Directed Releases amongst the three Delaware Rivers,
based on 5% Pepacton, 5% Neversink, and 90% Cannonsville.

The Failure to Wait for the Rain



Lordville 900c cfs
September 4, 2008

September 4, 2008



Over 1/2 of the river is exposed

September 6, 2008

Photos
by
Lee Hartman



September 28, 2015



September 29, 2015

Photos
by
Dee Pinto

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The current long range weather forecast (Harris-Mann) predicts lower than normal precipitation for the majority of 2016:

April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
90%	90%	90%	90%	80%	80%	80%	80%	120%

These conditions will invariably result in lower inflows; increased use of directed releases to meet the Montague target; and inherent risks for the upper Delaware region.

Summer temperatures on the whole, are forecast to be 2°F lower than normal; however, lower inflows tend to translate into lower release rates, and increased thermal stress events.

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So the question that remains for each Principal, is as follows:

Is your State/City prepared to adopt these interim procedures?