

# Source Water Protection for Drinking Water

## Subcommittee on Source Water Protection (SSWP)

**Steve Tambini, DRBC**  
Executive Director

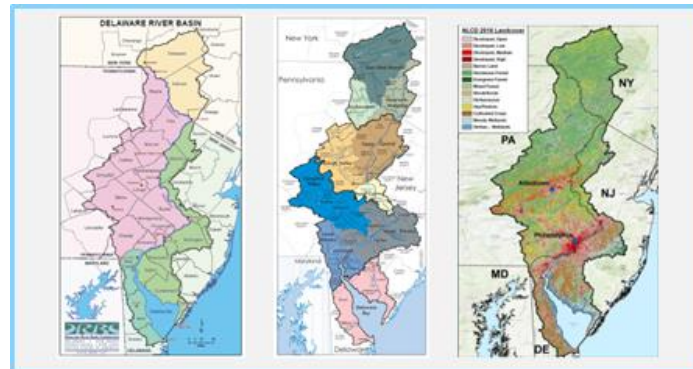
*Water Management Advisory Committee  
February 14, 2024*



Photo: Paul Michael Bergeron



Photo: Delaware River Waterfront Corporation



**Delaware River Basin Commission**

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*This presentation was given at the February 14, 2024, WMAC Meeting.*

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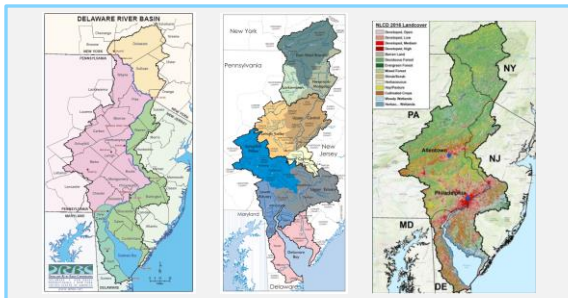
## Background



## Subcommittee on Source Water Protection



## Next Steps



## Discussion



CNN

US

Audio

Live TV

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## Philadelphia officials say drinking water remains safe for now after a chemical spill in the Delaware River

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/03/28/us/delaware-river-water-chemical-spill-philadelphia-tuesday/index.html>

By [Samantha Beech](#), [Zenebou Sylla](#), [Celina Tebor](#) and [Danny Freeman](#), CNN

Updated 7:35 PM EDT, Sun March 26, 2023

The New York Times

## *Philadelphia Monitoring Water Supply After Chemical Spill*

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/26/us/delaware-river-latex-chemical-spill.html>

More than 8,000 gallons of an acrylic polymer solution leaked on Friday into a tributary of the Delaware River, a source of the city's drinking water.



## A Train Derails in Paulsboro, N.J., Releasing 23,000 Gallons of Toxic Vinyl Chloride Gas

**UPDATED DEC. 17, 2012** — Recovery operations are now complete for the derailed train cars carrying vinyl chloride. On Nov. 30, 2012, a train transporting the chemical vinyl chloride derailed while crossing a bridge that collapsed over Mantua Creek, in Paulsboro, N.J., near Philadelphia. Four rail cars fell into the creek, breaching one tank and releasing approximately 23,000 gallons of vinyl chloride. Local, state, and federal emergency personnel responded on scene. A voluntary evacuation zone was established for the area, and nearby schools were ordered to immediately take shelter and seal off their buildings.

<https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/about/media/train-derails-paulsboro-nj-releasing-23000-gallons-toxic-vinyl-chloride-gas.html>



Seven train cars derailed when the bridge over the Mantua Creek collapsed Friday morning. Four tank cars containing vinyl chloride were dumped into the creek.

BRADFORD COUNTY

## Train Crash Spills Thousands of Gallons of Fuel Into Delaware River

**DEPOSIT, NY.** — Pictures provided by New York State Police show parts of the derailed train in the town of Deposit in New York State. The early morning der...

<https://www.wnep.com/article/news/local/bradford-county/train-crash-spills-fuel-in-delaware-river/523-93658493-7bb1-45fd-a9f1-c24c0f5962eb>



## How millions of people ended up with a toxic chemical in their water

By RY RIVARD <https://www.politico.com/states/new-jersey/story/2022/01/20/how-a-toxic-chemical-ended-up-in-the-drinking-water-supply-for-13m-people-1405894>

01/20/2022 10:51 AM EST



TRENTON — New Jersey's largest drinking water supplier discovered a toxic chemical in the river where it gets water for hundreds of thousands of customers, setting off a major search for polluters that led back to a Pennsylvania wastewater treatment plant and a South Jersey company.

The chemical New Jersey American Water Co. found, 1,4-Dioxane, is a byproduct of plastic manufacturing that is considered a likely carcinogen by the federal government. While the chemical has been found in water supplies before, this discovery in early 2020 set off alarms because of the high levels in a section of the Delaware River close to American Water's treatment plant in

# Source Water Protection Around the Country

Browse local, state, and regional collaboratives

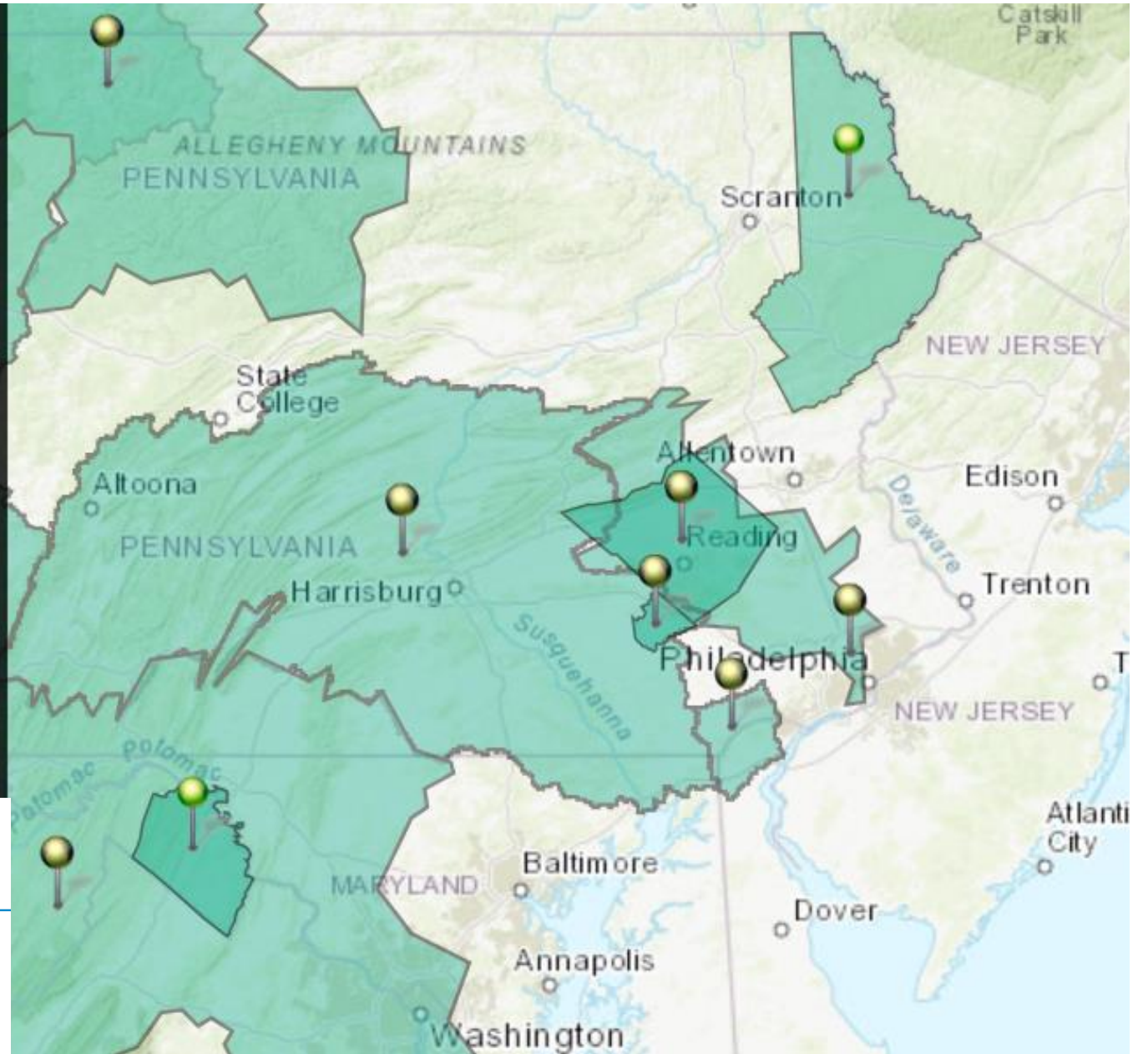


About Us

Learning Exchange

Clean Water Act and Your Drinking Water

Map/Collaboratives Near You



## Map/Collaboratives Near You

[Home](#) / [Map/Collaboratives Near You](#)

Map: <https://epa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=5c2798559ff34444b3e9f99c3e2590bf>

# We considered a “Collaborative” aimed at:

## Challenges:

- Spills / Early warning
- Pollution inventory/ risks
- PFAS /emerging contaminants
- Salinity / road salts
- Runoff: pathogens, nutrients, other

## Principles:

- Voluntary
- Non-regulatory
- Self-governing
- Drinking water focus
- Limited membership
- Generally self funded

WHEREAS, the drinking water public utilities, government agencies and others have a common interest in protecting source water quality, and

WHEREAS, source waters of the Delaware River Basin face potential threats that include, but are not limited to: spills or releases hazardous materials, salinity from road salts and sea level rise; emerging or unregulated contaminants, including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) ; non-point source pollution including nutrients (including the potential for HABs - harmful algal blooms) and pathogens;

WHEREAS, the DRBC's Water Management Advisory Committee (WMAC) and the Water Quality Advisory Committee (WQAC) were formed to provide advice to the Commission and its staff and to provide a forum for the exchange of information and viewpoints on a variety of watershed and water quality issues. Each has the authority, along with the Commission to establish sub committees to address specific issues, and

WHEREAS, a sub-committee process will provide an efficient and effective means of establishing a forum dedicated and focused on source water protection issues for drinking water supplies in the Delaware River Basin, now therefore,



BE IT RESOLVED by the Delaware River Basin Commission:

1. The Executive Director is authorized and directed to:

- a. Convene a Sub-committee on Source Water Protection (SSWP) under the Water Management Advisory Committee, constituted as set forth in paragraph 4 below,
- b. Provide a staff liaison to assist the SSWP chair in scheduling meetings, developing and distributing agendas, and preparing meeting summaries and recommendations to the Commission and the WMAC.

2. The primary objectives of the SSWP are to:

- a. Provide a forum for fostering regional dialogue and cooperation to enhance and promote information and knowledge sharing and provide a Basin and Delaware River centric focus on drinking water source water protection issues and best practices.
- b. Establish and maintain a regular dialogue between public drinking water suppliers and government agencies involved in source water protection within the Delaware River Basin.
- c. Coordinate with, promote, and support the Delaware Valley Early Warning System.
- d. Communicate any recommendations that could require Commission action to the DRBC Executive Director and to the WMAC.

3. The SSWP may establish other objectives, as appropriate and as needed, that may include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - a. Identify and examine regional source water protection priority issues, topics, measures, and initiatives.
  - b. Coordinate or support source water and drinking water protection efforts that benefit multiple water systems.
  - c. Coordinate approaches for funding drinking water supply source protection programs and measures, as needed.
  - d. As appropriate, coordinate with other groups, including, the Schuylkill Action Network that are working to advance and implement source water and watershed protection projects and programs within the Delaware River Basin.
  - e. Determine any additional objectives that supports the SSWP.

4. The SSWP shall be constituted as follows:

- a. **Reserved Members:** Six (6) of the SSWP's members shall be individuals appointed by: representing the states of Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania; the US EPA; and the City of Philadelphia ("Reserved Members"), who possess expertise relevant to the SSWP objectives set forth in paragraph 2 above.
- b. Other Eligible Organizational Members:
  - i. Public drinking water utilities that obtain their source water and provide service to customers within the Delaware River Basin
  - ii. Public drinking water utilities that obtain their source water from the Delaware and Raritan Canal.

- c. Each member may name one SSWP representative and optionally one alternate representative. For matters that require a subcommittee vote, each member will have one vote that can be cast by either the member or their named alternate. Members and alternates can be added or revised by eligible organizations and recognized by the chair at any time. Changes should be communicated to the DRBC staff liaison as well.
- d. There is no limit to the number of SSWP members, as long as eligibility requirements are met.
- e. There are no term limits for members.
- f. Drinking water utilities who withdraw surface waters from the main stem Delaware River or from the D & R Canal are encouraged to join and participate in the SSWP.

5. The SSWP shall **elect a Chair and a Vice Chair**. A nomination and vote for this position shall occur at least once every year. There are no limitations as to how long a chair or vice chair can serve if willing and if duly elected.
6. The SSWP may consider and **establish tasks or working groups**, if needed, to include membership as determined by needs.
7. All meetings of the SSWP shall be **open to the public** and input from other interested stakeholders should be considered, as needed and as appropriate to the objectives of the SSWP.
8. The SSWP will **meet at least once per calendar year**.
9. The SSWP shall be organized as **a subcommittee of the WMAC**; however, they are encouraged to **coordinate with both the WMAC and the WQAC** on matters of common interest.

10. Unless renewed, the SSWP shall **expire three years** from the effective date of this Resolution. Before the end of the three year term, the SSWP shall make a recommendation to the WMAC and the Commission for a path forward for the SSWP. The SSWP shall review the following options:

- a. **Continue the SSWP as constituted** and request that the Commission renew and extend the term of the SSWP.
- b. **Continue the SSWP with recommendations** for structural changes that could include objectives, governance, and/or membership eligibility.
- c. **Transition of the SSWP to another form of a non-regulatory and voluntary source water protection collaborative** with similar goals.
- d. **Terminate the SSWP** with no further action.

# Next Steps



Discussion stage input from WMAC and others



Public hearing and input: May 2024



Commission Action: June 2024



First SSWP meeting (if approved): Fall 2024