

Statement by Hoss Liaghat, RFAC Chair on Status of FFMP Negotiations

12/3/2015 RFAC Meeting, Hawley PA

During their discussions the Decree Parties principals have recognized that FFMP must remain flexible to accommodate changing conditions. The FFMP agreement is not intended to establish a permanent, unchanging program. Rather, as the Decree Parties continue to negotiate an equitable agreement, numerous provisions of the FFMP contemplate future changes to diversions, releases and reservoir operations to address various and often competing objectives. For this reason the Decree Parties are in favor of a longer-term agreement.

Through the FFMP agreement, the Decree Parties consider meeting the following requirements: flow objectives, water supply diversions, salinity repulsion, drought management, habitat protection and conservation releases, flood mitigation and water quality.

During the initial FFMP implementation and subsequent extensions, the Decree Parties have made adjustments to the FFMP based on comments from the public, completion of NYC's Operational Support Tool, and a better understanding of how the FFMP is performing. The Parties are still negotiating on the items listed above and continue to consider comments received by the public at various RFAC meetings and the listening sessions held by the River Master.