
Regulated Flow Advisory Committee Charge to the Subcommittee on Ecological Flows

In accordance with Resolution 2018-2, the Regulated Flow Advisory Committee hereby tasks the Subcommittee on Ecological Flows with review of the guidelines for use of the Thermal Mitigation Bank and the Rapid Flow Change Mitigation Bank specified in the Flexible Flow Management Program of 2017. The guidelines were developed by the New York Department of Conservation and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. The Commission seeks to provide information to inform the Decree Parties about the use of these banks in relation to ecological resources and whether potential adjustments to the proposed guidelines may be necessary. The reviews should consist of:

- collection and synthesis of information related to the habitat, flow, and temperature needs of fish and other species of concern in the tailwaters of Cannonsville, Pepacton, Neversink and the Delaware River above Lordville;
- documentation of the known relationships between flow characteristics (temperature, seasonality, velocity and depth), groundwater-surface water interactions, channel morphology, shade/tree cover and other parameters that may influence the health of the species;
- recommendations for adjustments to the guidelines as warranted; and
- if deemed necessary, exploration of alternate approaches for supporting ecological needs within the framework of the Rapid Flow Change and Thermal mitigation programs.

As the water resources of the DRB are finite, all recommendations should consider the many demands for their use. RFAC requests that SEF meet to develop a work plan and schedule, a list of experts to be consulted, and assignments for members of SEF. Such assignments may include, but not be limited to:

- conducting literature reviews (journal articles, published reports);
- developing annotated bibliographies of materials reviewed;
- soliciting expert opinions or participation of experts in SEF dialogue;
- modeling habitat with the DSS;
- writing report sections; and
- other tasks as identified.

RFAC requests that a draft assessment of the guidelines and proposed adjustments be completed no later than May 31, 2019. This charge represents the first task to SEF and it is anticipated that SEF will continue to explore additional topics after the completion of this charge. Future topics may potentially be derived from the findings of this charge.