

INTERSTATE BASIN WATERS PROGRAMS

DEP's Compacts and Commissions Support is located within the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water and coordinates Pennsylvania's responsibilities as a member of interstate organizations. Compacts and Commissions Support delivers planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of statewide policy and program activities to promote interagency and interstate cooperation on shared water resource issues. This includes partnering with established river basin commissions and interstate associations that work to restore and protect water quality, including [Delaware River Basin Commission](#) (DRBC), [Great Lakes Commission](#) (GLC), [Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resource Council](#), [Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resource Regional Body](#), [Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin](#) (ICPRB), [Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission](#) (ORSANCO), [Partnership for the Delaware Estuary](#) (PDE), and [Susquehanna River Basin Commission](#) (SRBC).

Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)

The DRBC was the first regional organization formed for water resource management between states and the federal government. It was formed through an interstate compact that was ratified by Federal and state legislation signed concurrently in 1961 by President Kennedy and the governors of Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, and New York. The DRBC is comprised of the four states and the Division Engineer, North Atlantic Division, US Army Corps of Engineers, who serves as the federal representative. Part of DRBC's efforts include the development of the [Comprehensive Plan for the Water Resources of the Delaware River Basin](#). DRBC is a regulatory agency and its [programs](#) include water quality protection, water supply allocation, project review (permitting), water conservation initiatives, watershed planning, drought management, flood loss reduction, and recreation.

Great Lakes Commission (GLC)

The GLC is an advisory, non-regulatory interstate compact agency established in 1955 by the eight US Great Lakes states of Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Wisconsin. This was formalized by the Great Lakes Basin Compact enacted by Congress in 1968 and the two Canadian Provinces of Ontario and Quebec were included as Associate Members through a Declaration of Partnership in 1999. The GLC's purpose is to promote the orderly, integrated, and comprehensive development, use, and conservation of the water resources of the Great Lakes. The GLC collects, interprets, and reports data leading to recommendations and resolutions on: the balanced development and use of water resources; the improvement of navigation aids and ports; improving and maintaining the fisheries; examining the intersection of water and economic sustainability; securing the proper balance among industrial, commercial, agricultural, public water, recreational, and other legitimate uses of water; and, maintaining and improving water quality policies on federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, or regulations. GLC facilitates dialogue between the states and provinces, between the states and the federal governments of the US and Canada, and has the authority to assist in the negotiation and formulation of any treaty or other mutual agreement between the US and Canada with reference to the Basin or any portion thereof.

Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resource Council (Compact Council) and Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Regional Body (Regional Body)

The Compact Council is a regulatory interstate compact agency created under the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact of 2008 comprised of the governors of the eight US states of Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Wisconsin. The Regional Body is an international advisory body through the voluntary, international Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Agreement between the eight US states and the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec. The Compact Council and Regional Body act in tandem to regulate water withdrawals and consumptive uses and ban the diversion of water outside of the Basin, thereby removing causes of present and future water controversies. The entities foster consistent approaches to water management across the Basin while retaining state management authority over water management decisions within the Basin. Also, the entities strengthen the scientific information base upon which decisions are made through the generation and exchange of data.

Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB)

ICPRB is an advisory, non-regulatory interstate compact agency comprised of four states including Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia, the District of Columbia, and the federal government. ICPRB's mission is "to protect and enhance the waters and related resources of the Potomac River Basin through science, regional cooperation, and education". The [Potomac Basin Comprehensive Water Resources Plan](#), which serves as a guide to manage water resource issues, protect water quality, aquatic life, water supplies, and drinking water sources, is currently being updated with an expectation to be finalized by the end of 2023.

Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO)

ORSANCO is a regulatory interstate compact agency governed by eight states, five federal organizations, and the Ohio River Basin Alliance. The state and federal organizations include Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, New York, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, NOAA Satellite and Information Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Environmental Protection Agency, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and US Geological Survey. ORSANCO's mission is to control and abate pollution in the Ohio River Basin and it operates [programs](#) to set waste water discharge standards, perform biological assessments, monitor water quality, and conduct surveys and studies.

Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (PDE)

The PDE hosts the Delaware Estuary Program, which collaborates scientific efforts with Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey, to restore water quality in the tidal Delaware River and Bay. Part of these efforts include the development of (and revisions to) a [Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan](#) (CCMP) for the Estuary. The original CCMP was approved in September 1996 and provided guidance to regional agencies and organizations for collaborating on water quality control and restoration efforts. The CCMP was revised in 2019 and contains goals and targets for the three themes: clean waters, healthy habitats, and strong communities. The revised CCMP aims to make watershed improvements to benefit millions of people who live, work, and play in the tri-state region.

Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC)

The SRBC was formed through an interstate compact that was ratified by Federal and state legislation. The SRBC is comprised of the governors of Pennsylvania, New York, and Maryland, and the federal representative, the Division Engineer, North Atlantic Division, US Army Corps of Engineers. SRBC's mission is to enhance public welfare through comprehensive planning, water supply allocation, and management of the water resources of the Susquehanna River Basin. SRBC is a regulatory agency that performs project reviews (permitting). Additionally, SRBC's efforts include the development of the [Comprehensive Plan for the Water Resources of the Susquehanna River Basin](#), which provides the framework to manage and develop the Susquehanna River Basin's water resources and guides the water quality control and restoration programs.