



ORSANCO

Water Resources Initiative Update

Technical Committee
June 16-17, 2015

Water Resources Initiative Background

- Three year effort to explore possible Commission role in water resource management
 - Outside of traditional Compact authorities
- Funded through grants from multiple foundations
- Initiative began in 2012
- Funding ends June 2015

Water Resources Committee

- Met for 8th time June 3, 2015
- Representatives from 5 states and 4 federal agencies in attendance
- Key discussion items:
 - Water resource characterization reports
 - IWRSS initiative
 - Ohio River critical flow statistics
 - Future ORSANCO Involvement

Water Resources Characterization Reports

Water Use Characterization

- Quantified water use and consumption in the Ohio River Basin for years 2000 and 2005

Water Resources Laws & Regulations Inventory

- Summary of state and federal water resource laws and regulations

Inter-basin Transfers

- Quantified existing inter-basin transfers into and out of the Ohio River Basin

Shale Gas Development

- Characterized water resource aspects of shale gas development in the Ohio River Basin

Critical Flow Statistics

- PCS includes flow values for minimum 1Q10, 7Q10, and harmonic mean.
- 7Q10
 - Values computed by USACE in 1995
 - Based on flow data from 1950 – 1994 at 13 mainstem locations
- 1Q10 and Harmonic Mean
 - Values computed by ORSANCO
 - Used same data as 7Q10
- Major data caveats
 - Establishes 1980 reservoir system and operating conditions as benchmark
 - Adjusted values from 1951-1979 to “represent flows which would have occurred if the 1980 reservoir system and operating criteria were in effect”

IWRSS

- Integrated Water Resources Science & Services
 - Partnership of federal agencies with complementary operational missions in water science
 - NOAA, USGS, and USACE
- Stakeholder Meetings
 - Delaware, Susquehanna, Potomac, Hudson (2013)
 - Ohio and Russian (2014)
- Meeting Objectives
 1. Prioritize water resource needs
 2. Identify data/information gaps
 3. Quantify socioeconomic benefits of addressing issue
 4. Propose demonstration projects to address WR issues which capitalize on IWRSS partner capabilities



Top Priority Issues

Upper Basin (Cincinnati meeting)

- Water Quality
- Water Supply/Withdrawals/Management
- Fish & Aquatic Habitat

Lower Basin (Nashville meeting)

- Water Quality
- Water Supply/Withdrawals/Management
- Flooding

IWRSS: Ohio River Basin Pilot Projects

- Two pilot projects selected to address priority needs
 - Large-Scale Watershed Model
 - Includes scenarios for climate, land use, industrial, and population change; water quality modeling; inter-basin transfer quantification; and a GIS database.
 - Decision Support System for Spill Response
 - Enhances and reduces the uncertainty of existing models
 - Creation of a GIS database with detailed land use data
 - Links to existing databases and locations of hazardous materials/wastes stored at existing facilities/sites.
 - A common format and set of standards established for data input.

Future ORSANCO Involvement

- Water Resources Initiative grants end June 30, 2015
- No additional Water Resource Committee meetings planned at this time until funding can be established
- Members believe the WRC provides value to the states and federal partners
- Support moving WR Cooperative Agreement to Governors for signatures

Cooperative Agreement

1. Provide a forum for States to study and discuss water resources issues
2. Coordinate water resources planning and encourage coordinated and cooperative action by state and federal agencies
3. Provide representation of the regional interests of the Ohio River Basin before Congress and federal agencies
4. Investigate, study, and review water related problems and issues of interest to the States
5. Assist in providing training on effective water resources management





QUESTIONS?

