

**Ad Hoc Committee on Water Resources  
Resource Document for Roundtable Discussion  
October 13, 2010**

This “resources document” is being utilized by the Ad Hoc Committee on Water Resources to assess the current authority of the Commission and to facilitate development of recommendations regarding the nature and extent of any changes to the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Compact which, if made effective via incorporation in the states’ statutes and approved by Congress, would establish the joint pledge and commitment of the signatory states in the management of water resources and the operational authorities and duties of ORSANCO.

It is important to stress that this document is a gathering of statements and authorizations incorporated from the enabling documents of other organizations, as well as “in-process” consensus reached thus far by the Ad Hoc Committee. Conversely, it is not intended to convey the Committee’s recommendations.

The Committee considers it desirable, at this juncture, to refer the document to the full Commission for feedback. In particular, the Ad Hoc Committee seeks a dialogue aimed at establishing a “vision” for ORSANCO’s role in water resources management.

**A. GENERAL LANGUAGE**

*1. Study of Issues*

- a. Study, discuss and evaluate water resource issues of concern or interest to the Commission and basin states. (ORSANCO Water Resources Committee)
- b. Water Resources are defined as surface waters and ground waters as such ground waters directly influence surface water availability. (Per Ad Hoc Teleconference August 10, 2010)
- c. Investigate, study, and review water related problems and issues of interest to the Ohio River Basin states. (ORBC)
- d. Determine current and future water uses and their impacts and potential impacts on water quality. (Working Group Mission Statement)
- e. Prepare reports on pollution and other water quality problems. (ICPRB)

2. *Forum for Communications and Technology Transfer*
  - a. Provide a forum for the Ohio River Basin states to study, discuss, and develop regional policies and positions on common interstate issues. (ORBC, modified per Ad Hoc teleconference September 10, 2010, to omit incorporation of “land related resources”)
  - b. Disseminate information to the public in relation to stream pollution problems and the utilization, conservation and development of water. (ICPRB, Conservation acknowledged as needed per Ad Hoc Teleconference August 10, 2010; modified per Ad Hoc teleconference September 10, 2010, to omit incorporation of “land related resources”)
  - c. Assist in providing training in various areas related to water for state officials in the Basin. (ORBC, modified per Ad Hoc teleconference September 10, 2010, to omit incorporation of “land related resources”)
3. *Coordination of Programs and Appropriate Management Authorities*
  - a. Coordinate to the extent possible water and related land resources planning in the Ohio River Basin, and to encourage coordinated and cooperative action by the Ohio River Basin states, Federal Government, and other agencies in the planning, development, conservation, and management of the water resources of the Basin. (ORBC, Conservation acknowledged as needed per Ad Hoc teleconference August 10, 2010)
  - b. Provide liaison for and among, public and non-public agencies concerning pollution and other water problems related to pollution or utilization of water. (ICPRB, modified per Ad Hoc teleconference September 10, 2010, to omit incorporation of “land related resources”)
  - c. Member states would faithfully cooperate in the abatement of pollution and in planning for the utilization, conservation and development of water and enactment of adequate and, insofar as is practicable, uniform legislation for abatement of pollution and control and use of such streams. (ICPRB, Conservation acknowledged as needed per Ad Hoc Teleconference August 10, 2010, modified per Ad Hoc teleconference September 10, 2010, to omit incorporation of “land related resources”)
  - d. Cooperate for the purpose of promoting uniform laws, rules, etc. (ICPRB)
4. *Represent Regional Interests*
  - a. Provide representation of the regional interests of the Ohio River Basin before Congress and federal agencies responsible for the planning, development, and management of the water of the Basin. (ORBC, modified per Ad Hoc teleconference September 10, 2010 to omit incorporation of “land related resources”)

**B. DROUGHTS**

1. *Study of Risks*
2. *Coordination of State/ Federal Plans (Plan Development and Implementation)*
  - a. Coordination of drought management planning and flood response, water withdrawal and issues concerning inter-basin transfers. (ORSANCO Water Resources Committee)
3. *Drought Status Monitoring in Information Dissemination*
4. *Interstate Notification*

**C. FLOODS**

1. *Study of Risks*
2. *Coordination of State/Federal Plans (Plan Development and Implementation)*
  - a. Coordination of drought management planning and flood response, water withdrawal and issues concerning inter-basin transfers. (ORSANCO Water Resources Committee)
  - b. The Commission may study and determine the nature and extent of the flood plains of the Ohio River and its tributaries. Upon the basis of the studies, it may delineate areas subject to flooding, including but not limited to a classification of lands with reference to relative risk of flooding. (Susquehanna River Basin Commission; modified per Ad Hoc Teleconference August 10, 2010)
3. *Coordination of Flood Monitoring and Warning Systems*
4. *Interstate Notification*

**D. WITHDRAWALS**

1. *As Requested and Conferred by Individual States, Establish Guidelines, Protocols and Regulations for Intrastate Withdrawals.*
2. *Where an “Emergency” Situation is Deemed to Exist, Establish Temporary Regulations*
  - a. The Commission from time to time may determine and delineate such areas within the basin wherein the demands upon supply made by water users have developed or threaten to develop to such a degree as to create a water shortage or impair or conflict with the requirements or effectuation of the comprehensive plan, and any such area may be designated as a protected area, with the consent of the member or members from the affected state or states. In any protected areas so determined and delineated, no person shall divert or withdraw water for domestic, municipal, agricultural, or industrial uses in excess of such quantities as the Commission may prescribe by general regulations, except (1) pursuant to a permit granted under this article, or (2) pursuant to a permit or approval heretofore granted under the laws of any of the signatory states. (Delaware Basin Commission)

**E. OUT-OF-BASIN TRANSFERS**

1. *Coordination of drought management planning and flood response, water withdrawal and issues concerning inter-basin transfers. (ORSANCO Water Resources Committee).*
2. *Development of Protocols for the Assessment of Impacts for Transfers and Approval of Out-Of-Basin Transfers Where Such Transfers May Have Interstate Water Resources Implications.*
  - a. Coordination of drought management planning and flood response, water withdrawal and issues concerning inter-basin transfers. (ORSANCO Water Resources Committee)
  - b. Regulatory authority related to inter-basin transfers, including regulatory authority to recover, for the benefit of the member states, the economic value of the water being transferred out of the basin. (Addition of conservation per Ad Hoc Committee teleconference August 10, 2010)