

**Attachment I-4:
Study Initiation Notice**

FEB 10 2012



Study Initiation Notice

Lower Susquehanna River Watershed Assessment

The purpose of this notice is to announce the recent initiation of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District's (USACE) Lower Susquehanna River Watershed Assessment (LSRWA). In partnership with Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC), USACE is conducting the watershed assessment under Section 729 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended. Enclosed is the executive summary of the project management plan (PMP) for the LSRWA, which includes a map of the study area.

The LSRWA is a multi-agency effort to comprehensively forecast and evaluate sediment and associated nutrient loads to the system of hydroelectric dams located on the Susquehanna River above the Chesapeake Bay. The assessment will also include an analysis of hydrodynamic and sedimentation processes and interactions, consideration of structural and non-structural strategies for sediment and nutrient management and an assessment of management strategies on future conditions in the lower Susquehanna River Watershed and Upper Chesapeake Bay. The official geographic area of the study is the lower Susquehanna River watershed, which flows into the Susquehanna River from Sunbury, Pennsylvania, down to the mouth at Havre de Grace, Maryland.

The LSRWA partners plan to meet quarterly to discuss, coordinate, and review technical and non-technical components of the assessment as well as management activities. These meetings will be open to the public and interested stakeholders; you will find an updated calendar of events at the project website along with the detailed PMP (<http://bit.ly/LowerSusquehannaRiver>). The project website will include various technical and management information as it becomes available.

Public meetings/workshops will also be coordinated by the LSRWA partners at appropriate times during the assessment. It is anticipated that there will be at least two public meetings over the course of the 3-year study – one when preliminary strategies for sediment and nutrient management strategies are developed (fall 2013), and a second meeting when the LSRWA report is released for public review (summer 2014). The purpose of the public meetings will be to provide information about the LSRWA report and obtain public input regarding its content.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please email eyesonthebay@yahoo.com or please contact Ms. Anna M. Compton at (410) 962-4633 or by e-mail at anna.m.compton@usace.army.mil. Correspondence can be provided by mail to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District
ATTN: CENAB-PL-P (Compton)
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715

Amy M. Guise
Chief, Civil Project Development Branch