

**Susquehanna River Basin Commission
Proposed Rulemaking – September 2016**

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Hearings and Enforcement Actions—Part 808

Section 808.1 is revised. The revised section in paragraph (a) identifies those actions that must have a public hearing pursuant to the Susquehanna River Basin Compact. Paragraph (b) outlines all other instances when the Commission may hold a hearing. No changes are contemplated to how the Commission currently conducts its hearings. Paragraphs (c) through (h) are revised to both update the regulations and also to reflect the Commission's current public hearing procedures.

Section 808.2 is revised to amend the scope and procedure for administrative appeals to the Commission. The non-mandatory appeal language is removed and paragraph (a) is revised to provide a mandatory appeal to the Commission of a final action or decision made by the Executive Director, including a non-exclusive list of appealable actions. Where the Commission itself takes a final action, including actions or decisions it makes on appeal of Executive Director actions, those decisions must be appealed to the appropriate federal district court in accordance with the provisions of section 3.10 of the Compact. This section also clarifies that the Commission will determine the manner in which it will hear an appeal, including whether a hearing is granted or whether the issue will be decided through submission of briefs.

Section 808.11 is revised to expressly recognize directives issued from Commission staff.

Section 808.14 is revised to provide the Executive Director broader authority to issue compliance orders. These orders would be appealable to the Commission. Paragraph (e) is added to expressly recognize Consent Orders and Agreements in the regulations. These agreements are vital to the Commission in fulfilling its compliance and enforcement obligations under the Compact and allow for a constructive resolution of most enforcement actions.

Section 808.15 is revised to allow the Executive Director to determine the appropriateness of a civil penalty in the first instance in a show cause proceeding. Any decision of the Executive Director is appealable to the Commission. Paragraph (c) is added to reflect the Commission's intent that any finding regarding the imposition of a civil penalty by the Executive Director shall be based on the relevant policies and

guidelines adopted by the Commission, as well as the relevant law and facts and information presented as a part of the show cause proceeding.

Section 808.16 regarding civil penalty criteria is revised to be consistent with other changes in this proposed rulemaking, as well as add a new factor regarding the punitive effect of a civil penalty on a violator.

Section 808.17 is revised to be consistent with other changes in the proposed rulemaking.

Section 808.18 is revised to allow the Executive Director to enter into settlement agreements to resolve enforcement actions. Currently all settlement agreements must be brought to the Commission for approval at the Commission's quarterly meeting with the exception of settlements under \$10,000 pursuant to Commission Resolution 2014-15. The revision provides greater authority for the Executive Director to approve settlement agreements, but retains the ability of the Commission to require certain types of settlements to be submitted for the Commission's approval through adoption of a Resolution.