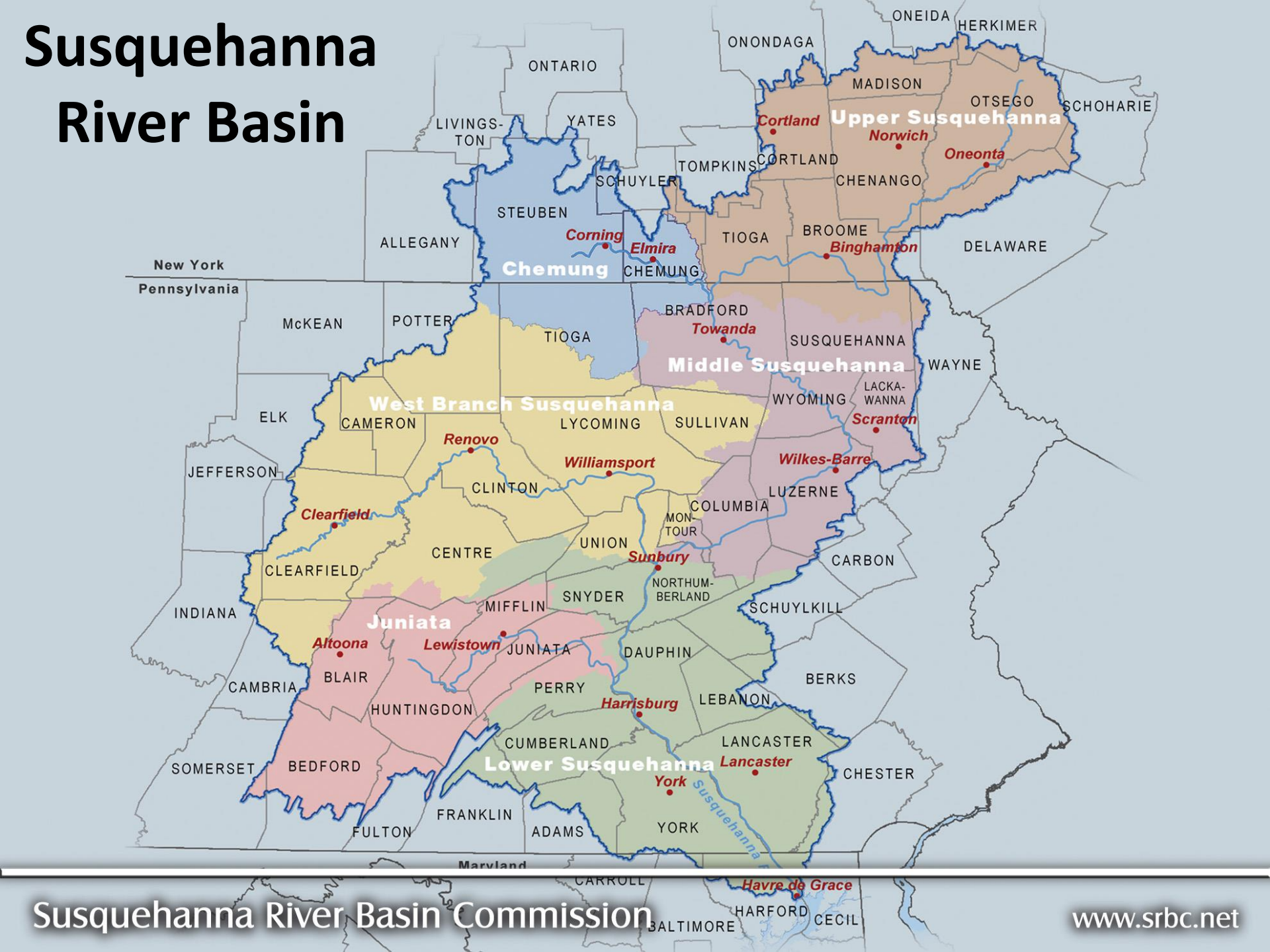
PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

DEVELOPING AQUIFER TESTING PLANS AND GROUNDWATER WITHDRAWAL APPLICATIONS

APRIL 5TH, 2016 & MAY 17TH, 2016

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Susquehanna River Basin



Basin Facts

- The Susquehanna and its tributaries drain 27,510 mi^2, spread over parts of New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland.

- The river meanders 444 miles from its origin at Otsego Lake near Cooperstown, N.Y., until it empties into the Chesapeake Bay at Havre de Grace, Md. The Susquehanna contributes one-half of the freshwater flow to the Bay.

- Because the Susquehanna River flows through three states and is classified as a navigable waterway by the federal government, there are state, regional, and national interests involved. There is a need to coordinate the efforts of three states and the agencies of the federal government, as well as a need to establish a management system to oversee the use of the water and related natural resources of the Susquehanna.

Susquehanna River Basin Compact

These needs led to the drafting of the Susquehanna River Basin Compact, which was signed into law on December 24, 1970. The Compact, as adopted by the Congress of the United States, and the legislatures of New York State, Pennsylvania and Maryland, provides the mechanism to guide the conservation, development, and administration of the water resources of the vast river basin.

http://www.srbc.net/about/srbc_compact.pdf

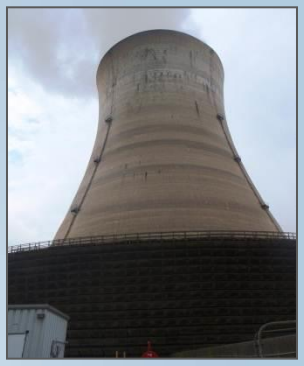
WHAT DOES SRBC REGULATE?

- Surface Water Withdrawals (=/>100,000 gpd)
- Groundwater Withdrawals (=/>100,000 gpd)
- Consumptive Use (=/>20,000 gpd)*
- Diversions (Out of Basin =/>20,000 gpd; Into Basin at gal. 1)

*For Natural Gas Industry, Withdrawals or Consumptive Use; (regulated from gal. 1)

Regulated Water Use









SUMMARY OF SRBC REVIEWS

- Regulatory water resource management agency
- Supports and encourages the sustainable use of water for the enhancement of public welfare and economic growth
- Applies innovative, science-based methods to uniformly regulate projects
- Cumulative impacts are critical
- Timing and location of withdrawals very important
- Use “interruptible sources” to minimize impacts on aquatic ecosystems during low flow periods