

March 7, 2011

Regulated Flow Advisory Committee (RFAC)  
Delaware River Basin Commission  
West Trenton, NJ 08628

Re: DWCC position on reservoir releases

Dear RFAC members:

We, the undersigned members of the Delaware Watershed Conservation Coalition (DWCC) would like to express our support for a revised water management plan for the Cannonsville, Pepacton, and Neversink Reservoirs to replace the current FFMP for the coming year. As you consider your recommendations to the DRBC and the Decree Parties we urge you to propose, on an interim basis, a management plan as outlined in the Joint Fisheries White Paper (JFWP) prepared by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. In particular, the management model identified as Scenario 6 in the JFWP would provide significant benefit to the river habitat without increased risk to the water supply.

Our support of a JFWP approach is not without qualifications, as you are aware from documents and testimony provided by organizations like TU that are members of the DWCC. The DWCC does believe, however, that implementation of a one-year interim plan based on the JFWP will allow the DRBC and stakeholders to evaluate its effectiveness and improve upon it in the future. To this end, we encourage your continued effort to evaluate the impact of releases from these reservoirs has on the riparian environment of the Neversink, and the West Branch, East Branch, Main Stem of the Delaware River.

DWCC members are organizations dedicated to the conservation of the natural habitat in the Delaware Watershed. Current members include Friends of the Upper Delaware (FUDR), Trout Unlimited National, and its New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania Chapters, Theodore Gordon Flyfishers, Inc. (TGF), the Federation of Flyfishers, Inc. (FFF) and its Wild Trout Flyrodders.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dan Plummer  
Chairman, Friends of the Upper Delaware River  
on behalf of Delaware Watershed Conservation Coalition