
The report compares water quality data initially collected from 2000-2004 to the assessment period of 2009-2011. Extensive monitoring was conducted and water quality data were evaluated at nine interstate control points located on the main stem Lower Delaware River and at 15 boundary control points located on tributaries in a 76-mile stretch of river from Portland, Pa. to Trenton, N.J. A map of these sites appears on the back of this handout.

The purpose of the report was to determine whether changes to existing water quality in this section of river have occurred. For most water quality parameters at most locations, there were no measurable changes to existing water quality. In fact, many tests revealed water quality improvements.

Nutrient water quality parameters were found to show improvement at most sites; this is good news, as these results appear to buck the national trend of nutrient degradation of waterbodies.

Overall, 17 out of 20 parameters showed no measurable change at almost all control points. These results demonstrate that DRBC’s Special Protection Waters (SPW) program is working and plays an important role in managing water quality in the Delaware River Basin.

An interactive map was released as an accompaniment to this report.

Map of the Lower Delaware SPW
Interstate and Boundary Control Points