



For Immediate Release
October 5, 2011

Contact: Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, 215-369-1188, ext. 102
Chari Towne, Director, Awareness-to-Action, 215-369-1188, ext. 109

Keeping Pennsylvania's clean streams clean is the subject of a new Delaware Riverkeeper Network report

Bristol, PA - The Delaware Riverkeeper Network announced today the release of a new report titled *Protecting Pennsylvania's Cleanest Streams: A Review of Pennsylvania's Antidegradation Policies and Program with Recommendations for Improvements*.

Federal regulations require every state to put forward policies and implement programs--referred to as antidegradation policies and programs--intended to prevent our cleanest stream from becoming polluted. Although many states have been slow to establish antidegradation programs, Pennsylvania has had a program for decades.

In 2008, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network began studying how well Pennsylvania's antidegradation program is serving to protect the Commonwealth's cleanest streams in practice. In the report released today, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network summarizes three years of analysis of Pennsylvania's antidegradation program. *Protecting Pennsylvania's Cleanest Streams* provides background information on Pennsylvania's antidegradation policies and program, looks at the status of implementation, and provides suggestions for improvement.

"To be a leader in antidegradation, Pennsylvania's policy and program must evolve to reflect the growing understanding of and appreciation for the need to provide stronger protections for our streams," said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper. She added, "This new report is intended to begin a discussion and to inspire action that will strengthen the protections provided to Pennsylvania's cleanest streams."

-- more --

DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER NETWORK
925 Canal Street, Suite 3701
Bristol, PA 19007
Office: (215) 369-1188
fax: (215) 369-1181
drm@delawareriverkeeper.org
www.delawareriverkeeper.org

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network report list eight categories where improvements could be made in Pennsylvania's antidegradation program:

- Monitoring for Designated and Candidate High Quality/Exceptional Value streams
- High Quality/Exceptional Value Designation Protection
- Updated Policy on Dam Impacts
- Drinking Water Supply Protection
- Threatened and Endangered Species Protection
- Non-Degrading Discharges and Degrading Discharges
- Meaningful Public Participation in Decision-Making
- Habitat Protection and Restoration

In addition, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network identified action steps that can be implemented at the federal, state, and community level as well as action steps that can be taken by individuals.

Protecting Pennsylvania's Cleanest Streams can be downloaded from the Delaware Riverkeeper Network's website at:

http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/resources/Reports/DRN_Rpt_Protecting_PAs_Cleanest_Streams.pdf.

#####