

A Message from the Executive Director



I take this opportunity to welcome you to the web site of the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin. The ICPRB is an interstate compact organization created in 1940 by our signatory members — the commonwealths of Pennsylvania and Virginia and the states of Maryland and West Virginia, the District of Columbia — passing identical state laws, and then by the United States Congress adopting a resolution providing federal recognition and a federal government presence on the Commission.

Our purpose, as defined in the 1940 compact is:

"Regulating, controlling, preventing, or otherwise rendering unobjectionable and harmless the pollution of the waters of said Potomac drainage area by sewage and industrial and other wastes."

The compact does not give ICPRB any authority to establish water quality standards or regulations even with the above stated purpose. We rely on state and federal laws and regulations, and standards to implement actions in the basin. The Compact, and our roles in the basin recognize the fact that water quality and water quantity are integrally related and that an agency must focus attention on them as a whole to avoid divisive activities in the basin.

Water resources play a major role in much of the lives of today's residents of the Potomac Valley and this entire region. As we address the water resources issues of the 21st Century, we have the responsibility for cooperating with other agencies, interest groups, and individuals to integrate and coordinate the planning for the development and use of the water and associated land resources of the Potomac River Basin.

We have a group of appointed, and dedicated, commissioners representing the member jurisdictions, and a full-time staff of professionals who collaboratively seek to protect the Potomac River Basin for today and for the future. We conduct projects and studies that lead to

Executive Director's Message

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better management actions by participating groups and agencies and encourage governments at several levels to act responsibly for the basin.

Welcome to our site. This web site provides information about the ICPRB. We want to answer basic questions about the ICPRB and to introduce you to ongoing activities and projects in the Potomac River Basin. As you travel the Potomac through our pages, I hope you better understand the Potomac River Basin and our unique role in protecting the basin's water resources. We are among the oldest of the interstate river basin commissions and take pride in our Potomac River.

Joseph K. Hoffman, Executive Director