

DRBC's Toxics Research & Planning

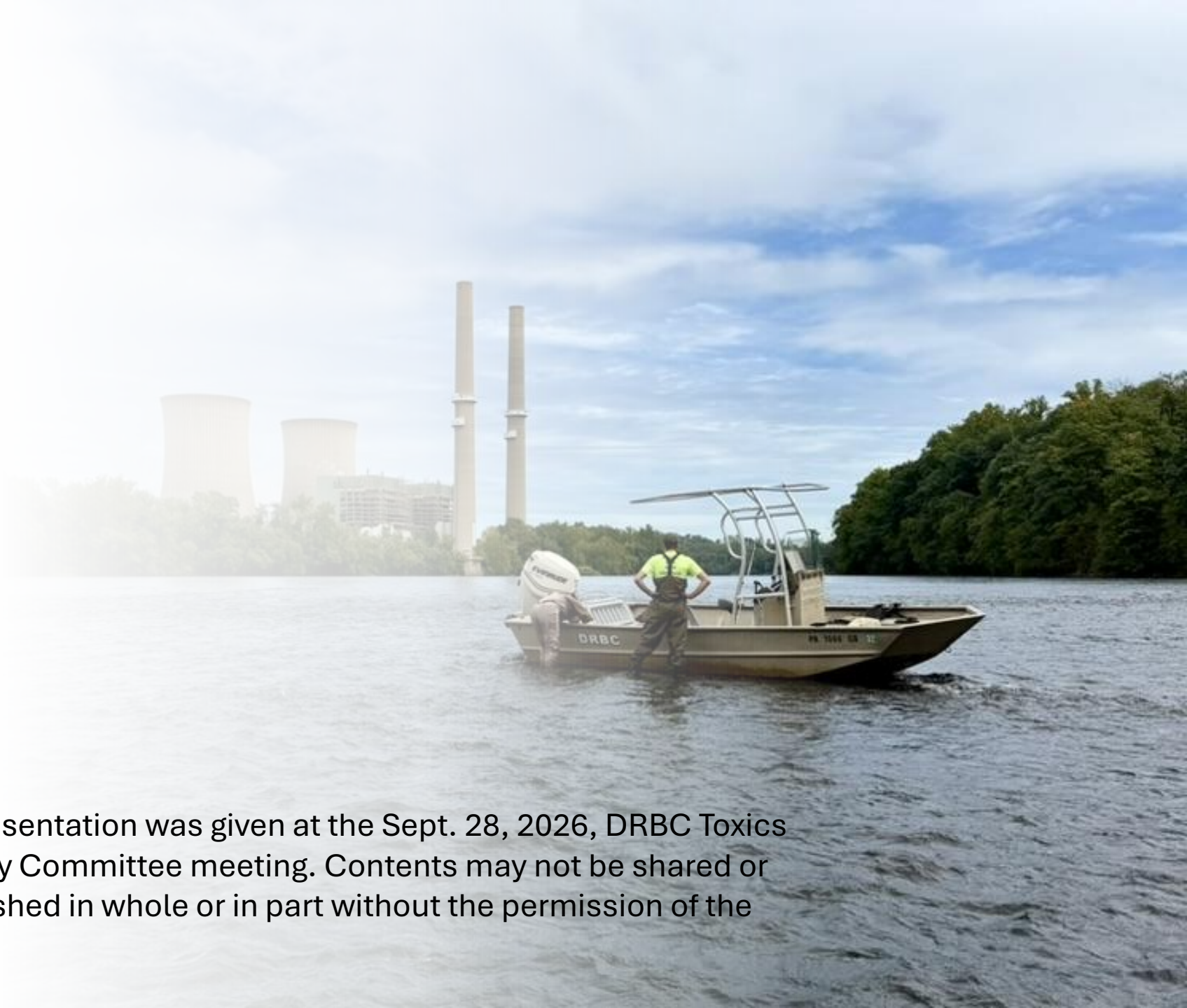
Toxics Advisory Committee

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DRBC Toxics Information

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Water Quality & Monitoring Programs

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Introduction



DRBC Water Quality Mandate

Article 5 of the Delaware River Basin Compact defines the Commission's water quality mandates and directs the DRBC to take the lead on water quality matters pertaining to the Basin by adopting regulations:

"...to control such future pollution and abate existing pollution, and to require such treatment of sewage, industrial or other waste....as may be required to protect the public health or to preserve the waters of the Basin for uses in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan." (Compact, §5.2)

The DRBC uses a multi-faceted strategy to water quality regulation that provides a rational approach

to protecting and restoring water quality in the basin.

DRBC Water Quality Regulations

The Commission's first [Water Quality Regulations](#) (pdf 885 KB) were adopted in March 1967. They are divided into two main sections: Article 3 - Water Quality Standards for the Delaware River Basin and Article 4 - Application of Standards.

In 1968, Stewart Udall, Secretary of the U.S. Dept. of the Interior from 1961-1969, said, "Only the Delaware among the nation's river basins is moving into high gear in its program to combat water

▶ **Aquatic Life Designated Use Study**

▶ **Bacteria Monitoring**

▶ **Biomonitoring Program**

▶ **Chlorides Monitoring**

▶ **Contaminants of Emerging Concern**

▶ **Delaware Estuary Water Quality Monitoring Program**

▶ **Dissolved Oxygen and Nutrients**

▶ **Modeling**

▶ **Other Monitoring Programs & Studies (e.g., Fish Tissue, Microplastics, Metals)**

▶ **PCBs and PMPs**

▶ **Special Protection Waters (SPW)**

▶ **Water Resource Data Sets**

<https://www.nj.gov/drbc/programs/quality/>



Recently Finished Projects

- **NFWF Yr 3** – Characterization of PFAS in Surface Water, Sediment and Fish from Lackawaxen, PA to Pea Patch Island in Delaware
- **PFAS Web App** – Presents all publicly available data in the basin in an accessible format
- **D&R Canal PFAS** – Passive sampler study along the Delaware & Raritan Canal. Publicly released 9/25/26.



Ongoing Projects

- NFWF 6PPD-Q

- Project complete and report will be written this fall

- Musconetcong River PFAS (2025 & 2026)

- DRBC is helping Musconetcong Watershed Association with sample analysis
 - 4 sampling events across 2025 and 2026
 - Data will be uploaded to the Water Quality Portal

- Boat Run Toxics Monitoring

- PFAS at 4 events in 2026 and plans for similar future sampling
 - Dioxin/Furan and OC Pesticide at 3 events and all sites



Planned/Potential Projects

- PACZM PFAS Tributary Track Down – *PROPOSAL*
 - Sampling of 5 tributaries with known PFAS
 - Attempt to narrow source locations
 - IF Funded, would begin in Spring 2027
- Curtis Specialty Paper (106 Grant)
 - Just north of Frenchtown on the banks of the Delaware River
 - High concentrations of three PFAS compounds in groundwater at the site
- PCB Fish Sampling



Delaware River Basin Commission

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Questions?

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