

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN STATES AND NEW YORK CITY ANNOUNCE AN AMENDMENT OF THE 2017 AGREEMENT FOR A FLEXIBLE FLOW MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

MILFORD, Pa. (May 8, 2023) – New York State, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and the City of New York today announced that they have completed an interim review of the 2017 Flexible Flow Management Program (FFMP) which was intended to meet water supply demands, protect fisheries habitat downstream of the New York City (NYC) Delaware Basin reservoirs, enhance flood mitigation, and repel the upstream movement of salt water in the Delaware Estuary. An amendment of the 2017 FFMP was unanimously approved; the 2017 FFMP will remain in effect through May 31, 2028 and will continue to rely on the original operations plan set forth in Appendix A of the 2017 agreement. The amendment continues and modifies the studies that were outlined in the original agreement.

Several studies to evaluate the impacts and conditions of the releases to repel the salt front, increased diversions, storage, balancing adjustment, and the Excess Release Quantity were set forth in the original 2017 agreement. The 2023 amendment to the 2017 FFMP acknowledges that: *“progress has been made on studies ... Delays have occurred during the time period due to the complicated nature of the study topics and due to the unanticipated events related to resources as well as the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Nonetheless, the current FFMP2017 has been working well and the Decree Parties remain committed to moving forward with the FFMP2017 studies”*.

The next five years will be used to build upon the progress thus far on the studies, with adjusted timelines. The amendment also adds a new study that will synthesize the information from the results of the studies set forth in the 2017 FFMP agreement. Additional details can be viewed on the web site of the Office of the Delaware River Master, which administers the provisions of the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court Decree, at <http://water.usgs.gov/osw/odrm/ffmp/>.

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2023