



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CUSTOM HOUSE 2ND & CHESTNUT STREETS
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106-2991

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Planning Division

DEC 16 1991

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Honorable Jeanette F. Reibman
Pennsylvania State Senate
18th District, P.O. Box 18
458 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Senator Reibman:

This notice is to announce the initiation of a reconnaissance study of the Lehigh River Basin which is being conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. A map of the basin is enclosed for your reference. The United States House of Representatives Committee on Public Works and Transportation adopted a study resolution on September 8, 1988 authorizing the Corps to investigate the feasibility of providing improvements within the basin in the interest of flood control, environmental improvements and related water resource needs (such as water supply, recreation, and water quality control). The environmental improvements will address fish passage structures to permit and restore anadromous fish runs primarily for the American shad as well as restoration of wetlands, riparian vegetation, and any other environmental initiatives identified as part of the study.

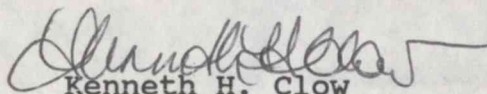
This initial phase of study, termed the Reconnaissance Phase, has four objectives. These objectives are to describe the identified problems and needs of the area; determine whether there is Federal interest in participating in further studies of the identified problem(s); identify at least one likely solution suitable for Corps implementation under current policy; and produce a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) with a non-Federal sponsor to share the cost for feasibility studies. Based on a preliminary appraisal of the Federal interest a determination will be made whether the planning should proceed further into a feasibility phase. Additionally, an assessment will be made of the willingness of non-Federal parties to support and cost share in further studies. As part of the reconnaissance study, the schedule and scope of any detailed studies will be established. The Reconnaissance Phase will be conducted entirely at Federal expense, and will be accomplished over the next twelve months.

The geographic area covered by this Reconnaissance Study includes the entire Lehigh River Basin. The study will investigate Federal interest in providing flood protection at main stem damage areas and tributaries within the basin. Major main stem damage areas include Easton, Wilson, Bethlehem, Allentown, Fullerton, Coplay, Catasauqua,

Northampton, Walnutport, Palmerton, Weissport, Lehighon, Jim Thorpe, White Haven and Stoddartsville. The study will also review flooding problems along tributaries to the Lehigh River which include but are not limited to Cedar Creek, Jordan Creek, Little Lehigh Creek, Monocacy Creek, Nancy Run, Catasauqua Creek, Trout Creek, Aquashicola Creek, and Saucon Creek. In addition as part of this study, consideration will also be given to the construction of fish passage structures (fish ladders) on the Lehigh River Basin streams to permit and restore anadromous fish runs (primarily for the American shad) and any other environmental initiatives identified.

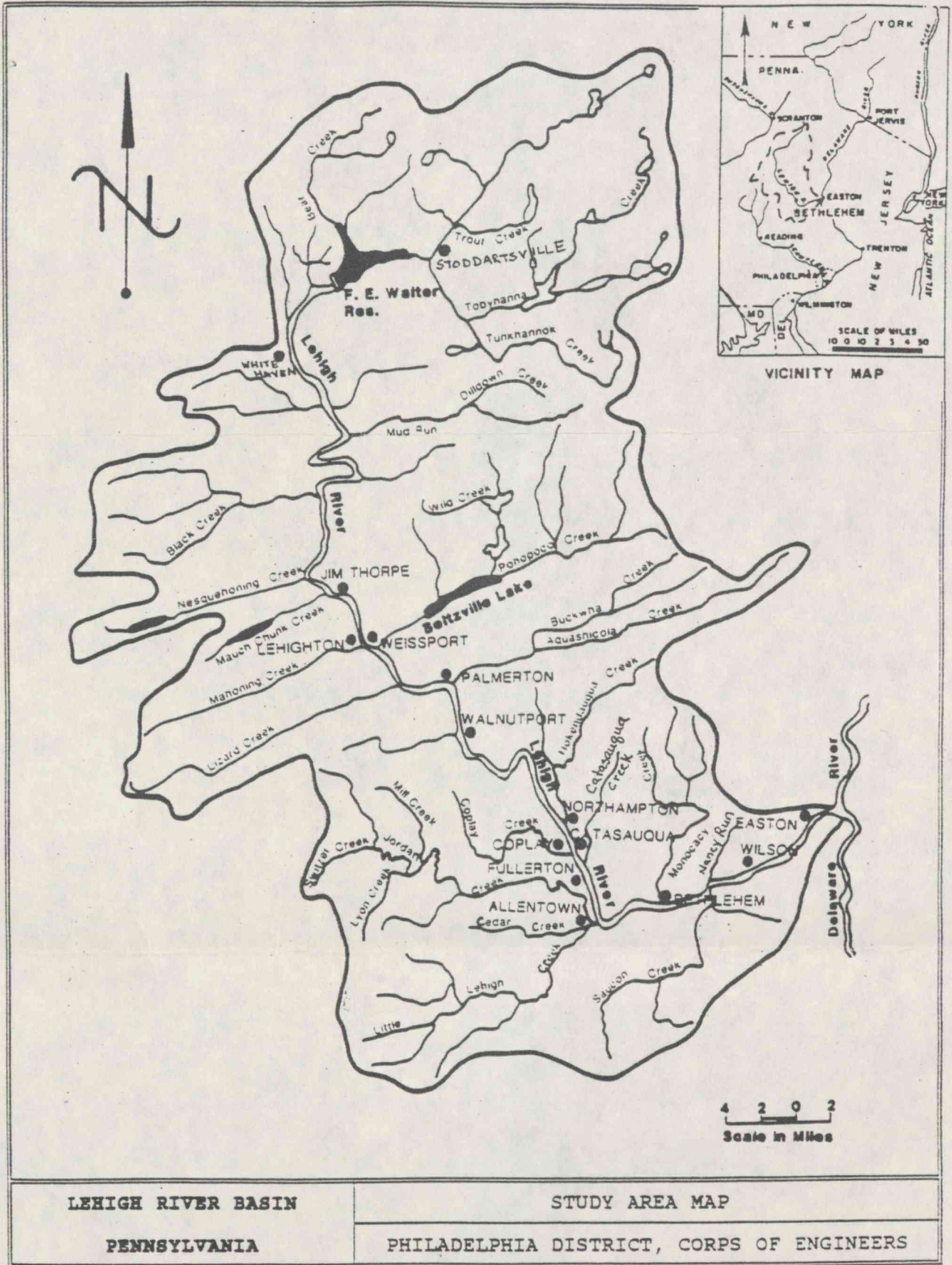
The Reconnaissance Phase will involve primarily data collection, problem identification, and the development of future planning objectives. In particular, we are interested in recent and ongoing studies, development plans, and information on recent flooding problems and damages. To insure that our investigation and recommendations reflect the needs and desires of the community, we encourage community participation in this initial phase of study. Any pertinent information that Federal, State or local agencies and the private sector can provide will be used to the fullest extent possible. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. Any assistance which you can provide us will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Kenneth H. Clow
Lieutenant Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

Enclosure



LEHIGH RIVER BASIN

STUDY AREA MAP

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS