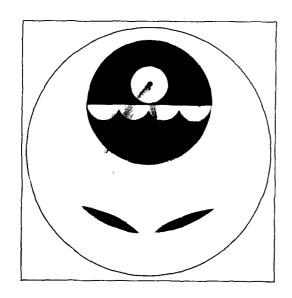
## U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



SUMMAKT AND CONCEDSTORS

NUTRIENT TRANSPORT AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE LOWER SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN

October 1974

Technical Report 60 Annapolis Field Office Region III Environmental Protection Agency

## Annapolis Field Office Region III Environmental Protection Agency

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

## NUTRIENT TRANSPORT AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE LOWER SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN

Technical Report 60
October 1974

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### ABSTRACT

Identification of the Susquehanna River as the primary contributor of nutrients to the upper Chesapeake Bay and recognition of the need to develop a nutrient management program for their mutual protection, prompted the Annapolis Field Office, EPA, to conduct a one-year comprehensive nutrient survey in the lower Susquehanna River Basin between Northumberland, Pa. and Conowingo, Md. Three distinct hydrologic seasons were represented during the study period which provided the foundation for an in-depth evaluation of all water quality data obtained during this survey. Its principal objectives were: (1) quantitative identification of average nitrogen and phosphorus loadings and determination of seasonal variations in nutrient loadings from every major sub-basin (2) delineation of point source and non-point source nutrient contributions to establish effectiveness of controllability measures (3) seasonal mass balance of nutrient loadings in the main stem and (4) determination of the fate of nutrients in impounded areas. The report enumerates the important findings and conclusions which evolved during the intensive data analysis and interpretation and presents recommendations for future studies. Hopefully, the material presented in this report can assist in the implementation of a workable nutrient management program.

### Introduction

Possibly the most serious pollution problem currently plaguing the upper Chesapeake Bay is one of progressive eutrophication stemming from the uncontrolled discharge of nitrogen and phosphorus in both the tidal and non-tidal areas of the major tributary watersheds. Consequently, during 1969 the Annapolis Field Office (AFO) embarked on a one-year monitoring study to (1) delineate significant nutrient inputs to the Chesapeake Bay, (2) quantify nutrient loadings and establish their seasonal trends, and (3) determine the relative importance of each watershed's nutrient load in affecting current biological conditions in the Bay. The obvious conclusion from this study was the primary significance of the Susquehanna River as a contributor of nitrogen and phosphorus to the Chesapeake Bay, accounting for 50, 60 and 66 percent of the total phosphorus, TKN and nitrate loadings, respectively, entering the Bay on an annual basis.

Recognizing the dramatic effect of the Susquehanna River on the water quality of the upper Chesapeake Bay and the need to develop a nutrient management program for their mutual protection, AFO initiated a comprehensive nutrient study in the lower Susquehanna Basin between Northumberland, Pa., and Conowingo, Md. The study was limited to this particular area since preliminary data analysis revealed this lower reach to be the significant nutrient contributor to the Bay. This twelve month study (June 1971 - May 1972), which

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comprised weekly or bi-weekly sampling at 37 stream stations and monthly sampling of 25 major sewage treatment plant effluents, had the following principal objectives:

- a) quantitative identification of average nitrogen and phosphorus loadings from every significant sub-basin in the lower Susquehanna,
- b) determination of seasonal variations in nutrient loadings for individual sub-basins and their dependency on stream flow.
- c) delineation of point source and non-point source nutrient contributions and determination of typical loading rates from agricultural, forested and urban areas, especially the urban Harrisburg metro area, in order to establish the potential controllability of nutrients on a seasonal basis,
- d) seasonal mass balance of nutrient loadings in the Susquehanna River from the West Branch confluence to Conowingo, Md., and
- e) determination of the fate of nutrients in impounded areas along the lower Susquehanna River.

This report contains an enumeration of the important findings which evolved during the course of data analysis and interpretation. In addition, the report contains the most important conclusions which can be drawn from the information presented followed by a framework of recommendations for future studies. Graphical supportive material is included in the Appendix.

It should be noted that Item 28 of the Summary and Item 23 of the Conclusion Sections of the report state the need for point source control of phosphorus to protect the upper Chesapeake Bay from excessive eutrophication. Conclusion 24 questions the effectiveness of nitrogen control at point sources in the lower Susquehanna River Basin in the absence of an accompanying reduction of the existing nitrogen load from agricultural runoff. These findings and conclusions were specifically developed in AFO Technical Report 56. Utilizing a mathematical model and the data from Technical Report 60, the combined impact of nutrient loadings from the Susquehanna River and Baltimore, Maryland on the eutrophic condition of the upper Chesapeake Bay was evaluated. Technical Report 56, "Nutrient Enrichment and Control Requirements in the Upper Chesapeake Bay, Summary and Conclusions", should be read jointly with this report.

Technical Report 56 concluded that phosphorus could be made the rate limiting nutrient in the upper Chesapeake Bay to control eutrophication or, specifically, the level of algal standing crop as measured by chlorophyll <u>a</u>. For Susquehanna River flows less than or equal to 30,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), a reduction of 70 percent in the existing point source phosphorus load from both the lower Susquehanna River and the Baltimore Metropolitan Area is required. At higher river flows the phosphorus reduction at point sources increases substantially. Point source control of nitrogen may not be a viable alternative to phosphorus control during any flow condition at this time without a substantial reduction in non-point sources of nitrogen.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has an adopted phosphorus policy for the lower Susquehanna Basin which requires at least 80 percent removal of phosphorus from all new or modified wastewater treatment facilities. Maryland places phosphorus limitations on wastewater treatment facilities on a case by case basis in accordance with receiving water characteristics. Even with the introduction of point source phosphorus control in Maryland and Pennsylvania, the impact from expected population growth in the study area will eventually require serious consideration of non-point source control of nutrients as a supplemental measure to high degrees of phosphorus and nitrogen removal at point sources. Technological and cost considerations of phosphorus removal and the relative magnitude of non-point source nitrogen loads may make this consideration imperative. The delineation and quantification of point source and non-point source nutrient contributions for the lower Susquehanna Basin set forth in the report is substantial. It is hoped that management agencies will utilize this body of data and expand upon it where necessary to develop land-use management programs in conjunction with point source control of nutrients to allow for the accomodation of future population growth while at the same time maintaining permissable nutrient levels in the lower Susquehanna Basin and the upper Chesapeake Bay.

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### Summary

- 1) The Susquehanna River between Sunbury, Pennsylvania and Conowingo, Maryland, drains an area of approximately 9,000 square miles in south central Pennsylvania and contains a resident population (1970 census) of approximately 875,000 (25% of the Basin's total population).
- 2) In the lower Susquehanna River basin approximately 5%, 40%, 50% and 5% represents urban, agricultural, forested and other areas, respectively.
- 3) Daily flows were monitored at Conowingo Dam during the entire survey and ranged from about 4,200 cfs (Aug. 1971) to 319,000 cfs (Mar. 1972).
- 4) For purposes of data evaluation, the study period was separated into three distinct seasons, each characterized by a different but relatively uniform flow condition. The mean flows and mean water temperatures for each season are shown in the table below:

Period	Mean Flow (cfs x 1000's)	Mean Water Temperature °C
June - Oct., 1971	11	23.5
Nov., 1971 - Feb., 1972	37	3.6
March - May, 1972	88	12.5

5) The average seasonal concentration of nutrients measured near the mouths of the fourteen major tributaries of the lower Susquehanna River are presented as follows:

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Average Nutrient Concentrations\*

Susquehanna River Tributaries

(June - Oct., 1971)

Sub-Basin	MEAN FLOW (cfs)	TP04 as P0,	INORGANIC P as PO,	TKN ass N	NH3 as <sup>3</sup> N	NO <sub>2</sub> +NO <sub>3</sub> as N	NL	TIN
			J	mg/l			1 1 1 1 1 1	 
STONY CREEK	30	0.09	90.0	0.22	90.0	0.24	0.46	0.30
SHAMOKIN CREEK	123	1.10	0.10	3.34	1.86	0.31	3.65	2.17
PENNS CREEK	175	0.44	0.23	96.0	0.17	0.79	1.75	96.0
JUNIATA RIVER	1740	0.27	0.10	0.68	0.05	0.58	1.26	0.63
CONODOGUINET CR.	592	0.63	0.39	09.0	90.0	1.59	2.19	1.65
YELLOW BREECHES	210	0.18	0.13	0.37	0.13	1.32	1.69	1.45
SWATARA CREEK	260	0.51	0.43	0.55	0.10	2.10	2.65	2.20
CONEWAGO CREEK	330	0.59	0.45	0.71	0.08	1.65	2.36	1.73
CONOY CREEK	15	2.44	1.71	1.22	0.24	6.24	7.46	6.48
CODORUS CREEK	215	2.11	1.83	1.61	0.56	2.86	4.47	3.42
CHICKIES CREEK	120	0.61	0.43	0.65	0.08	5.44	60.9	5.52
CONESTOGA CREEK	400	1.47	1.10	0.93	0.17	4.60	5.53	4.77
PEQUEA CREEK	156	0.79	0.28	0.91	0.13	4.04	4.95	4.17
OCTORARO CREEK	200	0.30	0.13	0.67	0.12	2.08	2.75	2.20
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Average Nutrient Concentrations\*\*

Susquehanna River Tributaries

(Nov., 1971 - Feb., 1972)

	MEAN FLOW	TP04 as	INORGANIC P as	TKN	NH <sub>3</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub> +NO <sub>3</sub>	N.E	NIL
Sub-Basin	(cfs)	P04	P04	2	Z	Z		
	;	!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!	ЭШ	mg/l	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	( !
STONY CREEK	80	90.0	0.03	0.20	90.0	0.14	0.34	0.20
SHAMOKIN CREEK	237	0.93	0.08	2.02	1.67	0.84	2.86	2.51
PENNS CREEK	450	0.21	0.18	0.54	0.13	1.78	2.32	1.91
JUNIATA RIVER	4975	0.16	0.12	0.37	0.08	1.00	1.37	1.08
CONODOGUINET CR.	860	0.53	0.37	0.50	0.12	3.12	3.62	3.24
YELLOW BREECHES	360	0.14	0.09	0.36	0.08	1.47	1.83	1.55
SWATARA CREEK	1570	0.55	0.48	0.79	0.31	2.41	3.20	2.72
CONEWAGO CREEK	1023	0.38	0.29	0.63	0.12	1.92	2.55	2.04
CONOY CREEK	30	2.26	1.55	2.19	1.02	7.94	10.13	96.8
CODORUS CREEK	445	1.25	1.10	1.28	0.80	3.72	5.00	4.52
CHICKIES CREEK	200	0.47	0.40	0.76	0.17	6.92	7.68	7.09
CONESTOGA CREEK	800	1.50	1.09	1.38	0.45	5.96	7.34	6.41
PEQUEA CREEK	245	0.24	0.19	0.91	0.42	5.63	6.54	9.05
OCTORARO CREEK	300	0.19	0.11	0.82	0.09	4.12	4.94	4.21

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Average Nutrient Concentrations\*

Susquehanna River Tributaries

(March - May, 1972)

	MEAN	TP04	INORGANIC P	TKN	NH <sub>3</sub>	NO2+NO3	N H	) NIT
Sub-Basin	(cfs)	as Po	дs РО	S N	S Z	N S	<u>.</u>	1
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STONY CREEK	109	0.04	0.03	0.26	90.0	0.13	0.39	0.19
SHAMOKIN CREEK	365	0.88	0.08	1.39	1.04	0.64	2.03	1.68
PENNS CREEK	1263	0.24	11.0	99.0	0.13	1.50	2.16	1.63
JUNIATA RIVER	10,741	0.16	0.07	0.35	0.05	0.85	1.20	06.0
CONODOGUINET CR.	1596	0.30	0.17	0.46	0.05	2.07	2.53	2.12
YELLOW BREECHES	611	0.16	0.14	0.54	0.18	1.73	2.27	1.91
SWATARA CREEK	1604	0.29	0.23	0.49	60.0	2.71	3.20	2.80
CONEWAGO CREEK	1271	0.31	0.15	0.57	90.0	1.77	2.34	1.83
CONOY CREEK	35	1.30	1.29	1.58	0.61	6.94	8.52	7.55
CODORUS CREEK	534	1.57	1.07	1.20	0.39	3.79	4.99	4.18
CHICKIES CREEK	250	0.34	0.23	0.59	0.10	7.00	7.59	7.10
CONESTOGA CREEK	1055	98.0	0.74	08.0	0.23	6.29	7.09	6.52
PEQUEA CREEK	300	0.20	0.12	0.52	0.08	5.72	6.24	5.80
OCTORARO CREEK	400	0.28	0.20	0.76	0.13	3.94	4.70	4.07
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The data shown in the preceeding tables indicate that Shamokin, Conoy, Codorus and Conestoga Creeks had the highest phosphorus concentrations during each season. During low flow periods these concentrations exceeded 1.0 mg/l. Both total and inorganic phosphorus concentrations usually decreased when stream flows increased, indicating that excessive runoff was having a diluting effect on point source discharges.

Maximum TKN concentrations (1.0 - 3.0 mg/l) were also measured in Shamokin, Conoy, Codorus and Conestoga Creeks during the low flow season and probably reflected the sizeable waste loadings received by these streams. In general, TKN behaved similar to phosphorus in that higher stream flows resulted in further dilution.

Oxidized inorganic nitrogen ( $NO_2 + NO_3$ ) appeared to be the most prevalent nutrient monitored. Because of the importance of agricultural runoff, most streams did not experience the diluting effect observed for other forms of nutrients during high flow periods. Pequea Creek, a predominately agricultural watershed having no significant point source discharges exhibited a high  $NO_2 + NO_3$  concentration but a relatively low TKN concentration for each season. Stony Creek, a predominately forested watershed, on the other hand, contained relatively low nutrient concentrations regardless of season.

Except for Shamokin Creek, a highly acidic stream where nitrification is probably inhibited, ammonia levels were quite low, especially during the warmer periods when the nitrification reaction should be most pronounced.

6) The average seasonal nutrient concentrations measured at the ten main stem Susquehanna stations are presented in the tables on the following pages.

Since the volume of flow in the Susquehanna is extremely large in comparison to the tributary flows, the river was not very responsive to a given nutrient input in terms of a concentration increase. The considerable amount of dilution present is illustrated in the comparatively low phosphorus and nitrogen concentrations shown in the following tables. Phosphorus concentrations were generally higher during the low flow periods but did not exceed 0.3 mg/l. Moreover, concentrations were consistently greater in the reach from Harrisburg to Conowingo than they were in the upper reach, probably the result of several large tributary inputs. The fairly high phosphorus concentrations observed in the vicinity of Harrisburg during the high flow period may be partially due to combined sewer overflows. It is also important to recognize the dramatic decrease in phosphorus during lower flow periods in the area of Conowingo and to a lesser extent at Safe Harbor. These impoundments appeared to represent a significant "sink" for phosphorus when detention times were long.

The maximum TKN and  $NO_2$  +  $NO_3$  concentrations (0.82 mg/l and 1.3 mg/l, respectively) were measured in the Susquehanna River between Safe Harbor and Conowingo Dams. While TKN was always greatest during low flow periods because of minimal dilution of tributary inflows,  $NO_2$  +  $NO_3$  levels were greater during the higher flow-lower temperature periods. This latter relationship reflected the effects of runoff

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Average Nutrient Concentrations

Main Stem Susquehanna River

(June - Oct. 1971)

	MEAN	TP04	INORGANIC P	TKN	NH <sub>3</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub> +NO <sub>3</sub>	N F	NEF
STATION	(cfs)	PO	PO <sub>4</sub>	S Z	2	S Z		NIT
W. BRANCH SUSQUEHANNA	! ! ! ! ! !		θω	/бш	; ; ; ; ; ; ; ;	 	! ! !	: : : :
NORTHUMBERLAND	2760	0.12	0.05	0.38	0.08	0.39	0.77	0.47
MAIN BRANCH SUSQUEHANNA NODTHIMBEDIAND	0036	c	9	12.0	c c	ć		į
NON HOUDENEAU	0000		00.0	- / • 0	60.0	0.30	70.1	0.45
SUSQUEHANNA RT. 15 SUNBURY	6200	0.21	90.0	0.64	0.17	0.38	1.02	0.55
SUSQUEHANNA RT. 22-322	7090	0.18	0.07	09.0	0.04	0.30	0.90	0.34
SUSQUEHANNA RT. 15 HARRISBURG	9095	0.25	0.18	0.57	0.08	0.47	0.98	0,49
SUSQUEHANNA RT. 83 HARRISBURG	9095	0.19	80.0	0.56	0.08	0.44	00 [	0 50
SUSQUEHANNA COLUMBIA BR.	11,300	0.29	0.07	0.72	0.07	0.42	55:	2 0
SUSQUEHANNA SAFE HARBOR	10,800		0.07	08.0	0.33	0.54	1.34	0.87
SUSQUEHANNA HOL TWOOD	11,900	0.29	0.12	0.77	0.32	0.73	1.50	1.05
SUSQUEHANNA CONOWINGO	11,500	0.15	0.08	0.82	0.35	0.85	1.65	1.20

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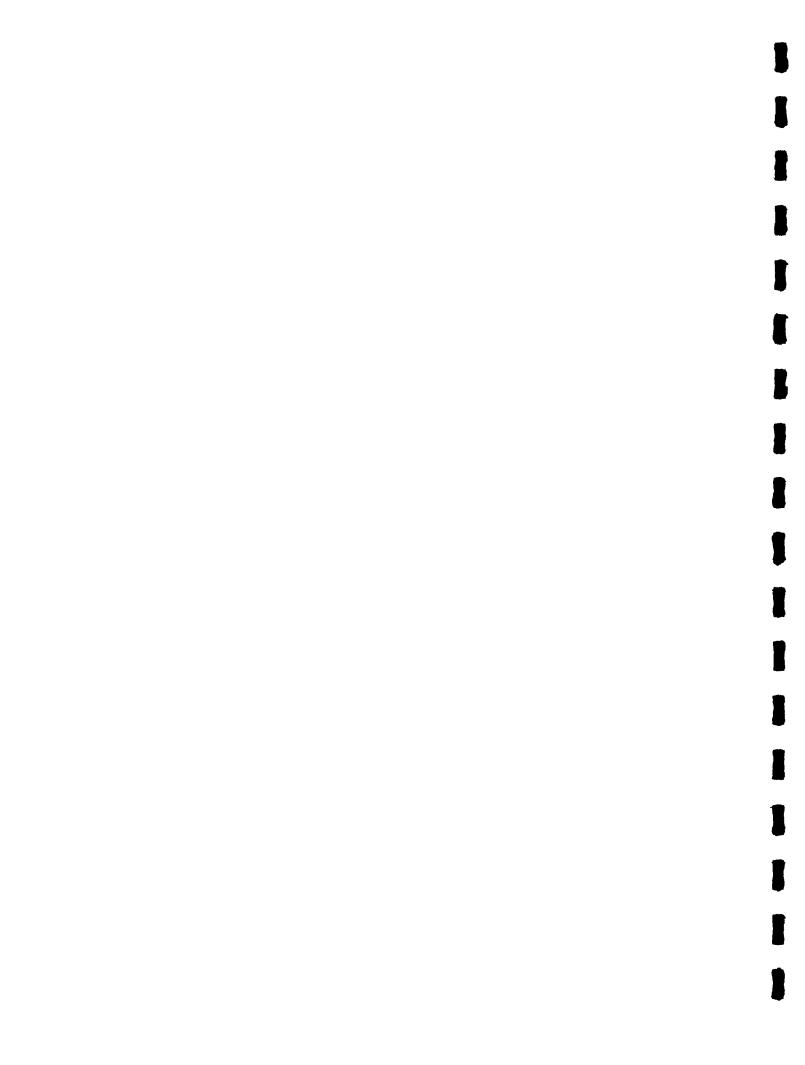
Average Nutrient Concentrations

Main Stem Susquehanna River

(Nov. 1971 - Feb. 1972)

STATION	MEAN FLOW (cfs)	7P04 as P0,	INORGANIC P as PO	TKN as N	NH <sub>3</sub> as <sup>3</sup> N	NO <sub>2</sub> +NO <sub>3</sub> Sas N	NT	NIT
	1 1 1	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	/Bw	1/			1 1 1 1 1 1	l !
W. BRANCH SUSQUEHANNA NORTHUMBERLAND	10,900	0.08	0.02	0.30	0.12	0.49	0.79	0.61
MAIN BRANCH SUSQUEHANNA NORTHUMBERLAND	13,400	0.19	90.0	0.54	0.27	0.88	1.42	1.15
SUSQUEHANNA RT. 15 SUNBURY	24,800	0.16	0.08	0.61	0.26	0.70	1.31	96.0
SUSQUEHANNA RT. 22-322	27,900	0.18	0.05	0.41	0.15	99.0	1.07	0.81
SUSQUEHANNA RT. 15 HARRISBURG	33,800	0.14	90.0	0.39	0.13	0.81	1.20	0.94
SUSQUEHANNA RT. 83 HARRISBURG	33,800	0.19	90.0	0.41	0.14	0.78	1.19	0.92
SUSQUEHANNA COLUMBIA BR.	38,700	0.36	0.16	0.50	0.13	0.86	1.36	0.99
SUSQUEHANNA SAFE HARBOR	37,900	0.24	0.11	0.55	0.23	1.12	1.67	1.35
SUSQUEHANNA HOLTWOOD	39,200	0.29	0.18	0.81	0.29	1.30	2.11	1.59
SUSQUEH <b>A</b> NNA CONOWINGO	37,400	0.19	0.10	0.55	0.18	1.26	1.81	1.44
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\* All outliers were discriminately omitted.



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Average Nutrient Concentrations

Main Stem Susquehanna River

(Mar. 1972 - May 1972)

	MEAN FLOW	TP04 as	INORGANIC P as	TKN as	NH <sub>3</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub> +NO <sub>3</sub>	N F	NIL
STATION		P04	PO <sub>4</sub>	/1/	2   1	Z		
W. BRANCH SUSQUEHANNA NORTHUMBERLAND	25,400	0.08	0.04	0.23	0.07	0.44	0.67	0.51
MAIN BRANCH SUSQUEHANNA NORTHUMBERLAND	40,500	0.18	90.0	0.40	0.12	0.72	1.12	0.84
SUSQUEHANNA RT. 15 SUNBURY	65,600	0.14	0.05	0.45	0.19	0.55	1.00	0.74
SUSQUEHANNA RT. 22-322	72,500	0.16	0.05	0.39	0.10	0.57	96.0	0.67
SUSQUEHANNA RT. 15 HARRISBURG	85,000	0.20	60.0	0.38	0.08	0.70	1.08	0.78
SUSQUEHANNA RT. 83 HARRISBURG	85,000	0.22	0.10	0.48	0.14	0.69	1.17	0.83
SUSQUEHANNA COLUMBIA BR.	91,450	0.21	60.0	0.43	0.09	0.78	1.21	0.87
SUSQUEHANNA SAFE HARBOR	90,700	0.18	0.07	0.46	0.17	0.89	1.35	1.06
SUSQUEHANNA HOLTWOOD	92,200	0.19	60.0	0.42	0.11	0.91	1.33	1.02
SU SQUEHANNA CONOWINGO	88,100	0.21	11.0	0.51	0.15	0.97	1.38	1.12

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from agricultural land and reduced biological utilization rates. The Susquehanna River water appeared to be highly nitrified during high temperature periods as evidenced by the extremely low  $\mathrm{NH}_3$  concentrations. During low temperature periods, however,  $\mathrm{NH}_3$  was generally more abundant because of reduced nitrification and biological utilization rates.

7) In an attempt to establish statistically valid relationships between both nutrient concentrations and nutrient loadings versus stream flow, a series of regression analyses utilizing the appropriate sampling data were performed at each station and for each parameter. These regression analyses were made using both linear and log transforms with the latter yielding the best correlation.

A summary of the regression data for nutrient concentrations versus stream flow is presented in the following table. As can be seen, numerous regressions resulted in poor correlation based upon non-significant "t" statistics at the 5 percent level. However, several interesting conclusions can be drawn from the remaining data. In the case of total phosphorus, negative slopes ranging from about 0.2 to 0.6 were detected excepting for Pequea Creek. This would corroborate the previous discussion wherein a diluting effect was shown to occur at higher flow conditions. Moreover, these negative slopes would imply that the majority of phosphorus was contributed by wastewater discharges. Pequea Creek, on the other hand, had a large positive slope (0.97) indicating that land runoff may be the primary source of phosphorus in that watershed.

Regression Analysis Summary Susquehanna River Tributaries\*

			(Concentration vs Flow)			
	T.	T.P04	TKN		NO <sub>2</sub> + NO <sub>3</sub>	)3
	Slope of		Slope of	:	Slope of	
SUB-BASIN	Regression Equation	I-Value	Regression Equation	I-Value	Kegression Equation	I – Va I ue
STONY CREEK	-0.30	-2.69*	0.01	0.08	-0.01	-0.11
SHAMOKIN CREEK	-0.59	-3.36*	-0.92	-9.54*	1.17	4.57*
PENNS CREEK	-0.19	-1.92	-0.07	-0.89	0.67	5.30*
JUNIATA RIVER	-0.23	-2.73*	-0.12	-1.18	0.67	3.91*
CONODOGUINET CREEK	-0.15	1.69	0.17	2.00	0.15	1.78
YELLOW BREECHES CREEK	0.14	0.79	0.67	3.22*	0.09	0.92
SWATARA CREEK	-0.21	-2.50*	0.05	0.48	0.02	0.28
CONEWAGO CREEK	-0.15	-2.11*	0.07	1.08	0.04	0.46
CONOY CREEK	0.17	-1.23	0.45	3.26*	0.03	0.17
CODORUS CREEK	-0.35	-3.64*	-0.25	-3.53*	0.14	1.92
CHICKIES CREEK	0.08	0.54	0.44	2.82*	-0.04	-0.29
CONESTOGA CREEK	-0.46	-6.28*	-0.15	-1.24	0.14	1.07
PEQUEA CREEK	0.97	3.35*	0.78	3.50*	0.42	2.96*
OCTORARO CREEK	0.18	1.23	0.42	2.42*	0.30	2.32*

\* Significance at the 5 percent level

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The relatively large negative slopes of the TKN regression equations indicated that Shamokin, Codorus and Conestoga Creeks all received major TKN loads from wastewater discharges. Shamokin Creek, an acid stream receiving a considerable quantity of untreated sewage, exhibited a particularly large negative slope (-0.92). At the other end of the spectrum were streams having relatively minor point source contributions, i.e. Pequea and Yellow Breeches Creeks, which showed highly positive slopes (0.78 and 0.67). The remainder of the streams appeared to be influenced by a combination of point and non-point sources insofar as TKN was concerned.

All of the sub-basin sampling stations where statistical validity was realized had a positive relationship between  $\mathrm{NO}_2$  +  $\mathrm{NO}_3$  and stream flow. The slopes varied from about 0.2 to over 1.0. The consistency of this relationship indicated the significant overall effect of agricultural runoff as a contributor of nitrate nitrogen especially during periods of intense runoff.

8) The main stem Susquehanna River sampling results should theoretically reflect the accumulative effect of all tributary inputs. Regression data obtained for a nutrient concentration versus stream flow relationship for the Susquehanna, which are summarized in the following table, basically substantiated this contention. In the case of phosphorus and TKN, the slope terms were very similar for every station where statistically valid data were

			Regression Analysis Summary Main Stem Susquehanna River*			
	Ļ	7.PO <sub>4</sub>	(Concentration vs Flow) TKN		NO <sub>2</sub> + NO <sub>3</sub>	0,
SUB-BASIN	Slope of Regression Equation	T-Value	Slope of Regression Equation	T-Value	Slope of Regression Equation	J T-Value
W. Branch Susquehanna	-0.19	-2.83*	-0.22	-2.78*	0.16	2.15*
Main Branch Susquehanna	0.01	0.16	-0.25	-4.36*	0.59	2.74*
Rt. 15 Sunbury	-0.13	-2.08*	-0.05	-0.77	0.57	4.44*
Rt. 22-322	0.00	0.03	-0.19	-2.60*	0.70	4.20*
Rt. 15 Harrisburg	0.01	90.0	-0.12	-1.45	0.90	4.74*
Rt. 83 Harrisburg	0.12	1.50	-0.06	-0.77	0.87	5.21*
Columbia	-0.20	-2.52*	-0.32	-5.02*	0.34	3.20*
Safe Harbor	-0.10	-1.75	-0.27	-3.44*	0.51	3.50*
Holtwood	-0.12	-1.37	-0.32	-3.46*	0.03	0.22
Conowingo	0.05	0.82	-0.10	-1.30	-0.01	-0.12

\* Significance at the 5 percent level

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realized. The range for phosphorus (-0.20 to +0.12) was somewhat lower than the values recorded for the tributary stations since the effects of land runoff, including drainage along the river itself, were more pronounced in comparison to point source discharges. A similar situation was indicated by the generally greater positive relationship between nitrate nitrogen and stream flow for the Susquehanna River. The range in slopes for TKN (-0.32 to -0.05) suggested a net diluting effect when compared to all of the tributary data presented previously. The negative relationships for phosphorus and TKN concentrations versus stream flow and the positive relationships for nitrate nitrogen versus stream flow determined for the main stem Susquehanna River were essentially in agreement with those reported for the Potomac River.\*

9) Regression analyses proved much more statistically reliable when nutrient loadings and stream flow relationships were investigated. The average nutrient loadings computed for the various tributaries to the Susquehanna River from regression data are presented in the following tables for each of the three hydrologic seasons. It should be noted that average stream flows for the entire season were used, when available, rather than flows corresponding to individual sampling days.

The watersheds contributing the greatest phosphorus loads regardless of season were Conestoga and Codorus Creeks and the Juniata River. The major nitrogen contributing watersheds were Conestoga and Swatara Creeks and the Juniata River. The Juniata River was a

<sup>\*</sup> Nutrients in the Upper Potomac River Basin, Jaworski, CTSL Technical Report 15, August, 1969.

significant contributor of nutrients due to its relatively large flow whereas the other streams contained considerably greater nutrient concentrations because of sizeable inputs from wastewater effluents and land runoff.

10) Average seasonal nutrient loadings computed at each of the main stem Susquehanna River stations from regression analysis and average stream flow data are shown in the following tables. A graphical mass balance analysis of these loadings will be presented and discussed in a subsequent section of this report.

Both nitrogen and phosphorus loadings throughout the lower Susquehanna River varied drastically from one season to the next because of differences in stream flow. The loadings also showed a gradual but steady increase in the downstream direction which reflected substantial inputs from several tributary watersheds. It is important to note that generally about 30-40 percent of the total phosphorus load was inorganic, regardless of spatial or temporal position. Inorganic nitrogen accounted for about 50, 65 and 80 percent of the total nitrogen load during low, mean and high flow periods, respectively. This upward shift was partly due to relatively greater increases in nitrate rather than organic nitrogen loadings from major tributary watersheds during periods of excessive runoff.

The nitrogen-phosphorus ratio (by atoms) throughout the lower Susquehanna River averaged about 34:1 during the summer season, 46:1 in the winter and 43:1 in the spring. These values are considerably greater than the elemental ratios comprising algal cellular material (15-20:1) reported in the literature.

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Average Nutrient Loadings\*

Susquehanna River Tributaries

(June 1971 - Oct. 1971)

[40+40	t the exact total	mily reflect	t necessari	חמת [[יש Rou	TN and TIN loadings will	analvses.	f regression	* Due to the nature of regression anal
2900	3400	2800	100	009	100	300	200	OCTORARO CREEK
3900	4200	3800	100	400	180	300	156	PEQUEA CREEK
10,000	12,000	10,000	300	2000	2200	3000	400	CONESTOGA CREEK
3900	4100	3800	20	300	200	300	120	CHICKIES CREEK
4200	2000	3600	009	1500	1600	2000	215	CODORUS CREEK
200	009	200	20	100	130	150	15	CONOY CREEK
2800	3800	2800	100	1000	200	200	330	CONEWAGO CREEK
6800	8000	6500	300	1600	1000	1200	260	SWATARA CREEK
1600	2000	1500	20	300	100	200	210	YELLOW BREECHES
2200	2500	2100	100	200	400	700	265	CONODOGUINET CREEK
4500	10,000	4000	200	2000	1000	2000	1740	JUNIATA RIVER
300	50n	200	20	300	100	150	175	PENNS CREEK
1500	2500	300	1000	2300	50	800	123	SHAMOKIN CREEK
30	50	20	10	30	5	10	30	STONY CREEK
! ! !	1	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	bs/day		 	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	
Z F	Z F	ras N	as ~	a S N	as PO	as PO	FLOW (cfs)	SUB-BASIN
	i	NO2+NO3	NH <sub>3</sub>	TKN	INORGANIC P	$TP0_{4}$	MEAN	

Due to the nature of regression analyses, TN and TIN loadings will not necessarily reflect the exact total of TKN + NO2NO3 and NH3 + NO2NO3 loadings, respectively. \*

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Average Nutrient Loadings\*

Susquehanna Tributary Stations

(Nov. 1971 - Feb. 1972)

	MEAN	TP04	INORGANIC P as	TKN	NH <sub>3</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub> +NO <sub>3</sub>	NL	NIL
SUB-BASIN	(cfs)	P04	PO	Z	2	Z		
	; ! ! !	- ! ! !	1[	lbs/day	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1 1 1	1	!
STONY CREEK	80	20	10	80	20	09	150	100
SHAMOKIN CREEK	237	1000	90	2400	1500	700	3000	2200
PENNS CREEK	450	300	150	800	150	1000	2000	1200
JUNIATA RIVER	4975	4700	2000	12000	1500	22000	36000	24000
CONODOGUINET CREEK	860	2000	1000	2500	300	0006	11000	0006
YELLOW BREECHES	360	350	200	800	100	2800	3700	3000
SWATARA CREEK	1570	2700	2200	2000	1350	18500	24000	20000
CONEWAGO CREEK	1023	1900	1300	3800	450	9500	13000	10000
CONOY CREEK	30	300	200	250	100	1000	1200	1100
CODORUS CREEK	445	3200	2200	2800	1000	8200	11000	0006
CHICKIES CREEK	200	200	400	700	100	6200	7000	6300
CONESTOGA CREEK	800	4200	3300	3600	1000	22000	26000	23000
PEQUEA CREEK	245	700	400	1000	175	6500	7500	9029
OCTORARO CREEK	300	200	200	1100	150	4900	0009	4900
* Due to the nature of regression analyses, of TKN + NO.NO. and NH + NO.NO. loadings	regression	analyses,	TN and TIN loadings will not necessarily reflect	ngs will n	ot necessa	rily reflec	t the exe	the exact total

of TKN +  $NO_2NO_3$  and  $NH_3$  +  $NO_2NO_3$  loadings, respectively.

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Average Nutrient Loadings\*

Susquehanna Tributary Stations

(Mar. 1972 - May 1972)

SUB-BASIN	MEAN FLOW (cfs)	TP04 as P04	ا ا	TKN as N	NH <sub>3</sub> N	NO <sub>2</sub> +NO <sub>3</sub> as N	NL	NIL
STONY CREEK	109	25	15   16   16   16   16   16   16   16	100	25	100	200	100
SHAMOKIN CREEK	365	1200	100	2500	1700	1300	4000	3100
PENNS CREEK	1263	770	350	2200	450	0009	8000	6500
JUNIATA RIVER	10741	8500	4800	23000	3000	78000	100000	82000
CONODOGUINET CREEK	1596	3600	2000	2000	700	19000	24000	19000
YELLOW BREECHES	611	700	300	2000	300	2000	7000	5000
SWATARA CREEK	1604	2800	2200	2000	1400	19000	24000	21000
CONEWAGO CREEK	1271	2300	1500	2000	009	11000	17000	13000
CONOY CREEK	35	350	200	300	100	1200	1500	1300
CODORUS CREEK	534	3600	2500	3000	1100	10000	13000	11000
CHICKIES CREEK	250	700	450	1000	200	7500	8400	7800
CONESTOGA CREEK	1055	2000	4000	4600	1600	30000	35000	32000
PEQUEA CREEK	300	1000	200	1400	250	8300	9500	8400
OCTORARO CREEK 400 700 ** Due to the nature of regression analyses, of TKN + NO2NO3 and NH3 + NO2NO3 loadings,	400 regression $E_{13} + NO_2NO_3$	- ro	300 1700 TN and TIN loadings will respectively.		200 not necessarily	7500 reflect	900g the exact	7500 <b>total</b>

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Average Nutrient Loadings\* Main Stem Susquehanna River

(June 1971 - Oct. 1971)

	MEAN FI OW	TP04	INORGANIC P	TKN	NH as 3	NO2+NO3	2 F	NI F
STATION	(cfs)	PO	Po	ŝz	2	S N		
	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	1		1bs/day	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	1	 
NORTH BRANCH AT NORTHUMBERLAND	3500	3500	1000	12000	1300	0009	20000	7000
WEST BRANCH AT NORTHUMBERLAND	2760	1500	700	2000	800	2000	10000	9009
RT. 15 SUNBURY	6200	6200	2000	20000	4500	10000	34000	14000

CONOMINGO

RT. 15 HARRISBURG

RT. 22-322

RT. 83 HARRISBURG

SAFE HARBOR

HOL TWOOD

COLUMBIA

Due to the nature of regression analyses, TN and TIN loadings will not necessarily reflect the exact total of TKN +  $\rm N0_2 \rm N0_3$  and  $\rm NH_3$  +  $\rm N0_2 \rm N0_3$  loadings, respectively.

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Average Nutrient Loadings\*

Main Stem Susquehanna River

(Nov. 1971 - Feb. 1972)

STATION	MEAN FLOW (cfs)	TP04 as P0	INORGANIC P as PO	TKN as N	NH3 as <sup>3</sup> N	NO <sub>2</sub> +NO <sub>3</sub> as N	ΙL	TIN
		+ ;	; ; ;	1bs/day				
NORTH BRANCH AT NORTHUMBERLAND	13400	13500	4000	35000	7500	40000	80000	48000
WEST BRANCH AT NORTHUMBERLAND	10900	4600	2000	16000	4200	30000	45000	33000
RT. 15 SUNBURY	24800	20000	6500	00009	22500	70000	135000	95000
RT. 22-322	27900	26000	8000	65000	12000	80000	152000	00006
RT. 15 HARRISBURG	33800	36000	12000	74000	15000	112000	196000	130000
RT. 83 HARRISBURG	33800	37000	15000	77000	18000	113000	200000	132000
COLUMBIA	38700	45000	14000	100000	17000	146000	250000	150000
SAFE HARBOR	37900	42000	15000	105000	33000	150000	253000	200000
HOLTWOOD	39200	47000	18000	112000	48000	185000	300000	230000
CONOWINGO	37400	34000	17000	115000	39000	185000	300000	230000

Due to the nature of regression analyses, TN and TIN loadings will not necessarily reflect the exact total of TKN +  ${\rm NO_2NO_3}$  and  ${\rm NH_3}$  +  ${\rm NO_2NO_3}$  loadings, respectively. \*

Average Nutrient Loadings\*

Main Stem Susquehanna River

(March 1972 - May 1972)

STATION	MEAN FLOW (cfs)	TP04 as P0,	INORGANIC P as PO	TKN as N	NH3 as	NO <sub>2</sub> +NO <sub>3</sub> Sas N	NT	TIN
		J		lbs/day			1 1	
NORTH BRANCH AT NORTHUMBERLAND	40500	41000	13000	75000	32000	00006	255000	200000
WEST BRANCH AT NORTHUMBERLAND	25400	0006	3500	30000	11000	70000	105000	80000
RT. 15 SUNBURY	00959	48000	16000	130000	71000	280000	400000	380000
RT. 22-322	72500	70000	22000	150000	44000	350000	480000	375000
RT. 15 HARRISBURG	85000	92000	27000	160000	46000	470000	612000	450000
RT. 83 HARRISBURG	85000	100000	45000	175000	67000	475000	000089	575000
COLUMBIA	91450	97000	35000	180000	20000	485000	640000	480000
SAFE HARBOR	90700	93000	38000	185000	57000	490000	645000	565000
HOLTWOOD	92200	95000	40000	210000	38000	202000	000069	550000
CONOWINGO	88100	82000	41000	250000	76000	460000	000069	525000

Due to the nature of regression analyses, TN and TIN loadings will not necessarily reflect the exact total of TKN +  $\rm NO_2NO_3$  and NH<sub>3</sub> +  $\rm NO_2NO_3$  loadings, respectively. \*

and nitrogen loads currently discharged by each of the major wastewater treatment facilities in the lower Susquehanna Basin. Also shown are the average per capita loadings based upon the present population served. The three areas responsible for approximately one half of the total measured phosphorus and nitrogen load from municipal point source discharges were Harrisburg, Lancaster and York.

Utilizing the average per capita loadings (0.024 lbs/day TPO<sub>4</sub> and 0.018 lbs/day TKN) and the entire lower basin population served by sewerage facilities (850,000), the estimated total phosphorus and nitrogen contributions from wastewater effluents were computed to be 20,400 lbs/day and 15,300 lbs/day, respectively.

discharged by the major water using industries in the lower Susquehanna River Basin are presented following the municipal wastewater table. These data were contained in the industries' NPDES permit applications and reflect the best currently available information on loading rates. While the list is probably not complete, it is believed that the industries shown in the following table constitute the bulk of the industrial nutrient contribution based upon a comprehensive compilation of industrial discharges throughout the Susquehanna Basin.

As can be seen, the total phosphorus and nitrogen loads from industrial point-source discharges were estimated to be 1,355 lbs/day and 4,800 lbs/day, respectively. Of the total nitrogen load approximately 40 percent was in the form of TKN and 80 percent was as inorganic nitrogen (NH $_3$  + NO $_2$  + NO $_3$ ).

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Nutrient Contributions from Wastewater Effluents (Municipal)

Lower Susquehanna Basin

1972)
- May,
1971
(June,

Facility	Average Flow (MGD)	Population Served	Receiving Stream	TF lbs/day	TPO <sub>4</sub> ay <sup>4</sup> 1bs/cap/day	TKN lbs/day	l lbs/cap/day
SELINGSGROVE	1.0	7500	PENNS CREEK	200	0.03	200	0.03
SUNBURY	3.9	15300	SHAMOKIN CREEK	650	0.04	420	0.03
EAST PENNSBORO	1.4	11700	SUSQ, RIVER	450	0.04	250	0.02
MECHANICSBURG	1.2	16200	CONODOGUINET	350	0.02	120	0.01
SHIPPENSBURG	1.5	11400	CONODOGUINET	250	0.02	160	0.01
CARL ISLE	3.6	20700	CONODOGUINET	950	0.05	520	0.03
LOWER ALLEN	9.0	15300	SUSQ. RIVER	140	0.01	130	0.01
HARRISBURG	17.5	156200	SUSO. RIVER	2570	0.02	2400	0.02
NEW CUMBERLAND	6.0	9300	SUSQ. RIVER	200	0.05	325	0.03
CAMP HILL	0.8	9400	SUSQ. RIVER	230	0.02	175	0.02
MIDDLETOWN	9.0	11300	SUSQ. RIVER	200	0.02	140	0.01
LEBANON	4.7	41200	SWATARA CREEK	670	0.02	730	0.02
PALMYRA	0.5	9100	SWATARA CREEK	200	0.02	170	0.05
HERSHEY	2.0	12400	SWATARA CREEK	280	0.02	270	0.05
HANOVER	2.4	16000	CONEWAGO CREEK	530	0.03	200	0.01

Nutrient Contributions from Wastewater Effluents (Municipal)

Lower Susquehanna Basin

(June, 1971 - May, 1972)

(CONTINUED)

Facility	Average Flow (MGD)	Population Served	Receiving Stream	TPO 1bs/day	TPO <sub>4</sub> 1bs/day <sup>4</sup> 1bs/cap/day	TKN lbs/day	TKN 1bs/day 1bs/cap/day
ELIZABETHTOWN	1.8	10700	CONOY CREEK	330	0.03	300	0.03
YORK	15.8	100500	CODORUS CREEK	2200	0.02	1800	0.02
RED LION	0.3	0029	CODORUS CREEK	150	0.02	90	0.01
PENN TOWNSHIP	1.1	7200	CODORUS CREEK	100	0.01	100	0.01
MANHEIM	0.7	7600	CHICKIES CREEK	150	0.02	100	0.01
COLUMBIA	1.0	18200	SUSQ. RIVER	280	0.02	370	0.02
LANCASTER - N	10.5	50000	CONESTOGA CREEK	1330	0.03	1200	0.02
LANCASTER - S	10.5	30000	CONESTOGA CREEK	1330	0.04	006	0.03
EPHRATA	1.0	15600	COMESTOGA CREEK	300	0.02	175	0.01
LITITZ	1.0	7800	CONESTOGA CREEK	170	0.02	120	0.02
LEMOYNE	1.0	4700	SUSQ. RIVER	200	0.04	175	0.04
TOTALS	44.7	259,000		6,540	0.024	5,290	810.

Major Industrial Point - Source Contributions To The Lower Susquehanna River Basin

				Nutri	Nutrient Loadings (1bs/day)	Jsq1) sbu	day)
Name of Company	Location	Recovery Waters	Total Flow (MGD)	T.PO <sub>4</sub> as PO <sub>4</sub>	TKN as N	NH <sub>3</sub> as	NO2NO <sub>3</sub> as
Bethlehem Steel Corporation	Lebanon, Pa.	Quittapahilla Creek	5.154	15	23	ഹ	200
P. H. Glatfelter Corporation	Spring Grove, Pa.	W. Branch Codorus Creek	13.700	150	1125	625	1125
International* Paper Company	York Haven, Pa.	Susquehanna River	2.500	30	225	125	225
United Piece and Dye Corporation	York, Pa.	Susquehanna River	0.250	008	10	10	} ! !
Hershey Foods Corporation	Hershey, Pa.	Spring Creek	24.980	340	230	120	1100
R.C.A. Corporation	Lancaster, Pa.	Conestoga Creek	2.600	20	440	65	100
TOTAL				1355	2055	950	2750

\* Estimate based on historical record

- 13) To assist in the annual nutrient budget evaluation, it was necessary to ascertain a breakdown of land usage for the entire lower Basin. Presented in the table on the following page is a delineation of land usage for the various tributary watersheds of the Susquehanna River for the three major land use categories, namely agricultural (cropland and pasture), forested and urban.
- 14) In order to estimate typical nutrient yields from the two major land use areas within the Susquehanna River Basin (i.e. agricultural and forested), analyses of survey data from representative watersheds were performed. Using the Pequea Creek watershed as primarily agricultural and the Stony Creek watershed as forested, the effect of land use on both nutrient concentrations and loadings in these surface waters could be evaluated. These data were then extrapolated to develop estimates of the nitrogen and phosphorus yields (lbs/day/mi²) for application to other agricultural and forested areas within the Susquehanna Basin.

Total phosphorus, total Kjeldahl nitrogen and nitrite-nitrate nitrogen contributions measured in these selected watersheds during each season are presented in the following tables. As can be seen, a considerable difference existed between the concentration and loading rates of all three parameters. Excepting for TKN, the agricultural runoff rates were at least an order of magnitude greater than corresponding rates for forested areas. The extremely high  $\mathrm{NO}_2 + \mathrm{NO}_3$  concentrations (4.0 - 5.7 mg/l) characterizing the Pequea Creek watershed revealed the high mobility of the  $\mathrm{NO}_3$  ion, especially during periods having excessive runoff.

Delineation of Land Usage Susquehanna River Tributaries

Watershed	S	Cropland	Δ.	Pasture		Forest		Urban		0ther
	%	sq - mi	98	sq - mi	9-6	sq - mi	9-6	sq - mi	8-6	sq - mi
SHAMOKIN CREEK	15	20.5	10	13.7	09	82.2	7	9.6	8	11.0
PENNS CREEK	20	9.601	10	54.8	09	328.8	2	27.4	2	27.4
JUNIATA RIVER	23	783.4	7	238.4	62	2111.7	9	204.4	2	68.1
STONY CREEK	2	<1.0	5	1.8	06	31.5	_	<1.0	2	<1.0
CONODOGUINET CREEK	41	207.5	∞	40.5	39	197.3	9	30.4	9	30.4
YELLOW BREECHES CREEK	45	0.66	∞	17.6	34	74.8	9	13.2	7	15.4
SWATARA CREEK	35	201.6	8	46.1	43	247.7	7	40.3	7	40.3
CONOWAGO CREEK	51	265.2	12	62.4	28	145.6	4	20.8	2	26.0
CONOY CREEK	62	6.6	10	1.6	14	2.2	7	1.1	7	
CODORUS CREEK	49	135.7	Ξ	30.5	24	66.5	∞	22.2	∞	22.2
CHICKIES CREEK	62	77.5	10	12.5	14	17.5	7	8.8	7	8.8
CONESTOGA CREEK	62	295.1	10	47.6	14	9.99	7	33.3	7	33.3
PEQUEA CREEK	75	114.8	10	15.3	10	15.3	2	3.1	ю	4.6
OCTORARO CREEK	58	121.8	10	21.0	22	46.2	5	10.5	22	10.5
TOTALS		2442.6		603.8		3433.9		426.1		300.1

TYPICAL AGRICULTURAL & FORESTED WATERSHEDS

JUNE - OCT. 1971

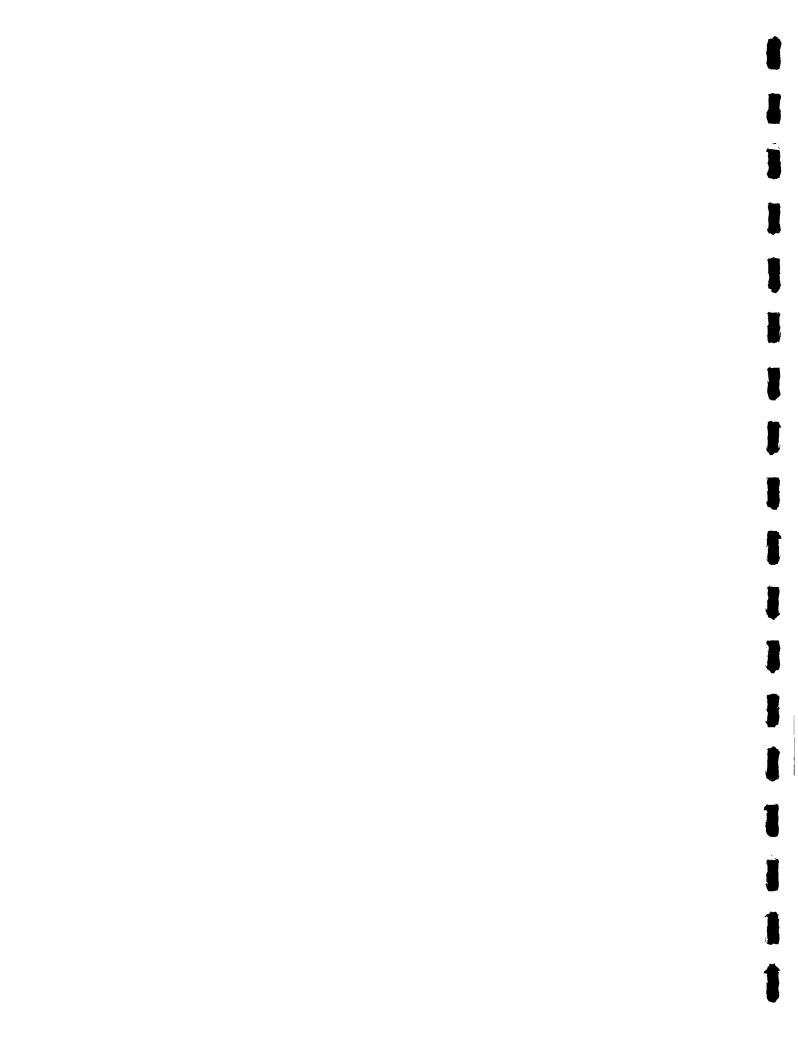
N SE	#/D/mi	24.84	.57
NO <sub>2</sub> NO <sub>3</sub> as N	g/#	3800	20
	mg/1	4.04	. 24
Z	#/D/mi	2.81	98.
TKN as N	q/#	430	30
	mg/1	16.	.22
, P04	#/D/mi	1.96	. 29
TPO4 as PO4	d/#	300	10
	mg/1	0.40	60 ·
D. A. mi		153	35
WATERSHED		PEQUEA CREEK (AGRICULTURAL)	STONY CREEK (FORESTED)



TYPICAL AGRICULTURAL & FORESTED WATERSHEDS

NOV. 1971 - FEB. 1972

as N	#/D/mi	42.48	1.71
NO <sub>2</sub> NO <sub>3</sub> as N	q/#	6500	09
	mg/1	5.63	0.14
Z	#/D/mi <sup>2</sup>	6.34	2.29
TKN as N	q/#	970	80
	mg/1	0.91	0.20
. PO <sub>4</sub>	/D/mi	4.58	0.57
TP0 <sub>4</sub> as P0 <sub>4</sub>	g/#	700	20
	mg/1	0.24	90.0
D. A. mi		153	35
WATERSHED		PEQUEA CREEK (AGRICULTURAL)	STONY CREEK (FORESTED)



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TYPICAL AGRICULTURAL & FORESTED WATERSHEDS

MARCH - MAY 1972

WATERSHED	D. A. mi		TPO <sub>4</sub> as PO <sub>4</sub>	P04		TKN as N	z	Ž	NO <sub>2</sub> NO <sub>3</sub> as N	N
		mg/1	d/#	#/D/mi <sup>2</sup>	mg/1	d/#	#/D/mi	mg/1	m/#	#/D/mi
PEQUEA CREEK (AGRICULTURAL)	153	0.20	1000	6.54	0.52	1400	9.15	5.72	8300	54.25
	35	0.04	25	0.71	0.26	100	2.86	0.13	80	2.29

20 combined sewer outfalls which discharge large quantities of sanitary waste and street surface runoff directly to the Susquehanna River during periods of heavy rainfall. The effects of these discharges coupled with other urban runoff from the Harrisburg metro area were estimated from an examination of the measured nutrient loads in the Susquehanna River at both the Route 15 and the I-83 Bridge stations. As will be shown in a later section of this report (mass balance analysis), considerable increases in the total phosphorus and nitrogen loads were observed in the vicinity of Harrisburg during the high flow season. Since the Susquehanna River received no major wastewater effluents from the confluence of Conodoguinet Creek to the I-83 Bridge it was assumed that these differences in loading could be attributable to the collective effects of urban runoff (point source and non-point source).

Allowing for the possibility of nutrient re-introduction into the water column through the scouring of bottom sediment and the innundation of shoreline weeds and other sources which are apparent during the high flow periods, it appeared that approximately 6,000 lbs/day of total phosphorus and 14,000 lbs/day of total nitrogen (approximately 2/3 of which was T.KN) were contributed by the entire Harrisburg urban area during the maximum flow period of March-May 1972. These figures completely overshadowed the average contributions from the area's wastewater facilities.

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During the mean flow period (Nov. 1971 - Feb. 1972) respective phosphorus and nitrogen contributions from the Harrisburg metro area exclusive of wastewater effluents were estimated to be 800 lbs/day and 3,700 lbs/day (approximately 2/3 of which was TKN). During the low flow period no measurable contribution was detected.

Susquehanna River above and below the Harrisburg area indicated an extremely large urban input, the magnitude of which may be somewhat questionable and probably not applicable to other urban areas in the Basin, the decision was made to utilize relevant literature material to provide independent estimates of typical areal nutrient loading rates exclusive of untreated sanitary sewage contributions. These estimated rates were intended to serve as a basis for developing a total urban effect on the nutrient balance in the lower Susquehanna Basin.

A summary of the relevant literature data which was used as a basis for estimating the nutrient loading rates for the urban and suburban portions of the Susquehanna River Basin are presented in the following table.

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SUMMARY OF STORM WATER NUTRIENT DATA COLLECTED FROM LITERATURE REVIEW\*

LOCATION	T.P04	NL	INORGANIC N	ORGANIC N	NH <sub>3</sub>	N0 <sub>3</sub>
Cincinnati, Ohio	1.08 mg/l (4.9 lbs/mi <sup>2</sup> /day)	3.1 mg/1	1.0 mg/l			
Cincinnati, Ohio (1962-63)	0.8 mg/l			1.7 mg/1	0.6 mg/l	0.45 mg/l
Susq City	(15.8 lbs/mi²/day)**			TKN - (28.3 lbs/mi²/day)**		(1.3 lbs/mi <sup>2</sup> /day)**
Susq Suburbs	(9.0 lbs/mi²/day)**			TKN - (15.4 lbs/mi²/day)**		(0.7 lbs/mi²/day)**
Washington, D.C. (1970)	1.3 mg/1 (4.5 lbs/mi <sup>2</sup> /day)	2.1 mg/l (9.0 lbs/mi²/day)				
Seattle, Wash. (1959-60)	<4.2 mg/l			-9.0 mg/l		<2.8 mg/1
Durham, N.C.	(6.4 lbs/mi²/day)					
Atlanta, Ga.	0.3 - 1.6 mg/l					
Washington, D.C. TR #35	5% (53 lbs/mi²/day) 50% (10 lbs/mi²/day) 95% (1.2 lbs/mi²/day)			TKN - (42 lbs/mi²/day) TKN - (8 lbs/mi²/day) TKN - (1.5 lbs/mi²/day)		(27.4 lbs/day/mi²) (6.45 lbs/mi²/day) (0.4 lbs/mi²/day)
Washington, D.C. Suburbs TR #35	shington, D.C. 5% (10 lbs/mi²/day) Suburbs 50% (3 lbs/mi²/day) TR #35 95% (0.3 lbs/mi²/day)			TKN - (30 lbs/mi²/day) TKN - (3.2 lbs/mi²/day) TKN - (0.6 lbs/mi²/day)		(15.6 lbs/day/mi²) (1.71 lbs/mi²/day) (0.2 lbs/mi²/day)

## SUMMARY OF STORM WATER NUTRIENT DATA COLLECTED FROM LITERATURE REVIEW\*

(CONTINUED)

\* "Urban Drainage as a Factor in Eutrophication", 1961, S.R. Weibel.

"Urban Land Runoff as a Factor in Stream Pollution", 1959-1960, 1962-1963, S. R. Weibel, R. J. Anderson, and R. L. Woodward.

"Combined Sewer Overflow Abatement Alternatives - Washington, D. C.", Roy F. Weston, Inc.

Quality of Storm Water Drainage from Urban Land" (Selected Urban Storm Water Runoff Abstracts, July 1971 - June 1972), North Carolina and Atlanta, Georgia. Water Resource - Water Supply Study of the Potomac Estuary", N. A. Jaworski, L. J. Clark, K. D. Feigner, Technical Report 35, EPA, April 1971.

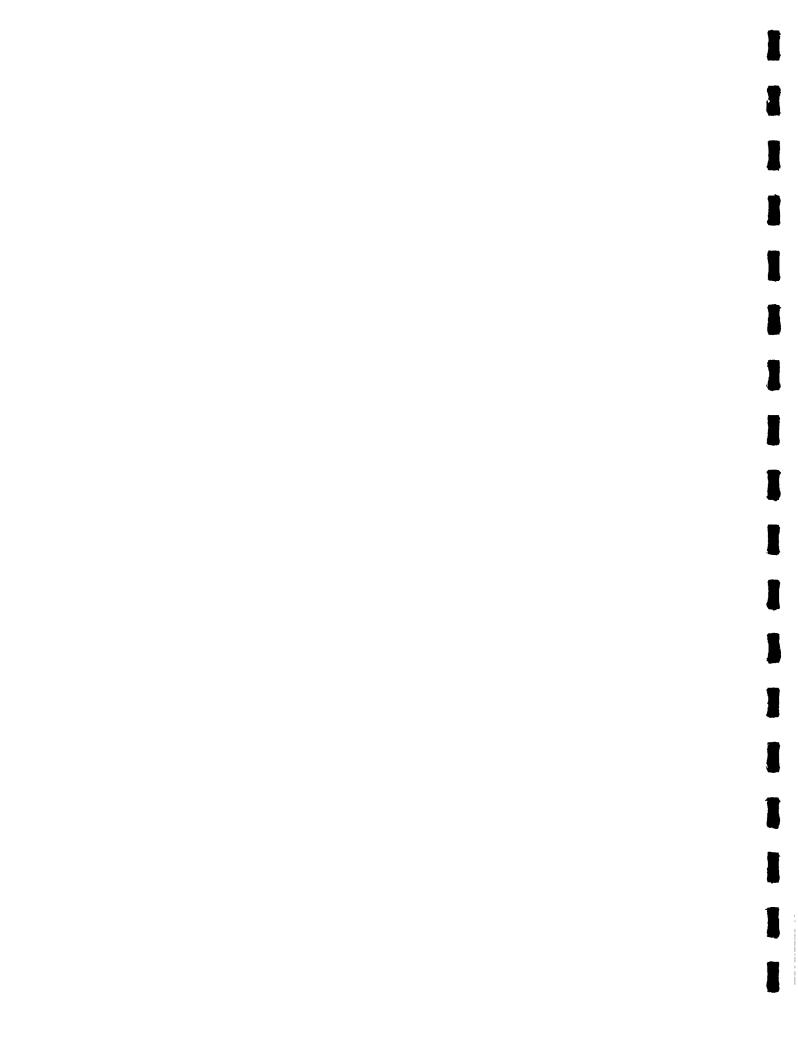
Calculations based on loading rates (1b/curb mile/day) and curb mileage estimates derived from the following reports: "Water Pollution Aspects of Street Surface Contaminants", EPA Technology Series R-2-72-081, November 1972 and "Estimation of Imperviousness and Specific Curb Length for Forecasting Stormwater Quality and Quantity", Graham, Costello, Mallon, Washington Council of Governments, March 1973. \*

data summary for storm water, the decision was made to use the following loading rates applicable to city and suburban areas of the Susquehanna Basin for the high flow season. It may be noted that maximum importance was attached to the recent estimates of urban contributions such as the data presented in EPA's "Water Pollution Aspects of Street Surface Contaminants", and AFO's Technical Report No. 35.

Areal Nutrient Loads
Urban Runoff (Storm Water)

 $(1bs/mi^2/day)$ 

	<u>T.PO</u> 4	<u>TKN</u>	<u>NO</u> 3
City	20	30	15
Suburbs	10	15	10



Utilizing the above nutrient loading rates for the major cities and suburban areas of the lower Susquehanna Basin, the total non-point source urban runoff nutrient contributions to the Susquehanna River for the high flow season were determined and are contained in the table below:

Urban Runoff Contributions Lower Susquehanna River Basin

(High Flow Season: Mar. 1972 - May 1972)

Location	Urban Land Area (mi <sup>2</sup> )	T.PO <sub>4</sub>		TKN		NO <sub>2</sub> +NO <sub>3</sub>	
		lb/mi <sup>2</sup> /day	lb/day	lb/mi <sup>2</sup> /day	lb/day	lb/mi <sup>2</sup> /day	lb/day
Harrisburg	7.6	20	152	30	228	15	114
Lancaster	7.2	20	144	30	216	15	108
Lebanon	4.6	20	92	30	138	15	69
York	5.3	20	106	30	159	15	80
Urban Area exclusive of Major Cities	425.3	10	4253	15	6380	10	4253
Total Urban Area	450		4750		7120		4625

Applying the measured percentage increase in phosphorus and nitrogen urban loadings between the Rt. 15 and Rt. 83 Bridge stations during the middle and high flow periods (see statement #15), an

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estimated urban runoff nutrient contribution for the middle flow period was determined.

The non-point source urban nutrient loadings (lbs/day) and average urban nutrient loading rates (lbs/mi<sup>2</sup>/day) for the lower Susquehanna River Basin during the middle flow season are presented as follows:

Urban Runoff Contributions Lower Susquehanna River Basin

(Middle Flow Period: November 1971 - February 1972)

Location	Urban Land Area	Т.	P0 <sub>4</sub>	Т	KN	NO <sub>2</sub> +	NO <sub>3</sub>
	m <b>i</b> 2	lb/day/mi <sup>2</sup>	1b/day	lb/day/mi <sup>2</sup>	lb/day	lb/day/mi <sup>2</sup>	1b/day
Harrisburg	7.6	2.6	20	7.8	60	3.9	30
Lancaster	7.2	2.6	19	7.8	56	3.9	28
Lebanon	4.6	2.6	12	7.8	36	3.9	18
York	5.3	2.6	14	7.8	41	3.9	21
Urban Areas exclusive of Major Cities	425.3	1.3	553	3.9	1659	2.6	1106
Total	450		608		1852		1203

It was assumed that urban runoff contributions for the low flow season were negligible and consequently were not considered in the mass balance analyses.

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18) Utilizing the nutrient loading rates for urban runoff presented in statement 16 and typical population densities for large metropolitan areas in the Susquehanna Basin, i.e. Harrisburg, York and Lancaster, as well as outlying suburban areas (see table in Appendix), an attempt was made to estimate total nitrogen and phosphorus contributions assuming various percentages of sanitary sewage overflows. The graphs in the Appendix depict these contributions which should be applicable to a variety of situations where combined sewer overflows are a problem. The component representing sanitary sewage (see table below) was derived from the per capita loading rates presented in statement 11.

Areal Nutrient Loads Sanitary Sewage

 $(1bs/mi^2/day)$ 

	T.P0 <sub>4</sub>	TKN	NO3
City	225	162	0
Suburbs	75	54	0

Unfortunately, the actual quantities of untreated sanitary sewage which are bypassed during different storm intensities have not been defined for either Harrisburg, York or Lancaster. However, based upon the measured increased in nitrogen and phosphorus loadings in the Susquehanna River at Harrisburg, it would appear that a relatively large fraction of the wastewater generated in the area is transported through the combined sewer system, especially during the high flow season.

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19) Applying the nutrient loading rates developed in statement #14 for agricultural and forested land to the total agricultural (3600 mi $^2$ ) and forested (4500 mi $^2$ ) areas of the lower Susquehanna River Basin, relative contributions of T.PO $_4$ , TKN and NO $_2$  + NO $_3$  in pounds per day were determined. Inclusion of the total urban nutrient contributions as developed in statement #17 results in the following tables which show the estimated seasonal nutrient loadings in the Susquehanna River Basin for every major land-use category.

Although the total forested area exceeds the agricultural area in the Basin, the latter represented the principal land use contributor of  $\text{T.PO}_4$ , TKN and  $\text{NO}_3$  (especially during the high flow season). In addition, the urban contribution of nutrients is significant during the high flow season in comparison with other land uses even though the urban area comprises only about 5% of the entire basin.

The key non-point source nutrient input to the lower

Susquehanna River Basin is definitely from agricultural runoff with significant periodic augmentation by urban stormwater runoff and combined sewer overflows from the major metropolitan areas.

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ESTIMATED SEASONAL NUTRIENT LOADINGS SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN SUNBURY, PA. TO CONOWINGO, MD.

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AREA (mi <sup>2</sup> )	JUNE 1971 - #/D	0CT. 1971 %		FEB. 1972 %	- 22	MAY 1972 %
3600 4500	7050	84 16	16560 2560	84	23400 3150	75
450	į	;	009	ю	4750	5
8550	8350	100	19720	100	31300	100

\* Includes both Cropland and Pasture

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ESTIMATED SEASONAL NUTRIENT LOADINGS SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN SUNBURY, PA. TO CONOWINGO, MD.

TKN AS N

LAND USE	AREA (mi <sup>2</sup> )	JUNE 1971 #/D	- 0CT. 1971 %	- 1971 #/D	- FEB. 1972 %	MAR. 1972 - #/D	- MAY 1972 %
AGRICULTURAL*	3600	10120	73	22680	63	33120	62
FOREST	4500	3780	27	11250	32	13500	25
URBAN (STORM WATER) TOTAL	450	13900		1850 35780	5 100	7120	13

\* Includes both Cropland and Pasture

ESTIMATED SEASONAL NUTRIENT LOADINGS SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN SUNBURY, PA. TO CONOWINGO, MD.

NO<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> AS N

LAND USE	AREA (mi <sup>2</sup> )	JUNE 1971 - #/D	0CT. 1971 %	NOV. 1971 - #/D	FEB. 1972 %	MAR. 1972 - 1 #/D	MAY 1972 %
AGRICULTURAL*	3600	89420	97	153000	95	195480	63
FOREST	4500	2700	м	7650	Ŋ	0066	Ŋ
URBAN	450	;	1	1200	۲>	4625	Ci
TOTAL	8550	92120	100	161850	100	210005	100

\* Includes both Cropland and Pasture

20) The average seasonal nutrient loadings attributed to land runoff (non-point sources) and the average annual nutrient loadings attributed to municipal and industrial wastewater discharges (point sources) are summarized as follows:

NUTRIENT LOADINGS IN THE LOWER SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN

	Point Source* Contributions	Non-Point	Source Con	tributions	Total (Poi	nt + Non-Po	int Sources
Parameter	(Municipal Wastewater & Industrial Discharges) lbs/day	June 1971 to Oct. 1971	Nov. 1971 to Feb. 1972	Mar. 1971 to May 1972	June 1971 to Oct. 1971	Nov. 1971 to Feb. 1972	Mar. 1972 to May 1972
T.PO <sub>4</sub> as PO <sub>4</sub>	21,800	8,400	20,000	31,300	30,000	42,000	53,000
TKN as N	17,400	14,000	36,000	54,000	31,500	53,500	71,500
TN as N	20,100	106,000	198,000	264,000	126,000	218,000	284,000

<sup>\*</sup> Average annual load applicable to each season

a) Of the total phosphorus and nitrogen loadings from the lower Susquehanna River Basin the percentages attributable to point source and non-point source discharges are as follows:

1		June 1971 - 0	ct. 1971	Nov. 1971 - F	eb. 1972	Mar. 1972 - M	lay 1972
•	Parameter	Point Source	Non-Point Source	Point Source	Non-Point Source	Point Source	Non-Point Source
8	T.PO <sub>4</sub> as PO <sub>4</sub>	72	28	52	48	41	59
-	TKN as N	55	45	33	67	24	76
	TN as N	16	84	9	91	7	93

As can be seen, non-point source contributions of  $T.PO_4$  and TKN predominate when flows increase. Total nitrogen contributions from non-point sources are most significant in every season. These differences in percentage signify the increased importance of the collective load from non-point sources when runoff rates are high.

During the high flow period (March - May 1972) approximately 93 percent of the estimated 284,000 lbs/day of total nitrogen ( $NO_2 + NO_3$  and TKN) entering the surface waters of the lower basin was from land runoff (non-point sources) with the remaining 7 percent from municipal wastewater and industrial discharges (point sources).

Of the 264,000 lbs/day of total nitrogen from land runoff, approximately 229,000 lbs/day, or 87%, was from agricultural land areas which comprise only 42% of the total drainage area in the lower basin.

b) The average annual yield, lbs/day/sq. mile, for each season based on 8,550 square miles in the lower Susquehanna River Basin (3600 mi $^2$  - agriculture, 4500 mi $^2$  - forest and 450 mi $^2$  - urban) is as follows:

Average Annual Nutrient Yield (Point + Non-Point Sources) lbs/day/sq. mile

Parameter	June - Oct. 1971	Nov. 1971 - Feb. 1972	Mar. 1972 - May 1972
T.PO <sub>4</sub> as PO <sub>4</sub>	3.5	4.9	6.2
TKN as N	3.7	6.3	8.4
$NO_2NO_3$ as N	11.1	19.3	24.9
TN as N	14.7	25.5	33.2
35 11	,	23.10	

Thus, the average annual yield was directly related to the runoff rates.

21) An attempt was made to mass balance the average seasonal phosphorus and nitrogen loads (TPO $_4$ , TKN and NO $_2$ +NO $_3$ ) in each of the tributary basins. The method employed for this analysis was to compare measured loads with expected loads in accordance with the following equation (Total Phosphorus):

$$P_{t} = P_{w} + P_{a} + P_{f} + P_{u} + P_{s}$$

Where:

 $P_{+}$  = total measured phosphorus in watershed

 $P_{w}$  = phosphorus in wastewater discharges

 $P_a$  = phosphorus from agricultural land

 $P_f$  = phosphorus from forested land

 $P_{ij}$  = phosphorus from urban runoff

Ps = phosphorus lost or released in the stream channel through biological utilization, deposition, scouring, etc.

Of particular importance in this analysis is the magnitude and sign of the  $P_{\rm S}$  term. The following tables, which delineate the various components of the mass balance equations, permit several conclusions to be drawn regarding  $P_{\rm S}$  (or TKN $_{\rm S}$  and NO $_{\rm S}$  depending on the parameter).

The negative signs shown for most of the  $P_{\rm S}$  terms, regardless of flow, indicate that phosphorus was being retained in the stream channels, bound there by sediments and/or aquatic plants. The apparent loss of nitrogen fractions which prevailed during the low flow period might be temporary, however, as indicated by the increased number of positive  $TKN_{\rm S}$  and  $NO_{\rm S}$  terms during flood flow

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conditions when a considerable tonnage of sediment is known to be transported to the main stem of the Susquehanna River. An explanation of why nitrogen and phosphorus recoverability differ so greatly during periods of high streamflow and extensive scouring within these tributary basins may be due to the high solubility of nitrogen - especially the nitrate form.

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TOTAL PHOSPHORUS MASS BALANCE

JUNE - OCT. 1971

SUE-54SIN L	STREAM LENGTH (MI)	P <sub>t</sub> MEASURED (LBS/DAY)	Pw WASTEWATER (LBS/DAY)	P <sub>a</sub> AGRICULTURAL (LBS/DAY)	P <sub>f</sub> FOREST (LBS/DAY)	P <sub>u</sub> URBAN (LBS/DAY)	$P_{w} + P_{a} + P_{f} + P_{u}$ TOTAL (LBS/DAY)	SOURCES (LBS/DAY)	P. & SINKS (LBS/DAY/MI)
SHAMOKIN CREEK	32	800	650	29	24	0	741	+59	+1.8
PENNS CREEK	52	150	200	322	92	0	617	-467	0.6-
CUNIATA RIVER	102	2000	3500	2002	612	0	6114	-4114	-40.3
STONY CREEK	23	10	0	5	6	0	14	-4	-0.2
CONODOGUINET CREEK	85	700	1550	486	57	0	2093	-1393	-16.4
YELLOW BREECHES CREEK	45	200	0	229	22	0	251	-51	١.١-
SWATARA CREEK	64	1200	1150	485	72	0	1707	-507	6.7-
CONEWACO CREEK	68	700	530	642	42	0	1214	-514	-7.6
CONOY CREEK	10	150	330	23	$\overline{}$	0	353	-203	-20.3
CODORUS CRESK	36	2000	2450	326	19	0	2795	-795	-22.1
CHICKIES CREEK	20	300	150	176	5	0	331	-31	-1.6
COMESTOGA CREEK	69	3000	3100	672	19	0	3791	-791	-13.2
PENUEA CREEK	35	300	0	255	4	0	259	+41	+1.2
OCTORARO CREEK	. 18	300	0	280	13	0	293	+7	+0.4

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TOTAL PHOSPHORUS MASS BALANCE SUSQUEHANNA TRIBUTARIES NOV. 1971 - FEB. 1972

SUB-BASIN	STREAM LENGTH (MI)	P <sub>t</sub> MEASURED (LBS/DAY)		P <sub>a</sub> AGRICULTURAL (LBS/DAY)	P <sub>f</sub> FOREST (LBS/DAY)	P <sub>u</sub> URBAN (LBS/DAY)	P <sub>W</sub> + P <sub>a</sub> + P <sub>f</sub> + P <sub>u</sub> TOTAL (LBS/DAY)	SOURCES (LBS/DAY)	P. 8 SINKS (LBS/DAY/MI)
SHAMOKIN CREEK	32	1000		157		10	864	+136	+4.3
PENNS CREEK	52	300	200	753	187	35	1175	-875	-16.8
JUNIATA RIVER	102	4700	3500	4680	1204	592	9649	-4949	-48.5
STONY CREEK	23	20	0	11	18	_	30	-10	-0.4
CONODOGUINET CREEK	35	2000	1550	1136	112	40	2838	-838	6.6-
YELLOW BREECHES CREEK	57	350	0	534	43	20	597	-247	-5.5
SWATARA CREEK	54	2700	1150	1134	141	20	2475	+225	+3.5
CONEWAGO CREEK	99	1900	530	1500	83	52	2138	-238	-3.5
CONDY CREEK	10	300	330	53	_	_	385	-85	-8.5
CODORUS CREEK	36	3200	2450	761	38	40	3289	-89	-2.5
CHICKIES CREEK	20	200	150	412	10	10	582	-82	-4.1
COMESTOGA CREEK	60	4200	3100	1570	38	09	4768	-568	-9.5
PIQUEA CREEK	35	700	0	969	6	2	610	06+	+2.6
OCTORARO CREEK	. 18	200	0	654	26	15	969	-195	-10.8

TOTAL PHOSPHORUS MASS BALANCE

MAR. - MAY 1972

P <sub>S</sub> & SINKS (LBS/DAY/MI)	+5.3	-19.4	-51.0	-1.0	-0.2	-5.5	-8.6	-10.1	-6.8	-7.2	-7.6	-13.3	+3.1	-20.7
SOURCES (LBS/DAY)	+168	-1008	-5231	-23	-16	-248	-549	-686	-68	-259	-151	-759	+107	-372
$P_{W} + P_{A} + P_{f} + P_{u}$ $TOTAL$ $(LBS/DAY)$	1032	1778	13731	48	3616	948	3349	2986	418	3859	851	5795	893	1072
P <sub>u</sub> URBAN (LBS/DAY)	100	270	2050	10	304	132	403	208	1	275	100	407	31	105
P <sub>f</sub> FOREST (LBS/DAY)	58	233	1498	22	140	53	176	103	2	47	12	47	[	33
P <sub>a</sub> AGRICULTURAL (LBS/DAY)	224	1075	6683	16	1622	763	1620	2145	75	1087	589	2241	851	934
P WASTEWATER (LBS/DAY)	650	200	3500	0	1550	0	1150	530	330	2450	150	3100	0	0
P <sub>t</sub> MEASURED (LBS/DAY)	1200	770	8500	25	3600	700	2800	2300	350	3600	700	2000	1000	700
STREAM LENGTH (MI)	32	52	102	23	85	< 45	94	98	10	36	20	09	35	. 18
SUB-3ASIK	SHAMOKIN CREEK	PENNS CREEK	JUNIAT/ RIVER	STOWY CREEK	CONODOGUINET CREEK	YELLOW BREECHES CREEK	SWATARA CREEK	CONEWAGO CREEK	CONOY CREEK	CODORUS CREEK	CHICKIES CREEK	COMESTOCA CREEK	PEQUEA CREEK	OCTORARD CREEK

TKN MASS BALANCE SUSQUEHANNA TRIBUTARIES JUNE - OCT. 1971	SOURCE	$P_{W} + P_{A} + P_{f} + P_{U}$ TOTAL	P P D P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P	P <sub>f</sub> FOREST	Pa AGRICULTURAL	P w WASTEWATER	P <sub>t</sub> MEASURED	MEA
TKN MASS BALANCE SUSQUEHANNA TRIBUTARIES		d. + 'd +	<u>a</u> :	-	JUNE - OCT. 1		۵.	a.
TKN MASS BALANCE				TARIES	SUSQUEHANNA TRIBU			
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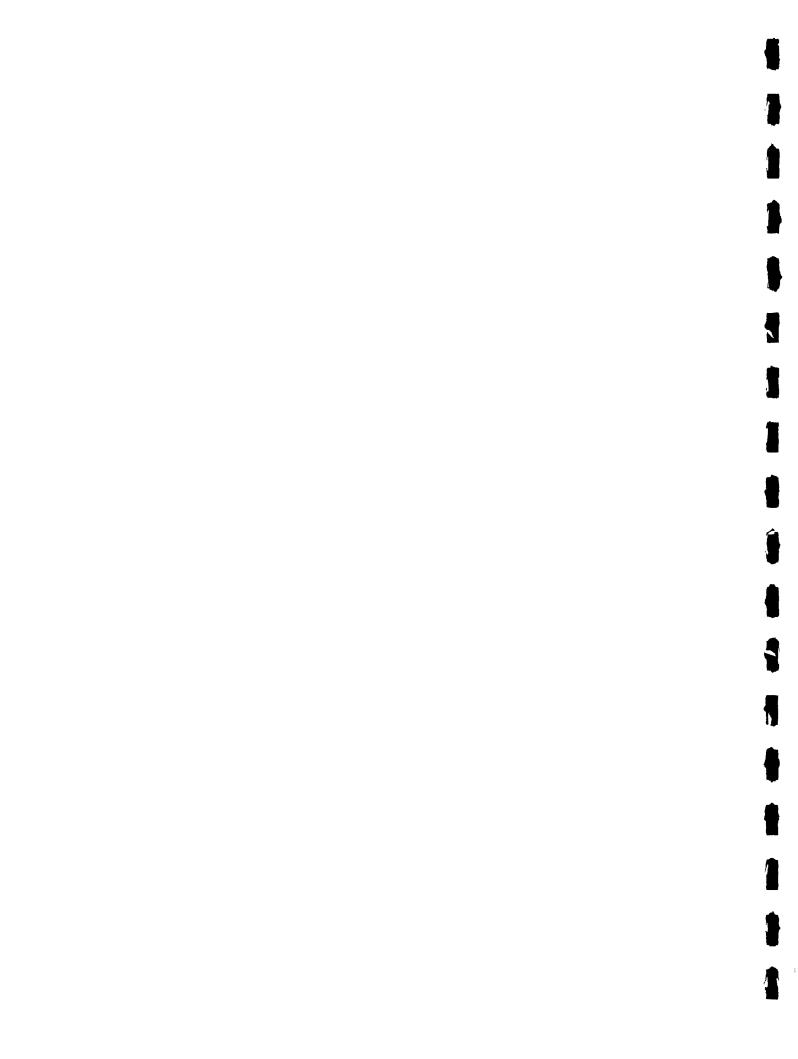
S SUB-BASIN L	STREAM LENGTH (MI)	P <sub>t</sub> MEASURED (LBS/DAY)	P <sub>W</sub> WASTEWATER (LBS/DAY)	P <sub>a</sub> AGRICULTURAL (LBS/DAY)	P <sub>f</sub> FOREST (LBS/DAY)	P <sub>u</sub> URBAN (LBS/DAY)	P <sub>w</sub> + P <sub>a</sub> + P <sub>f</sub> + P <sub>u</sub> TOTAL (LBS/DAY)	SOURCES (LBS/DAY)	P <sub>S</sub> & SINKS (LBS/DAY/MI)
SHAMOKIN CREEK	32	2200	420	96	7.1	0	587	+1613	+50.4
PENNS CREEK	52	300	200	462	283	0	945	-645	-12.4
JUNIATA RIVER	102	2000	1600	2872	1816	0	6288	-1288	-12.6
STONY CREEK	23	30	0	7	27	0	34	-4	-0.2
CONODOGUINET CREEK	85	200	800	269	170	0	1667	-1167	-13.7
YELLOW BREECHES CREEK	45	300	0	328	64	0	392	-92	-2.0
SMATARA CREEK	64	1600	1170	969	213	0	2079	-479	-7.5
COMEWAGO CREEK	68	1000	200	921	125	0	1246	-246	-3.6
CONOY CREEK	10	100	300	32	2	0	334	-234	-23.4
CODORUS CREEK	36	1500	3100	467	27	0	3624	-2124	0.63-
CHICKIES CREEK	20	300	100	253	15	0	368	-68	-3.4
CONESTOGA CREEK	09	2000	2835	963	22	0	3855	-1855	-30.9
PEQUEA CREEK	35	430	0	366	13	0	379	+51	+1.5
OCTOR/PO CRIEK	, 18	009	0	401	40	0	441	+159	48.8

TKN MASS BALANCE

SUSQUEHANNA TRIBUTARIES

1972
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Ps & SINKS (LBS/DAY/MI)	+41.7	-25.1	-16.8	9.0-	-5.2	-3.6	+24.0	+16.3	-13.3	-44.5	-2.3	-28.5	+2.9	+2.7
SOURCES (LBS/DAY)	+1335	-1305	-1714	-13	-444	-160	+1533	+11110	-133	-1606	-46	-1710	+100	+49
$P_{W} + P_{A} + P_{f} + P_{U}$ TOTAL (LBS/DAY)	865	2105	13714	93	2944	096	3467	2690	383	4406	746	5310	870	1051
P <sub>u</sub> URBAN (LBS/DAY)	40	110	800	Ŋ	120	20	160	80	S	100	35	150	10	40
P <sub>f</sub> FOREST (LBS/DAY)	188	753	4836	72	452	171	292	333	S	152	40	152	35	106
P <sub>a</sub> AGRICULTURAL (LBS/DAY)	217	1042	6478	16	1572	739	1570	2077	73	1054	571	2173	825	905
P WASTEWATER (LBS/DAY)	420	200	1600	0	800	0	1170	200	300	3100	100	2835	0	0
P <sub>t</sub> MEASURED (LBS/DAY)	2200	800	12000	80	2500	800	2000	3800	250	2800	700	3600	970	1100
STREAM LENGTH (MI)	32	52	102	23	85	< 45	64	68	10	36	20	60	35	, 18
SLB-B4SIN	SHAMOKI" CREEK	PENIUS CREEK	JUNIATA RIVER	STOMY CREEK	CONODOGUINET CREEK	YELLOW BREECHES CREEK	SMATARA CREEK	CONEWAGO OREEK	CONOY CREEK	CODORUS CREEK	CHICKIES CREEK	COVESTOGA CREEK	PEQUEA CREEK	OCTORARO CREEK



TKN MASS BALANCE

#### MAR. - MAY 1972

SUB-BASIN	STREAM LENGTH (MI)	P <sub>t</sub> MEASURED (LBS/DAY)	P WASTEWATER (LBS/DAY)	Pa AGRICULTURAL (LBS/DAY)	P <sub>f</sub> FOREST (LBS/DAY)	P <sub>u</sub> URBAN (LBS/DAY)	$P_{W} + P_{A} + P_{f} + P_{U}$ TOTAL (LBS/DAY)	SOURCES (LBS/DAY)	P & SINKS (LBS/DAY/MI)
SHAMOKIN CREEK	32	2300	420	313	235	150	1118	+1182	+36.9
PENNS CREEK	52	2200	200	1504	940	415	3059	-859	-16.5
JUNIATA RIVER	102	23000	1600	9349	6039	3065	20053	+2947	+28.9
STONY CREEK	23	100	0	23	06	15	128	-28	-1.2
COMODOGUINET CREEK	85	2000	800	2269	564	460	4093	+907	+10.7
YELLOW BREECHES CREEK	< 45	2000	0	1067	214	200	1481	+519	+11.5
SWATARA CREEK	64	2000	1170	2266	708	909	4749	+251	+3.9
CONEWACO CREEK	68	2000	200	2998	416	315	3929	+1071	+15.8
CONOY CREEK	10	300	300	105	9	20	431	-131	-13.1
CODORUS CREEK	36	3000	3100	1521	190	425	5236	-2236	-62.0
CHICKIES CREEK	20	1000	100	824	20	150	1124	-124	-6.2
COMESTOGA CREEK	09	4600	2835	3136	190	009	6761	-2161	-36.0
PEQUEA CREEK	35	1400	0	1190	44	20	1284	+116	+3.3
OCTORARO CREEK	. 18	1700	0	1307	132	160	1600	+100	+5.6

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NO<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> MASS BALANCE

JUNE - 0CT. 1971

การคราชกราช	STREAM LENGTH (MI)	P <sub>t</sub> MEASURED (LBS/DAY)	P <sub>W</sub> WASTEWATER (LBS/DAY)	P <sub>a</sub> AGRICULTURAL (LBS/DAY)	P <sub>f</sub> FOREST (LBS/DAY)	P <sub>u</sub> URBAN (LBS/DAY)	$P_{W} + P_{A} + P_{f} + P_{U}$ TOTAL (LBS/DAY)	SOURCES (LBS/DAY)	Ps & SINKS (LBS/DAY/MI)
SHAMOKIN CREEK	32	200	0	850	47	0	897	769-	-21.8
PENNS CREEK	52	200	0	4084	187	0	4270	-4070	-78.3
JUNIATA RIVER	102	4000	0	25382	1204	0	26586	-22586	-221.4
STOWY CREEK	23	20	0	62	18	0	62	-59	-2.6
CONODOGUINET CREEK	85	2100	0	6160	112	0	6273	-4173	-49.1
YELLOW BREECHES CREEK	< 45	1500	0	5896	43	0	2939	-1439	-32.0
SWATARA CREEK	64	6500	1100	6153	141	0	7394	-894	-14.0
CONEWAGO CREEK	68	2800	0	8083	83	0	8166	-5366	-78.9
CONDY CREEK	10	200	0	286	_	0	286	+214	+21.4
CODORUS CREEK	36	3600	1150	4128	38	0	5316	-1716	-47.7
CHICKIES CREEK	20	3800	0	2236	10	0	2246	+1554	+77.7
CONESTISA CREEK	90	10000	0	8513	38	0	8551	+1449	+24.2
PEQUEA CREEK	35	3800	0	3232	6	0	3241	+559	+16.0
OCTORARD CREEK	. 18	2800	0	3547	56	0	3573	-733	-42.9



NO<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> MASS BALANCE

NOV. 1971 - FEB. 1972

NISCE-208	STREAM LE'GTH	P <sub>t</sub> MEASURED	P <sub>w</sub> WASTEWATER	P <sub>a</sub> AGRICULTURAL	P <sub>f</sub> FOREST	P <sub>u</sub> URBAN	$P_{\rm w} + P_{\rm a} + P_{\rm f} + P_{\rm u}$	SOURCES	P <sub>s</sub> & SINKS
	(MI)	(LBS/DAY)	(LBS/DAY)	(LBS/DAY)	(LBS/DAY)		(LBS/DAY)	(LBS/DAY)	(LBS/DAY/MI)
SHAMOKIN CREEK	32	700	0	1453	141	25	1619	-919	-28.7
PENNS CREEK	52	1000	0	6983	562	75	7620	-6620	-127.3
JUNIATA RIVER	102	22000	0	43406	3611	530	47547	-25547	-250.5
STONY CREEK	23	09	0	106	54	5	165	-105	-4.6
COMODOGUINET CREEK	85	0006	0	10535	337	80	10952	-1952	-22.9
YELLOW DREECHES CREEK	45	2800	0	4953	128	35	5116	-2316	-51.5
SNATARA CREEK	64	18500	1100	10522	424	105	12151	+6349	0.66+
CONEWAGO CREEK	68	9500	0	13916	249	09	14225	-4725	-69.5
CONOY CREEK	10	1000	0	489	4	2	498	+505	+50.2
CODDRUS CREEK	36	8200	1150	7060	114	65	8389	-189	-5.2
CHICKIES CREEK	20	6200	0	3823	30	25	3878	+2322	+116.1
CCNESTOGA CREEK	90	22000	0	14558	114	100	14772	+7228	+120.5
PEQUEA CREEK	35	6500	0	5527	56	10	5563	+637	+26.8
OCTORAKO CREEK	. 18	4900	0	9909	79	30	6175	-1275	-70.8



NO<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> MASS BALANCE SUSQUEHANNA TRIBUTARIES

MAR. - MAY 1972

Ps SES & SINKS DAY) (LBS/DAY/MI)	3 -17.0	7 - 75.9	1 +153.7	36.0	4 +56.4	7 -36.6	5 +54.6	5 -107.6	1 +56.1	3 -15.8	7 +123.9	7 +180.9	7 +33.6	3 -25.2
SOURCES (LBS/DAY)	-543	-3947	+15681	-138	+4794	-1647	+3495	-7315	+561	-568	+2477	+10857	+1177	-453
P <sub>w</sub> + P <sub>a</sub> + P <sub>f</sub> + P <sub>u</sub> TOTAL (LBS/DAY)	2143	9947	62319	218	14206	6647	15505	18315	639	10568	5023	19143	7123	7953
P <sub>u</sub> URBAN (LBS/DAY)	100	275	2050	10	300	150	400	210	10	250	100	400	30	100
P <sub>f</sub> FOREST (LBS/DAY)	188	753	4836	72	452	171	267	333	ટ	152	40	152	35	106
P <sub>a</sub> AGRICULTURAL (LBS/DAY)	1855	8919	55433	136	13454	6326	13438	17772	624	9016	4883	18591	7058	7747
P W WASTEWATER (LBS/DAY)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1100	0	0	1150	0	0	0	0
P <sub>t</sub> MEASURED (LBS/DAY)	1600	0009	78000	80	19000	2000	19000	11000	1200	10000	7500	30000	8300	7500
STREAM LENGTH (~1)	32	52	102	23	35	:K 45	64	68	0.1	36	20	20	35	. 18
SUB-BASIN	SHAMOKI" CREEK	PENNS CREEK	JUNIATA RIVER	STOWY COLEK	CONDDOCTIVET CREEK	YELLOW BRESCHES CREEK	SWATARA CREEK	CONEWASS CREEK	CCMOY CREEK	CODORUS CREEK	CHICKIES CREEK	CONESTOGA CREEK	PEQUEA CREEK	OCTORARO CREEK

- 22) A seasonal mass balance analysis for the main stem Susquehanna River between Northumberland, Pa., and Conowingo Dam, Md. was performed based upon all of the regression data previously presented. The graphs in the Appendix vividly depict the relative effects of each tributary's load and the Harrisburg metro area on the phosphorus and nitrogen balances in the river. In addition, changes in mass between tributary confluences resulting from various physical, chemical and biological reactions occurring within the stream channel are illustrated. The following observations are noteworthy:
- a) The impoundments along the lower Susquehanna, especially Conowingo Dam, had a profound effect on the phosphorus load in the river during the low flow periods. As can be seen, the load decreased from about 17,000 lbs/day to 9,000 lbs/day between Columbia and Conowingo. During high flow-low temperature periods this decrease diminished because of the reduced rates of biological utilization and shorter retention times in the impoundments.
- b) During the high flow period a considerable increase in phosphorus (20,000 lbs/day) was detected between Penns Creek and the Juniata River. Since this area is primarily undeveloped with the total phosphorus contribution from existing land usage estimated to be less than 2,000 lbs/day, it was assumed that scouring of the bottom sediment and inundation of shoreline marsh and weeds played an important role in the phosphorus balance. The Susquehanna channel is very unique in that its width undergoes a much greater

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increase than its depth when flows rise. It is also a known fact that aquatic weeds and other sources of nutrients are prevalent along the river's shore.

Allowing for contributions from land runoff, it was estimated that about 500 lbs/day/mile of total phosphorus (as  $PO_4$ ) was introduced into this reach of the Susquehanna River during the maximum flow period. During the mean flow period (Nov., 1971 - Feb., 1972) this overall scouring rate was computed to be approximately 70 lbs/day/mile.

- c) A comparison of wastewater effluents and other urban contributions of phosphorus in the Harrisburg metro area revealed the significance of the sewage treatment plants during low-flow periods and the over-shadowing of this load by non-point source loads during high flow periods.
- d) Total nitrogen behaved much more conservatively in the Susquehanna River than phosphorus, particularly in the area of major impoundments. While the phosphorus load was reduced radically through the impoundments, nitrogen remained essentially unchanged regardless of flow.
- e) The relative importance of point source and nonpoint source contributions of total nitrogen from the Harrisburg area for various flow conditions closely paralleled the findings presented in the above statement for phosphorus.
- f) Due to excessive stratification it was not possible to adequately balance the summation of the North Branch and West

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Branch nitrogen load with the measured load at Sunbury. This problem became especially acute during the high flow period when about 25,000 lbs/day of TKN could not be accounted for.

- yegetation were not restricted to phosphorus. A review of the nitrogen data between Penns Creek and the Juniata River indicated a significant increase in load during high flow periods (60,000 lbs/day) which corresponded closely to the phosphorus profile and which could not be attributable to normal runoff from the area. Deducting the appropriate agricultural and forested runoff loads from this observed increase yielded a scouring rate of 1,200 lbs/day/mile. A rate of about 100 lbs/day/mile was computed for the mean flow condition. During low flow high temperature periods both nitrogen and phosphorus loadings were reduced in this stream reach probably because of a physical deposition process.
- h) The mass balance analysis of the nitrogen fractions (TKN and  $\mathrm{NO}_3$ ) generally corroborated the pertinent findings for total nitrogen. During the low flow period the ratio of TKN to  $\mathrm{NO}_3$  varied from about 2:1 in the extreme upper reach of the Susquehanna River to about 1:1 near Conowingo. This increased abundance of nitrate nitrogen may be partly due to nitrification and, more importantly, to the relatively greater nitrate loadings contributed by the various sub-basins. A similar pattern was evidenced during the mean flow condition when nitrification was minimal.

transported by the Susquehanna River, it has been estimated that only about 2 million tons actually enters the Chesapeake Bay because much sediment is trapped behind the power dams along the lower Susquehanna.

nutrient yields for a comparable time period are presented in the following table for eight stations throughout the lower Susquehanna River Basin. Except for Conestoga Creek, the data revealed a definite relationship between the tons per square mile of sediment yield and the phosphorus yield (lbs/mi²) on an annual basis. The annual TKN yield also appeared to be strongly influenced by sediment load. The leaching and general mobility characteristics of the NO $_3$  ion in soil are such that a reliable correlation between sediment and NO $_3$  yields could not be made with existing data.

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Sediment - Nutrient Yield Relationship Susquehanna River Basin

Annual NO <sub>3</sub> Yield (1bs/mi <sup>2</sup> )	1,282	3,062	2,465	4,661	8,580	4,962	!	14,558
Annual TKN Yield (1bs/mi²)	628	1,269	1,203	1,481	2,265	2,056	:	2,440
Annual TPO <sub>4</sub> Yield (1bs/mi <sup>2</sup> )	237	485	620	623	1,328	1,051	!	2,989
Sediment Yield (tons/mi <sup>2</sup> )	76	79	110	130	220	220	350	180
Annual Sediment Load (tons)	23,000	264,000	2,600,000	28,000	73,000	110,000	26,000	57,000
Station	Penns Creek at Penns Creek	Juniata River at Newport	Susquehanna River at Harrisburg	Yellow Breeches Creek near Camp Hill	Swatara Creek at Harpers Tavern	West Conewago Creek near Manchester	South Branch Codorus Creek near York	Conestoga Creek at Lancaster

26) Regression analyses performed separately with 1969 (Chesapeake Bay Nutrient Input Study, TR #47) and 1971 total nitrogen and phosphorus data at the Conowingo Dam station revealed distinct increases in loading for both parameters during the two year period. A comparison of these Susquehanna loadings is as follows:

Flow (cfs)	Total (1	Phosphorus  bs/day)	Tot (	al Nitrogen lbs/day)
	<u>1969</u>	1971	1969	<u>1971</u>
10,000	6,500	8,500	75,000	82,000
50,000	60,000	75,000	370,000	420,000
100,000	150,000	190,000	750,000	850,000

27) The data presented in the following table, which were derived from a mass balance analysis, depict the effects of different reductions at all continuous point source discharges on the river loadings at Conowingo Dam and reveal the extent of nitrogen and phosphorus controllability during different seasons and flow conditions.

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MAIN STEM SUSQUEHANNA LOADINGS ASSUMING 0, 50, 70 and 90% PHOSPHORUS AND NITROGEN REMOVAL UNIFORMLY AT ALL POINT SOURCES\*

STP NUTRIENT	JUNE	JUNE - OCT. 1971	1971		NOV.	NOV FEB. 1972	1972		MA	MAR MAY 1972	1972	
	T.P0 <sub>4</sub>	TKN	N.	NIT	T.PO4	TKN	N	NIT	T.P04	T KN	N L	NIL
0	0006	47000	47000 95000	67000	34000	115000	115000 300000 230000	230000	82000	250000	000069	525000
50	0009	34000	88000	61000	28000	94000	293000	226000	77000	242000	685000	521000
70	2000	31000	86000	29000	26000	91000	291000	224000	75000	239000	682000	519000
06	3600	30000	83000	57000	24000	89000	288000	222000	73000	235000	681000	518000
AVERAGE FLOW		1	11,500			37	37,400			88,	88,100	
Flow Duration Curve at Conowingo Dam 1928 - 1968 Historical Data		30% of Time Flow > 11500 70% of Time Flow < 11500	Time 11500 Time 11500			30% of Time Flow > 37400 70% of Time Flow < 37400	ine 37400 ine 37400			25% of Flow 2 75% of Flow <	25% of Time Flow > 88100 75% of Time Flow < 88100	

\* Exclusive of industrial inputs

- i) As the flows increased, differences in the TKN and  ${\rm NO_3}$  loadings became less pronounced. Moreover, at times of excessive stream flow these loadings approached their maximum level much farther upstream.
- 23) The effects of sediments on the concentration of nutrients in surface waters as summarized by Jaworski in AFO

  Technical Report #15 are as follows: (1) sediments contain nutrients and act as transport mechanisms (2) due to the adsorption phenomena sediments when deposited in the stream channel also trap nutrients (3) more than 99% of the soluble nitrogen is in the form of nitrates which leach at a more rapid rate than the other forms of nitrogen, and (4) in contrast to the high mobility of nitrate nitrogen, phosphorus compounds react vigorously with soil and have a very low mobility.
- throughout the Susquehanna Basin generally indicated that the seasonal distribution of sediment discharge is quite similar to that of water discharge. Moreover, the long-term data showed the annual sediment discharge rates to the extremely variable but strongly related to a particular year's hydrograph. On the average, the Susquehanna River transports approximately 3 million tons of sediment annually which equates to 110 tons per square mile. Extreme sediment yields vary from 20 tons per square mile in established forest land to 800 tons per square mile in denuded areas and areas disturbed by strip mining. Of the three million tons of sediment

- 28) In order to protect the upper Chesapeake Bay from excessive eutrophication, a combination of mathematical modeling studies and mass balance analyses have indicated that during relatively low-flow conditions ( $\leq$  30,000 cfs), 70-75 percent of the total phosphorus load from point source discharges in the lower Susquehanna Basin must be eliminated. For a river flow of 50,000 cfs, a 90 percent reduction of the point source contribution must be realized.
- presented in this report nitrogen is largely uncontrollable in the Susquehanna Basin, especially during periods when flows and runoff rates are high. In order for the management of nitrogen to be a viable alternative during extremely low-flow periods (≤ 10,000 cfs) about 90 percent of the point source loading will have to be eliminated. In view of the importance of agricultural runoff as a contributor of nitrogen, and to a lesser extent phosphorus, it is recommended that methods be devised and seriously considered to maximize control of this once regarded non-controllable source of nutrients.

## Conclusions

1) The tributary streams of the lower Susquehanna River which had the highest phosphorus concentrations on both an annual and seasonal basis were:

Shamokin Creek

Conoy Creek

Codorus Creek

Conestoga Creek

2) The greatest total nitrogen concentrations both seasonally and annually, were measured in the following tributaries:

Conoy Creek

Chickies Creek

Conestoga Creek

Pequea Creek

- 3) Maximum nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations in the tributary streams occurred during the low flow period with the exception of oxidized inorganic nitrogen, the most abundant nutrient fraction in the study area. Higher stream flows appeared to have a "diluting" effect on the TKN and phosphorus concentrations but not on the oxidized nitrogen fraction.
- 4) In general, all seasonal concentrations of every nitrogen and phosphorus fraction in the Susquehanna River were dramatically higher in the reach from Harrisburg to Conowingo Dam than in the reach upstream of Harrisburg.

- 5) The major impoundments along the lower Susquehanna River, i.e. Conowingo and Safe Harbor, represented a significant "sink" for phosphorus, particularly during low flow periods when detention times were long.
- 6) Phosphorus concentrations in the Susquehanna River were not significantly influenced by variations in stream flow as were the nitrogen fractions. While TKN concentrations throughout the Susquehanna River were at a maximum during the low flow high temperature season,  $NO_2+NO_3$  levels increased during higher flow lower temperature periods due to amplified effects of agricultural runoff and reduced biological activity.
- 7) The major phosphorus contributing streams, in terms of daily loads to the Susquehanna River, were as follows:

Conestoga Creek

Codorus Creek

Juniata River

8) Streams providing the major daily loads of nitrogen were as follows:

Conestoga Creek

Swatara Creek

Juniata River

9) Nitrogen-phosphorus ratios (by atoms) in the lower
Susquehanna River varied from about 34:1 to 46:1. Approximately
30-40 percent of the total phosphorus load represented the inorganic

fraction, whereas approximately 50-80 percent of the total nitrogen load represented the inorganic fraction.

- 10) The total nitrogen and phosphorus contributions from municipal wastewater effluents were estimated to be about 15,000 lbs/day (5 to 25 percent of the maximum measured load in the Susquehanna River) and 20,000 lbs/day (40 to 200 percent of the maximum measured load in the river), respectively.
- 11) Approximately 50 percent of the total measured phosphorus and nitrogen load from municipal wastewater effluents was contributed from three areas Harrisburg, Lancaster and York.
- 12) The total nitrogen and phosphorus contributions from major industrial dischargers in the lower Susquehanna River Basin were estimated to be approximately 4800 lbs/day (30% of the municipal wastewater load) and 1350 lbs/day (7% of the municipal wastewater load), respectively.
- 13) Runoff from agricultural land (42 percent of the study area), accounted for 75-85 percent of the non-point source phosphorus contribution, 60-70 percent of the TKN contribution, and more than 90 percent of the nitrate nitrogen contribution from all non-point sources.
- 14) Runoff from forested land (53 percent of the study area), accounted for 10-15 percent of the non-point source phosphorus load, 25-30 percent of the TKN load, and about 5 percent of the nitrate nitrogen load from all non-point sources.

- 15) During the high flow period, it has been estimated that urban storm water from a 450 square mile area accounted for about 15 percent of the non-point source phosphorus load, 13 percent of the TKN load, and a negligible percentage of the nitrate nitrogen load from all non-point sources.
- 16) Although the nutrient contribution from the numerous combined sewer outfalls in Harrisburg was not accurately quantified, it appeared, from a comparison of sampling data obtained above and below the majority of these sewers, that this source was quite significant, actually surpassing the measured nitrogen and phosphorus load from the Harrisburg S.T.P. during the peak flow season.
- 17) During the low flow season, wastewater effluents alone accounted for 16 and 72 percent of the total nitrogen and phosphorus contribution from both point and non-point sources, respectively. During the high flow condition, these percentages decreased to about 7 and 40 percent, respectively.
- 18) A mass balance analysis of the data collected in the tributary watersheds indicated that a significant quantity of phosphorus was retained in the stream channels through a deposition or biological utilization process during every flow season. While nitrogen showed similar loses during the low flow season, its recoverability during the higher flow periods, when scouring of the bottom sediment prevails, appeared to be greater and more widespread than phosphorus.

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- 19) A mass balance analysis of the main stem Susquehanna River data, besides underscoring the importance of major impoundments as a sink for phosphorus, depicted a substantial introduction of both nitrogen and phosphorus into the water column during high flow periods because of scouring of the bottom sediments and innundation of shoreline vegetation. Any apparent difference in scouring characteristics of the main stem Susquehanna River and the tributary streams as related to phosphorus may be the result of higher stream velocities in the river, longer duration of high flows, sediment content and its adsorption potential, or some other complex physical behavior. During the low flow period deposition of nutrients and biological utilization by aquatic plants were significant in-stream processes implied by mass balance data.
- 20) The areal yields of phosphorus and TKN ( $1bs/mi^2$ ) appeared to be markedly influenced by sediment yields ( $tons/mi^2$ ) based upon average annual data collected by USGS at eight stations in the lower Susquehanna Basin. Such a relationship could not be established for  $NO_3$ .
- 21) A regression analysis utilizing 1969 and 1971 nutrient data collected at Conowingo Dam revealed that distinct increases in both phosphorus and nitrogen loadings for comparable stream-flows have occurred during this two year period.
- 22) Phosphorus is considerably more manageable than nitrogen in the lower Susquehanna River Basin during all flow conditions.
- 23) In order to protect the biological integrity of the upper Chesapeake Bay, a sizeable reduction (70-90 percent) in the existing

point source contribution of phosphorus must be realized.

24) The effectiveness of nitrogen control at point sources is questionable unless attention is given towards reducing the existing load from agricultural runoff.

## RECOMMENDED FUTURE STUDIES

- 1. Select a primarily agricultural watershed to study fertilizer application practices. This study should include but not be limited to the following: determination of the present rate of application (lbs/acre) and types of fertilizer applied (quick vs. slow release); quantification of seasonal application practices (fall, summer and spring); identification of the state of the plant growth that fertilizers are applied. Study results would be compared to recommended Federal and State fertilizer application programs to determine if the existing practices of the farmers within the watershed are sound, both in terms of conservation and economics. Should it be found that excessive amounts of fertilizer are being applied, economic considerations should dictate reassessment of current practices. Subsequent to the implementation of any modified fertilization program water quality monitoring of the watershed would allow for data comparison with previous studies (Technical Report 60) to show possible nutrient reductions in the watershed.
- 2. Technical Report 60 concluded that the areal yields of phosphorus and TKN (lbs/mi<sup>2</sup>) appeared to be markedly influenced by sediment yields (tons/mi<sup>2</sup>) based upon average annual data collected by the USGS at eight stations in the lower Susquehanna Basin. Actual nutrient loadings associated with sediment yields, however, were not determined. It is recommended that a study be undertaken to

contrast a watershed farmed with a high degree of conservation measures employed versus a watershed in which conservation practices are minimal. Areal sediment yields from the two watersheds would be determined on a seasonal basis. The phosphorus content of the sediment would be determined in order to establish the relative contribution of phosphorus from the erosion of farmland under the two contrasting situations. The selection of phosphorus for this study seems appropriate because of its correlation with sediment yields (Technical Report 60) and its known adsorption to sediment particles. In addition, reduction of non-point source phosphorus input by erosion control measures in conjunction with direct point source control of phosphorus should enhance the possibilities of making phosphorus the rate limiting nutrient to control eutrophication in impoundments in the lower Susquehanna Basin and the upper Chesapeake Bay.

3. The significance of the construction industry as a non-point source of pollutants in the lower Susquehanna Basin should be examined. The scope of Technical Report 60 did not include the assessment of nutrient contributions from specific land uses. The impact of sediment loading from activities including, but not limited to, housing construction, commercial building, road construction, and water resources projects should be evaluated for the purpose of developing guidelines for erosion and sediment control for use by the various management agencies.

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- 4. Although the nutrient contribution from the numerous combined sewer outfalls in the City of Harrisburg was not accurately quantified in Technical Report 60, the significance of the combined sewer system as a major source of nitrogen and phosphorus was established. Studies should be carried out to determine the sources of nitrogen and phosphorus in the urban runoff. The relative contribution from diffuse sources such as street debris, rainfall, snow melt, lawn fertilizer, vegetative decay, and fallout from particulate matter should be included in a study of this nature. The object of the study would be to develop guidelines for reducing the water quality impact of urban runoff.
- 5. Major impoundments exert considerable influence in regulating phosphorus and, to a lesser extent, nitrogen in the lower Susquehanna River. In addition, these impoundments are highly susceptable to the proliferation of aquatic plant growths because of their quiescent nature and reduced silt content. It is therefore suggested that a detailed study be undertaken in at least one of these impoundments to address the following key areas: the lateral, longitudinal and vertical distribution of nutrients on a seasonal basis; exchange rates at the mud-water interface including characterization of the bottom sediment; existing algal growth conditions and species diversity; growth potential through a series of bioassay analyses; and development of nutrient-algal relationships for inclusion in a

predictive model. The literature is abundant in material dealing with lake eutrophication and it is quite conceivable that much of it would be applicable to and assist in the design of such an impoundment study.

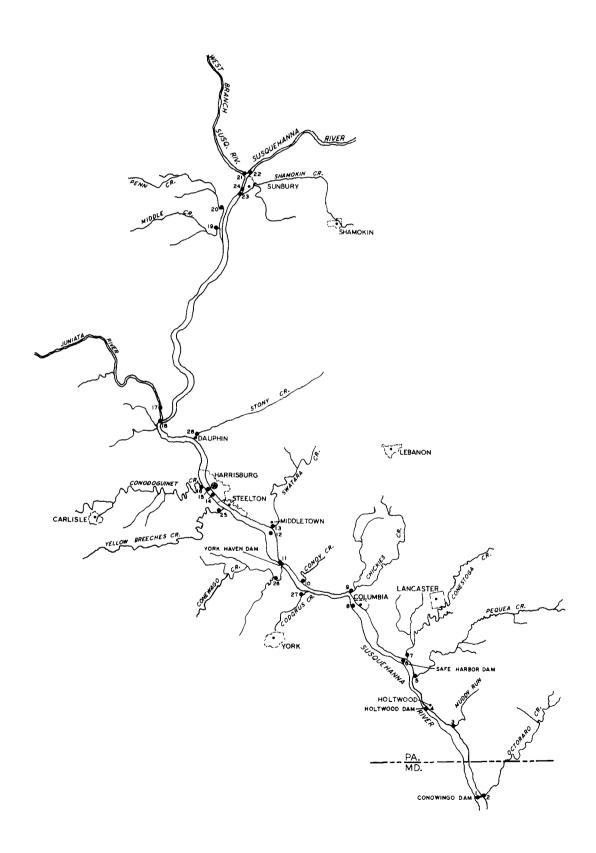
## Acknowledgements

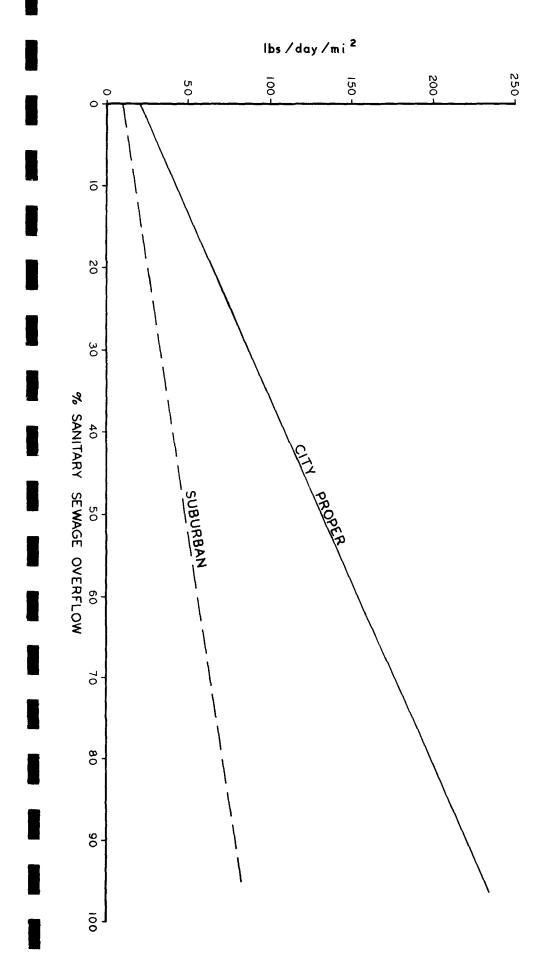
The authors wish to acknowledge and express their gratitude to the following governmental and institutional agencies for having extended the assistance and cooperation that facilitated the collection, analysis and evaluation of the data presented in this report:

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources Susquehanna River Basin Commission City of Harrisburg City of York City of Lancaster City of Lebanon Borough of Selinsgrove City of Sunbury Township of East Pennsboro Borough of Mechanicsburg Borough of Shippensburg Borough of Carlisle Township of Lower Allen Borough of New Cumberland Borough of Camp Hill Borough of Middletown Borough of Palmyra Hershey Sewage Company Borough of Hanover Borough of Elizabeth Borough of Red Lion Township of Penn Borough of Manheim Borough of Lemoyne Borough of Lititz Borough of Ephrata Borough of Columbia U. S. Geological Survey, Department of Interior Philadelphia Power & Light Company Pennsylvania Power & Light Company

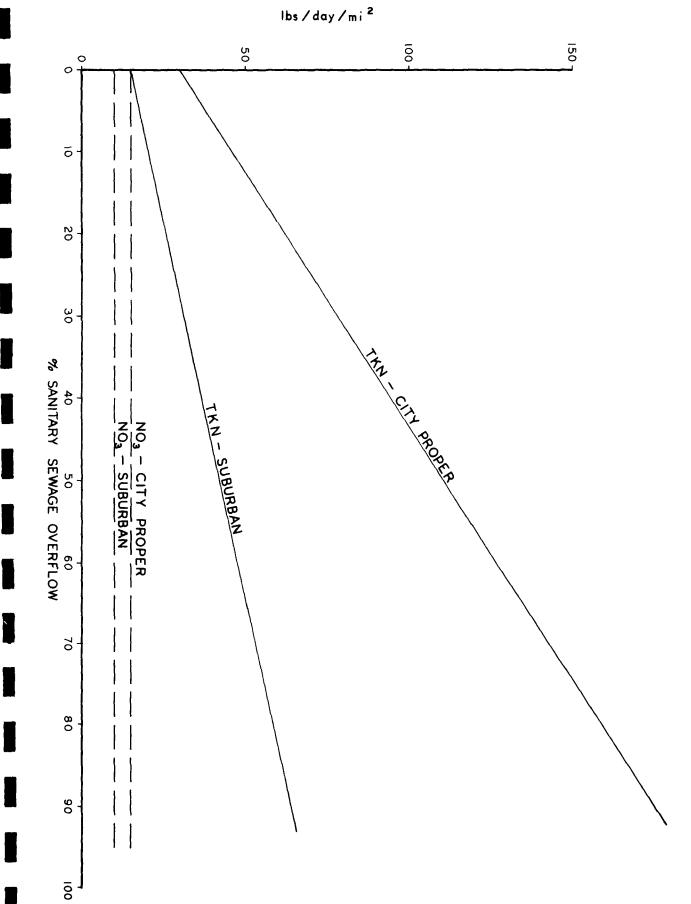
APPENDIX

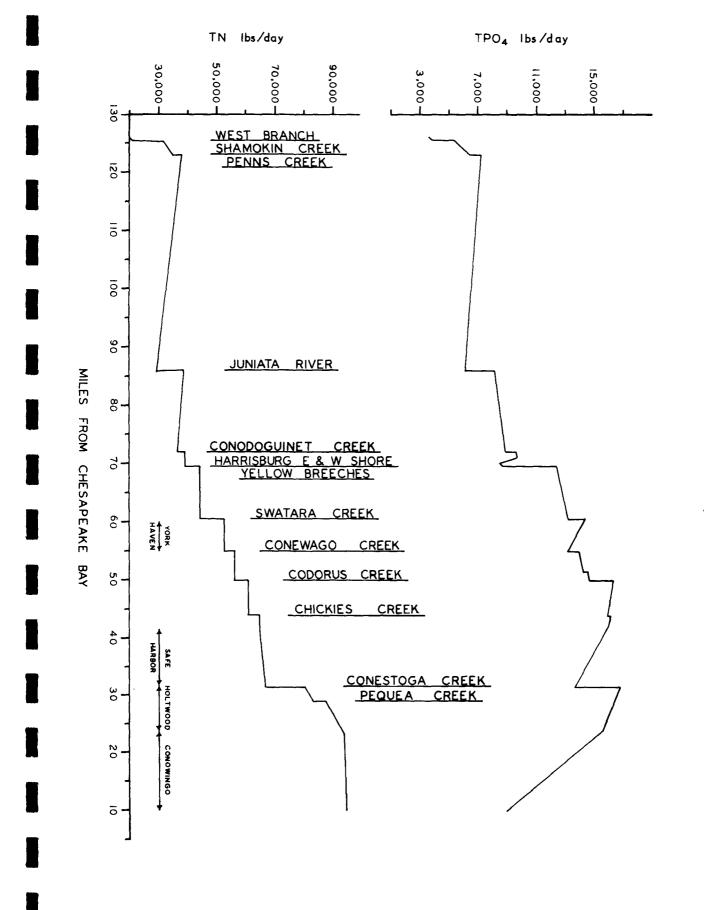
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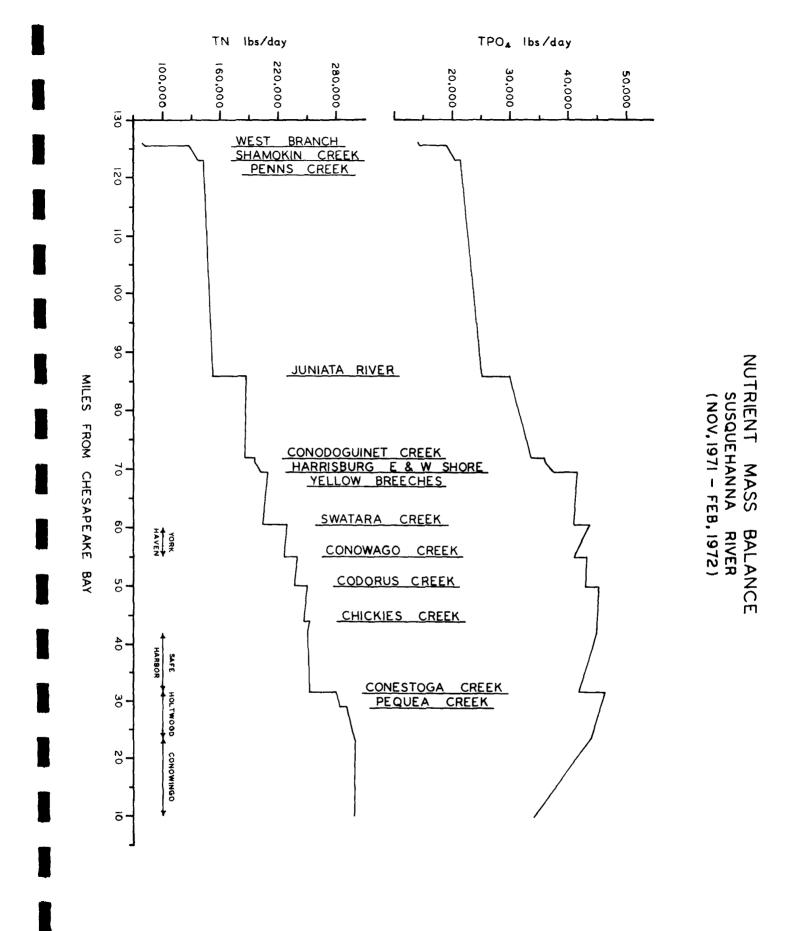
ESTIMATED NITROGEN LOADINGS FROM URBAN AND SUBURBAN AREAS FOR VARIOUS PERCENTAGES OF SANITARY SEWAGE OVERFLOWS



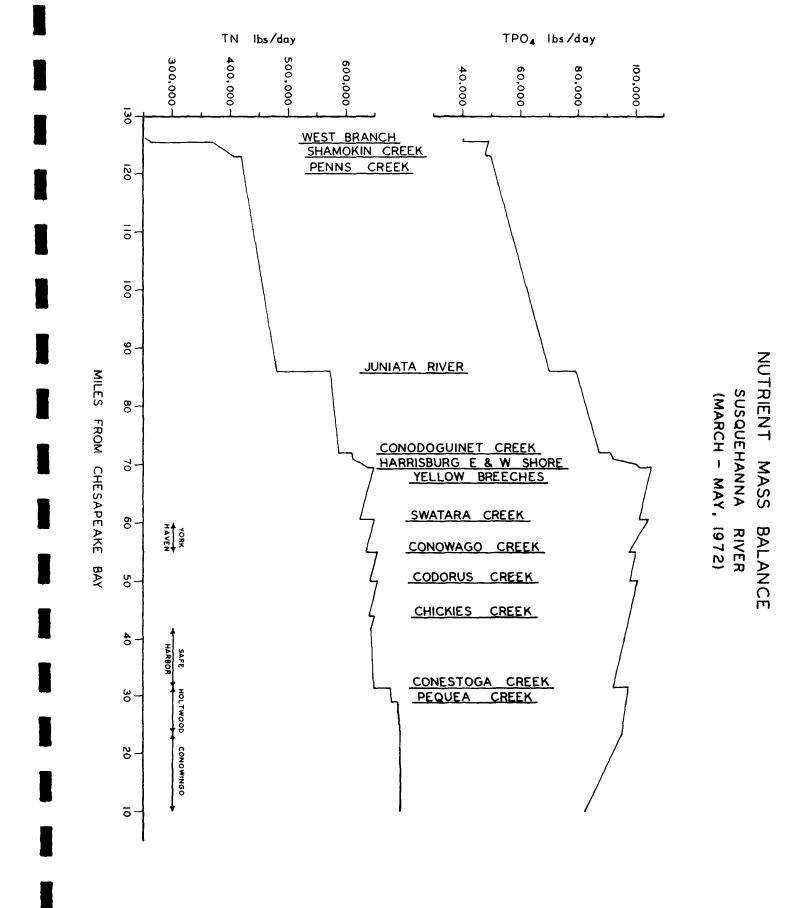


NUTRIENT MASS BALANCE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER (JUNE - OCT, 1971)

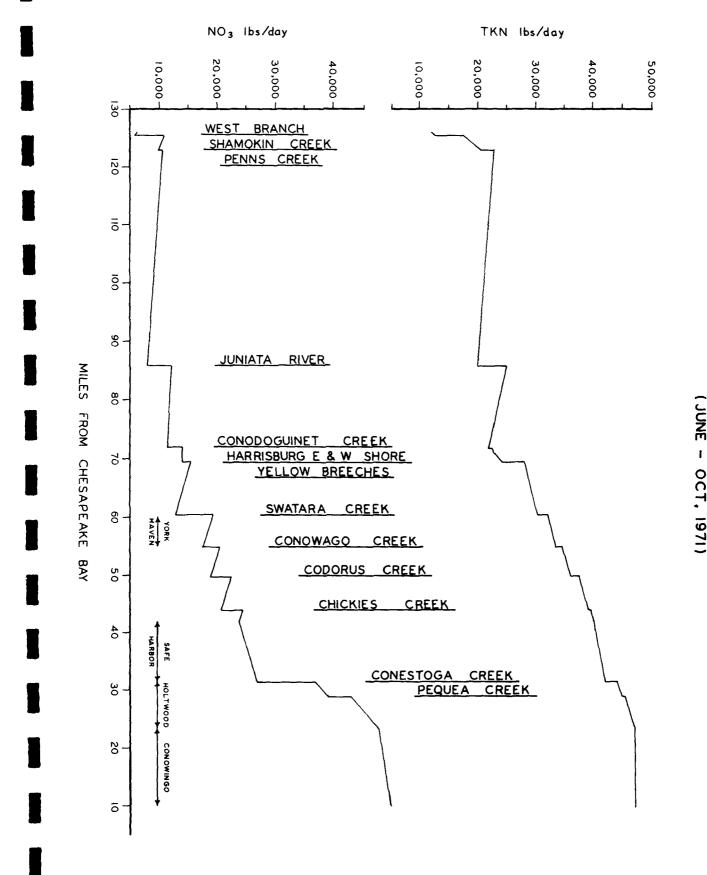
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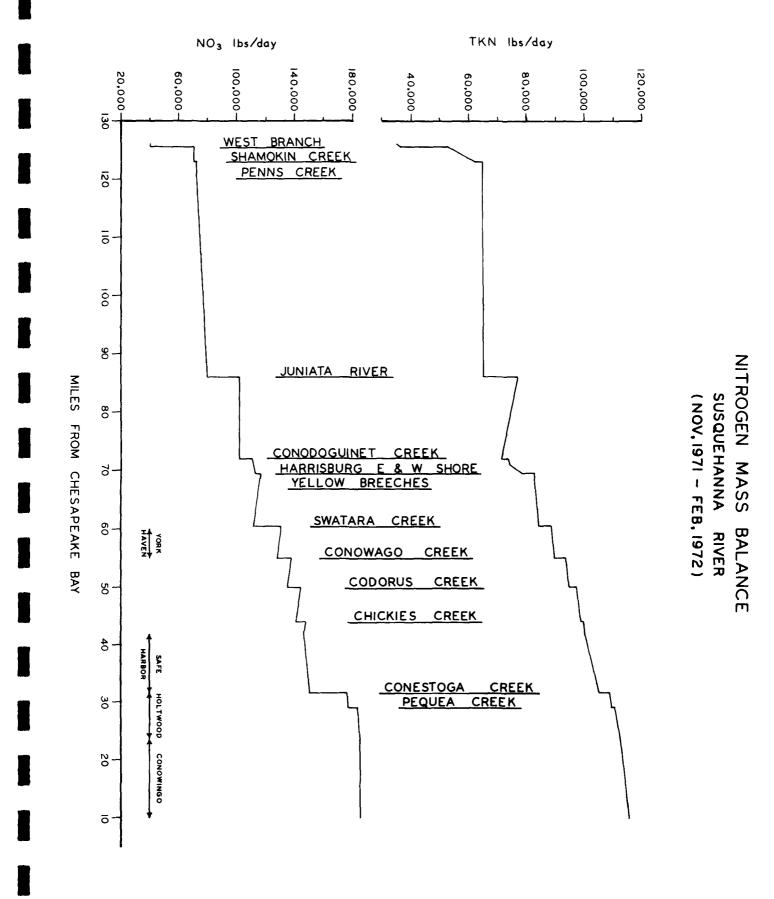


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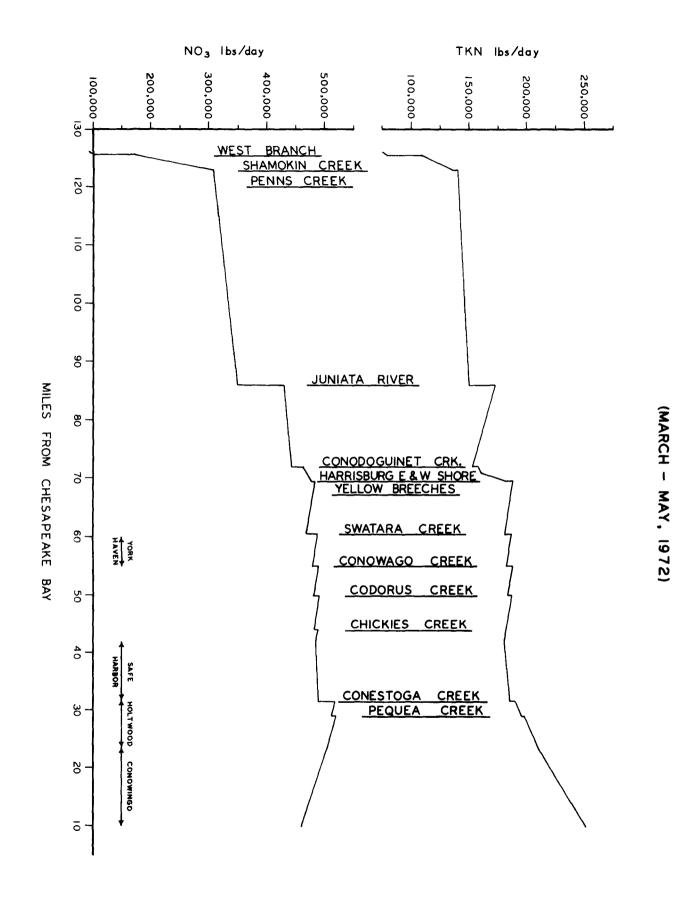


NITROGEN MASS BALANCE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER (JUNE - OCT, 1971)

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Land area figures (acres and square miles) were determined for the following sub-divisions within the lower Susquehanna River Basin:

SUB-DIVISION	AREA	LAND AREA		POPULATION	POPULATION DENSITY	
		mi <sup>2</sup>	<sup>2</sup> acres		pop/mi <sup>2</sup>	pop/acre
Major cities of greater than 25,000 inhibitants	Harrisburg	7.6	4,864	67,880	8,931	13.45
	Lancaster	7.2	4,608	57,589	7,998	12.50
	Lebanon	4.6	2,944	28,572	6,211	9.70
	York	5.3	3,392	50,335	9,497	14.84
Major Urbanized Areas	Harrisburg	78	49,920	240,751	3,086	4.82
	Lancaster	39	24,960	117,097	3,002	4.69
	York	37	23,680	123,106	3,327	5.20
	Adams	526	336,640	56,937	108	0.17
	Cumberland	555	355,200	158,177	285	0.45
	Dauphin	518	331,520	223,834	432	0.68
	Juniata	386	247,040	16,712	43	0.07
Counties	Lancaster	946	605,440	319,693	338	0.53
	Lebanon	363	232,320	99,665	275	0.43
	Northumberland	453	289,920	99,190	219	0.34
	Perry	551	352,640	28,615	52	0.08
	Snyder	327	209,280	29,269	90	0.14
	York	909	581,760	272,603	300	0.47

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