
University of Pennsylvania



Institute for Environmental Studies

presents

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Hydropolitics in Delaware and the Delaware Valley

Watersheds know no political boundaries. This adage is true in Delaware and in the surrounding states of the Delaware Valley. In the last water year we have experienced the extremes of the water budget – from the 100-year drought of 2002 to the floods of Hurricanes Henri and Isabel. Management of droughts and floods are complex because watersheds and aquifers overlap the boundaries of the towns, counties, and states. The Christina Basin, which originates in Pennsylvania and Maryland, provides drinking water to 70% of Delaware's population. Drinking water is supplied by a network of public and investor owned water purveyors thus adding to the institutional complexities of water management in an interstate watershed. Differing and insufficient floodplain and stormwater management regulations in the towns and counties along the Brandywine Creek and Red Clay Creek that make up the Christina Basin added to the problems of flood damage from Henri and Isabel. A critical challenge is the issue of "hydro-politics" whereby municipal and investor-owned water purveyors and Federal, State, county, and municipal governments must collaborate in managing water resources during drought and floods. John F. Kennedy said that those who can solve problems with water ought to receive two Nobel prizes - one for science and one for peace. Those that offer solutions to hydro-political problems may qualify for JFK's vision of a Nobel Prize.

Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2003

Time: NOON - 1:30 pm

Place: Carolyn Hoff Lynch Auditorium

On Penn's campus: Chemistry Building

34th & Spruce Street (entrance on 34th Street)

No Food or Drink Permitted in the Auditorium

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

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