



Genesee River Watershed

I. Location

- The headwaters of the Genesee River are located in Pennsylvania. The rest of the river is located in New York State, where it eventually drains into Lake Ontario.

II. Main Waterways in Pennsylvania

- Headwaters of the Genesee River

III. History

- Area once occupied by Native Americans
- History of conservation efforts in the headwaters area by various environmental groups

IV. Watershed Area and Size

- Watershed area= 94 square miles in PA
- Smallest Pennsylvania watershed

V. Surrounding Environment

1. Land Use and Land Cover

- Largely under-developed consisting of mixed to deciduous forest land with spotted areas used for pasture and crop land.
- Residential areas are minimal.
- Northern Hardwood Forest: birch, hemlock, maple, pine

VI. Population

- In PA: 2,100 people

VII. Bedrock and Soil Types

- Shale, sandstone, limestone, clay
- Glacial till from early glacial deposits
- Glaciated high plateau area

VIII. Emissions into Water

- Claimed to be the 2nd most toxically polluted river in the United States, although most of this pollution occurs farther downstream in areas of New York.



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(VIII. Emissions into Water cont.)

1. PA

- Sediment from soil erosion and agricultural runoff

2. NY

- Toxic pollutants from industry, most importantly Eastman Kodak located in Rochester, NY. These pollutants enter the Genesee River and flow directly into Lake Ontario.

IX. Regulations Concerning Watershed

- The EPA closely monitors the Genesee River flowing in Rochester, NY and Eastman Kodak emissions into the water are targeted for clean-up and monitored.

X. Water Usage

- Public, commercial, domestic, industrial, mining, livestock, irrigation, hydroelectric, wastewater treatment

XI. Threats

In PA:

- Low levels of Dissolved Oxygen
- Sedimentation
- Flooding

XII. Action in the Watershed

- Genesee River Habitat Restoration: protecting upper reaches of the Genesee from agricultural run-off from dairy farms through riparian-zone protection in order to ensure that the water downstream is suitable for use as drinking water.
- Rochester areas of the Genesee, especially those areas affected by Eastman Kodak, are under close supervision by the EPA and other environmental groups to attempt to clean the river and prevent future pollutant emissions.-
www.epa.gov
- Potter County Conservation District Watershed Association (PA)-
www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/counties/Potter/Potter.htm