Interstate Compacts and Federalism

Susquehanna River Basin Commission
The Susquehanna River drains 27,510 square miles. The river meanders 444 miles from its origin at Otsego Lake near Cooperstown, N.Y., until it empties into the Chesapeake Bay at Havre de Grace, Md. The Susquehanna contributes one-half of the freshwater flow to the Chesapeake Bay.
SRBC Governance

**Federal Commissioner:**
Brig. General William Graham, Commander NAD, USACE

**Pennsylvania Commissioner:**
Patrick McDonnell, Secretary, PA Dept. of Environmental Protection

**Maryland Commissioner:**
Ben Grumbles, Secretary, MD Dept. of the Environment

**New York Commissioner:**
Basil Seggos, Commissioner, NYS DEC
Disputes Over Interstate Waters

The US Supreme Court in Kansas v. Colorado, 185 US 125 (1902) found interstate water dispute justiciable under its original jurisdiction.

Five years later, in Kansas v. Colorado, 206 US 46 (1907), the doctrine of “equitable apportionment” was born.
Disputes Over Interstate Waters

- Compacts became the tool of choice for states to deal with interstate water disputes/allocations/management.
Compacts
SRBC Regulatory Program

• Diversions of Waters: Article 3, § 3.8, 3.10(2)(ii)
SRBC Regulatory Program

• Consumptive Use, 18 CFR § 806.4(a)(1)
SRBC Regulatory Program

• Ground and Surface Water Withdrawal, 18 CFR § 806.4(a)(2)
Natural Gas Development