

CHAPTER 5

FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECTS AND STORMWATER COLLECTION SYSTEMS

Existing and Proposed Stormwater and Flood Protection Facilities

The PA DEP Bureau of Flood Protection Projects provided the Lead Agency with the results of the Flood Protection Feasibility Study along Fishing and Bald Eagle Creeks in Mill Hall and Bald Eagle Township, Clinton County. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) publication "SWP-10 STATE WATER PLAN FOR SUBBASIN #9" recognized this as a severe floodprone area. Both communities are subject to overbank flows from Fishing and Bald Eagle Creeks with \$6.35 million in damages reported from the 1972 disaster. The 100-year flood damages in Mill Hall were updated for the study to \$10,700,000. This figure does not include some companies that went out of business as a result of the 1972 flood.

A flood protection project was devised to protect Mill Hall and the commercial district along Hogan Boulevard in Bald Eagle Township from 100-year floods on Fishing Creek and backwater along Bald Eagle Creek. Compacted earth levees and concrete capped sheet pile walls were considered to contain floods within the channel. Four bridges (Peale, Church, and Main Streets, and Conrail) would have to be removed or replaced to a higher level at the expense of the owners or the local project sponsor. The estimated construction cost of this project, including the local costs of replacing bridges and removing buildings is more than \$20 million.

The levees and walls extending above the ground along the streambanks would detract from the aesthetics of the area. The higher bridges with raised approaches would disrupt the existing street network and alter traffic patterns. These factors, and the high cost and complexity of the project make it impractical from a structural, as well as an economic standpoint. For this reason, the project is not recommended.

This feasibility study, the only proposed flood protection project considered in the Combined Watershed, provides an example of the costs for a large scale flood protection project in this watershed. Any organization producing plans for new facilities in the future should develop and submit the plans to the appropriate municipalities, as described in the model ordinance contained in Chapter 11 of this Report.