



Oswego River Watershed Assessment, NY

Section 729 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, as amended
General Investigations

Location

- The Oswego River is located in central NY and covers over 5,000 square miles, including the Finger Lakes

Project Description

- The study would involve a comprehensive investigation of the Oswego River watershed and the New York State Barge Canal, aimed at evaluating water level management and its effects on water resources including water supply, hydropower, fish and wildlife habitat, navigation, flood damage reduction, recreation, and water quality
- A Final Watershed Assessment would be cost-shared 75% Federal and 25% non-Federal

Importance

- The watershed study will result in a strategic plan to guide sustainable water resource management in the watershed. The plan will evaluate alternatives and measures to address basin-wide water management for the purpose of restoring aquatic ecosystems while balancing the needs for flood risk management, navigation, and the other uses of the water resource

Consequences

- Without the assessment, water level management in Oswego River Basin will continue to be difficult and unpredictable
- Operators will continue to manage water levels on a lake by lake basis without knowing how decisions will affect conditions in the entire watershed

Project Phase	Est. Fed. Cost of Phase	Federal Funding Thru FY15	FY16 Requirement	FY16 Budget	FY17 Requirement	FY17 Budget
Initial Watershed Assessment (COMPLETE)	\$92K	\$92K*	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA
Final Watershed Assessment	\$1,000K	\$115K*	\$100K	\$0	\$0	NA

* Funded through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Program

Project Sponsor/Customer

- The New York State Thruway Authority/ Canal Corporation
- Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance
- Finger Lakes Institute
- Central New York Waterways

Congressional Interests

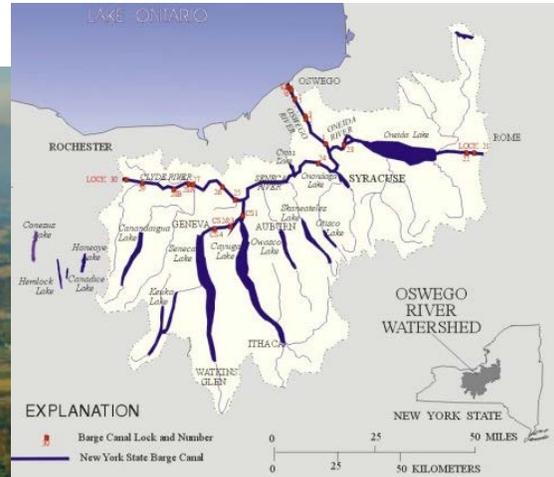
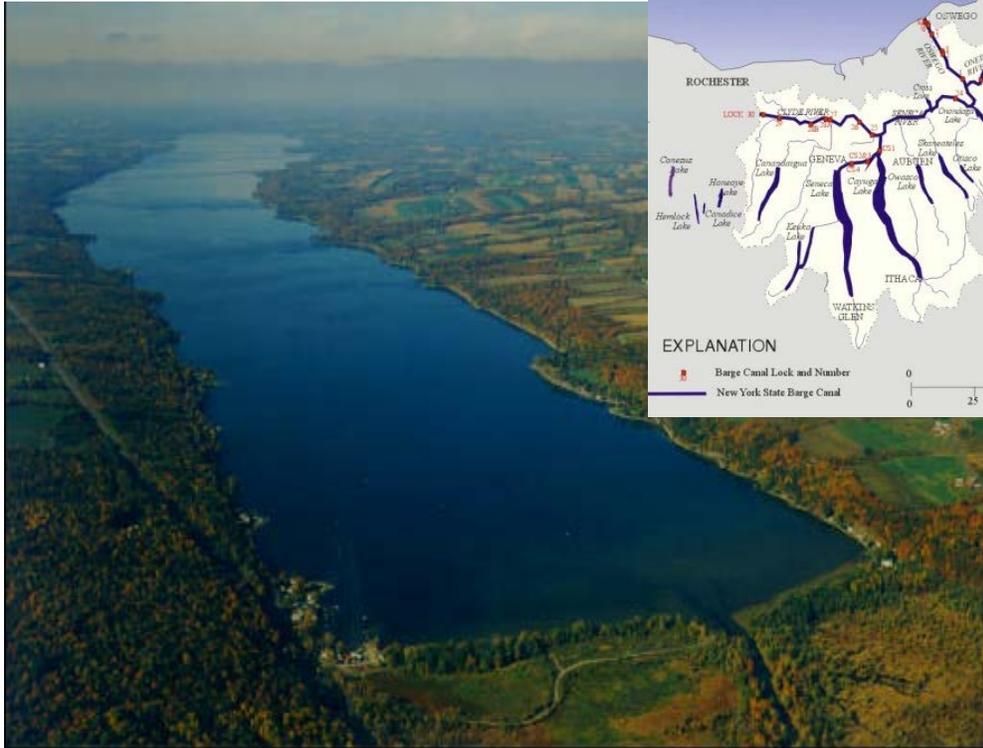
- Representative Richard Hanna R-NY-22
- Representative Tom Reed R-NY-23
- Representative John Katko R-NY-24
- Representative Louise Slaughter D-NY-25
- Senator Kirsten Gillibrand D-NY
- Senator Charles Schumer D-N

Current Status

- The Initial Watershed Assessment has been completed
- Currently on hold awaiting non-Federal sponsor

Issues

- Stakeholder capability to provide cost share uncertain



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