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WHYY Expands Reporting on Delaware River Watershed

PHILADELPHIA, March 24, 2015 — WHYY has been awarded a \$330,000 grant over two years from the William Penn Foundation in support of journalism on threats to water quality in the Delaware River watershed.

WHYY will use the grant to deepen its coverage of Delaware River watershed issues in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware as part of the StateImpact Pennsylvania project. The public media provider's reporting will educate and raise awareness about local water issues and will highlight topics such as loss of forested headwaters, storm water, agricultural run-off, aquifer depletion, the impact of development on the watershed, and the state, regional and local policies that effect the environment. WHYY will host related community engagement activities on watershed topics at various venues across Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.

"The Delaware and its tributaries provide public health protection through the supply of drinking water to millions of people and the watershed is home to countless species, while farms and cities make their livelihood along the banks," said Bill Marrazzo, WHYY president and CEO. "The richness of this environment doesn't respect political boundaries so with the support of the William Penn Foundation, we will be able to expand our coverage beyond Pennsylvania into the remaining footprint of the watershed."

Chris Satullo, WHYY vice president of news and civic dialogue, said, "We're gratified by this validation of the quality public service journalism being done by StateImpact Pennsylvania and look forward to the expansion of the project's scope to two more states that this grant enables."

"Water is one of our most precious resources, but it faces significant threats from many sources that can quickly undermine its quality," said Andrew Johnson, Watershed Protection Program Director at the William Penn Foundation. "It's critical that people understand these challenges, and we anticipate that thoughtful, in-depth reporting on these issues will inspire people to take action to protect our water for future generations."

WHYY, through television, radio and other communication services, makes the world a better place, connecting each of us to the world's richest ideas and all of us to each other. WHYY's range of services reflects its founding mission of using technology to provide lifelong learning opportunities for all. Learn more at WHYY.org.

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