River Flow into the Chesapeake Bay Following Sandy is Lower than Expected.
Prepared by U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Oct 31, 2012.

The following is based on information from USGS stream gage network in the Chesapeake Bay watershed (see table below):

- River flow in the Susquehanna River, the largest river entering the Bay is expected to reach 155,000 cubic feet per second (CFS) where it enters the Chesapeake Bay. This is much lower than last years' effect of TS Irene and Lee, when flows were 775,000 cfs. The record was 1.1M cfs during Agnes in 1972.
- Sandy had a larger effect on the Potomac watershed and the Eastern Shore. In the Potomac River at Washington, DC the flow is 137,000, which is near its expected peak. The flow from the Potomac River is comparable to the Susquehanna River, even though size of the Potomac watershed is 50% of the Susquehanna. The present record for the Potomac River is 484,000 cfs (in 1936). The Choptank River on the Eastern Shore reached a peak of 4480 cfs, which was able ½ of the flow seen during TS Irene/Lee.
- The higher river flow will bring higher amounts of nutrient and sediment to the Bay, however these amounts will not approach the nutrient and sediment loads seen in 2011 from Tropical Storms Irene and Lee.
- Too many nutrients rob the Bay of oxygen needed for fish and, along with sediment, cloud the waters, disturbing the habitat of underwater plants crucial for aquatic life and waterfowl. However according to the Chesapeake Bay Program, the impacts are not as great during this time of year compared to the summer months.
- The USGS, states, and SRBC crews are collecting samples of nutrients and sediment at the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Nontidal Water-Quality Network, which is comprised of 125 sites. The results will be used to assess effects on the Bay and its watershed.

Summary of flow at selected rivers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed (prepared by USGS, Oct. 31, 2012)			
River	Current Flow (Oct 31, morning) (cubic feet per second, cfs)	Peak flow (or projected) (cfs)	Record Flow (cfs) and year
Susquehanna River at Conowingo	93,000	155,000 (projected to be on Thursday)	1,130,000 (1972)
Potomac River at DC	137,000	140,000 (projected to be Wednesday)	484,000 (1936)
James River at Cartersville	5,380	5,470 (Wed)	250,000 (1969)
Choptank	2,290	4,480 (Tuesday)	8,880 (2011)
Patuxent	6790	10,800 (Tuesday)	31,100 (1972)

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For more information visit the:

- Chesapeake Bay Program: http://www.chesapeakebay.net/
- NOAA has collected critical information on precipitation in the watershed (which effects stream flow) and wave heights and tides in the Bay http://chesapeakebay.noaa.gov/