

# THE RESEARCH PRIORITIES COUNCIL

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In 1995 the leadership of the Consortium acted to establish a Research Priorities Council.

The Mission of the Council was described as follows:

*To identify the water-related environmental research needs for the Ohio River Valley including recommended priorities for execution. The Council's focus will be on research and investigations leading to an understanding of the unique aspects of the Valley.*

Additional responsibilities were identified at the 1995 annual meeting of the Consortium Board of Trustees:

- **Assert research priorities to appropriate organizations;**
- **Broker research partnerships to funding entities;**
- **Develop a program to compete for research funds.**

To carry out its charge, the council concluded it was imperative that a research needs and priorities document be issued. The document must clearly articulate not only the research needed but supporting rationale.

This project was initiated in early 1996 through a survey to insure input from a broad base of interests and expertise. The response, the direct result of the efforts of the trustees, was most gratifying.

More than 70 responses were received. These included universities and colleges, state environmental and natural resource agencies, health departments, regional agencies including TVA and ORSANCO, utilities and industries, and federal agencies including USACOE, US EPA, USF&WS and the USGS.

From the Council's assessment of the responses received, the research needs for the Valley were grouped, and are presented as follows:

*Human Health/Exposure Assessment  
Ecosystems Investigations/Management  
Xenobiotics  
Water Quality Indicators  
Socio-Economics and Management*