



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
New York District

# Clinton County, NY

## Flood Control & Environmental Restoration Study

---

### FACT SHEET

---

**DESCRIPTION:** The Great Chazy River Basin encompasses the Great Chazy River and its tributaries, and includes approximately 300 square miles within northeast Clinton County, New York. The headwaters originate in the Adirondack Mountains and flow in an easterly direction to the mouth of the river, discharging into Lake Champlain.

The Saranac River Basin encompasses the Saranac River and its tributaries, and includes approximately 608 square miles within central Clinton County, New York. The headwaters originate in the Adirondack Mountains and flow in an easterly direction to the mouth of the river, discharging into Lake Champlain.

Both rivers originate at high elevations, causing high flow velocities and the transportation of large amounts of sediment. At lower elevations, flow rates decrease, allowing sediment to deposit. Sedimentation, coupled with dynamic river conditions and flow restrictions at bridges, results in fluvial and ice jam flooding. These jams cause flows to back up, resulting in extensive flooding. Streambank erosion also plagues areas within the basins because of the steep channel gradients. This is evident from the damages caused during the November 1996 and January 1998 flood events.

In November 1996, Clinton County sustained approximately \$10 million in damages and was declared a Federal Disaster Area. Specifically, in Champlain, New York, water levels reached three feet above first floor elevations, causing first floor and basement flooding. Extensive streambank erosion caused roads to wash out in many locations. In January 1998, Clinton County was again declared a Federal Disaster Area. The storm event affected the region's dairy industry and small businesses, public facilities, and infrastructure of area utilities, causing extensive power outages for up to 23 days. Thousands of people were sheltered for an extended period, and nine people lost their lives.

**AUTHORIZATION:** U. S. House of Representatives Resolution, Docket 2530 dated May 7, 1997, authorizes the study of the Ausable River, Essex and Clinton Counties, New York.

**STATUS:** The NY District recently completed the 905(b) Reconnaissance Report, which determined that there is federal interest to proceed into the feasibility phase of study. The feasibility phase examines in closer detail the areas affected by flooding and environmental degradation, and will develop alternative solutions to those problems. Currently, the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation is not certain as to whether it will support further studies as the non-Federal cost-sharing partner.

**PROJECT COST:** To be determined.

**CONTACT:** Gail S. Woolley, Project Planner, mailto: [gail.s.woolley@usace.army.mil](mailto:gail.s.woolley@usace.army.mil), (212) 264-1060

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District

26 Federal Plaza, New York, NY 10278

<http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/>

District Area: NY #24, Congressional Member: John McHugh