



Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

Communications and Community Relations Office

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What is WSSC?

The Washington Suburban Sanitary District was established by the Maryland General Assembly in 1918, and encompasses much of Montgomery and Prince George's counties. The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, also established in Maryland statutes, has jurisdiction over the Sanitary District. WSSC's mission is to provide safe and reliable water, life's most precious resource, and return water to our environment, all in a financially responsible manner.

Governance

WSSC consists of six commissioners who are residents of the service area. Three are from Prince George's County, and three are from Montgomery County. Each are appointed by their respective County Executive, subject to the confirmation of their County Council.

The Commission appoints and prescribes the duties of the General Manager. Andrew Brunhart, the current GM, was appointed in February 2005.

WSSC COMMISSIONERS

Prem P. Agarwal, Chairman
Stanley J. Botts, Vice Chairman
Sandra A. Allen
Marc P. Lieber
Dr. Juanita D. Miller
Joyce Starks

Service

WSSC is among the ten largest water and wastewater utilities in the nation, serving 1.7 million customers. The commission has three general components: water supply and distribution; wastewater conveyance and treatment; and regulation of plumbing and gasfitting work. Our dedicated 1,400 employees work 24-7 maintaining service over an area of nearly 1,000 square miles.

Water supply

WSSC supplies water that meets or surpasses U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards. We have never had a drinking water violation in our 88-year history. Not only is it safe, but our water is a bargain for customers. One dollar's worth of WSSC water fills nearly 4,000 twelve ounce water bottles — which would cost at least \$2,875 if those bottles of water were purchased in a grocery store.

Facilities and infrastructure

- Over 5,300 miles of fresh water pipeline and over 5,200 miles of sewer pipeline.
- Four water reservoirs with a total holding capacity of 14 billion gallons. WSSC has sole responsibility for the Triadelphia and Rocky Gorge reservoirs, and shares regional responsibility for Little Seneca and Jennings Randolph reservoirs.
- Two water filtration plants which produce an average of 167 million gallons (mgd) per day of safe drinking water. The Patuxent plant has a maximum capacity of 56 mgd, and the Potomac plant has a maximum capacity of 285 mgd.
- Six wastewater treatment plants, with a total capacity to handle 74.1 million gallons of wastewater per day. WSSC-operated plants are Western Branch, Piscataway, Parkway, Seneca, Damascus and Hyattstown. WSSC also sends wastewater to the Blue Plains Water Pollution Control Plant, which handles as much as an additional 169 mgd under a cost sharing agreement.
- A state-of-the-art laboratory which performs half a million tests annually on water and wastewater, to ensure conformance to safety and quality standards.

Fiscal integrity

WSSC has earned a "AAA" rating with both Moody's Investors Service and Fitch's Ratings. Fitch's notes that "the district's financial flexibility is strong due to decades of conservative budgeting practices, healthy financial reserve policies, and multiyear forecasting of both operating and capital needs."

The fiscal year 2007 budget is \$757.1 million, including \$502.1 million for operating expenses and \$255 million for capital expenditures.