

December 9, 2003

George F. Cormeny, Jr.
Legislative Liaison
Department of Housing and Community Development
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032

Dear Mr. Cormeny:

Thank you for your e-mail concerning the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission's (WSSC) participation in the multi-agency, statewide task force to study copper pipe pinhole leaks. WSSC testified in support of Senate Bill 54 as it is consistent with our aggressive efforts to learn more about this troubling and widespread problem on behalf of our customers.

Since the summer of 2000, WSSC has been working closely with representatives from the copper manufacturing industry, master plumbers, local officials and nationally recognized water quality and copper corrosion experts to try to determine the cause of these troubling leaks impacting residents of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. A key member of our task force has been Mr. Robert Buglass -- a Principal Environmental Engineer for WSSC with more than 20 years of experience in all aspects of water and wastewater distribution, collection and treatment systems. Mr. Buglass' expertise and hard work on this copper corrosion issue have earned him praise and recognition locally and nationally. His knowledge of the subject and ability to easily educate and inform customers about this complex problem makes him an ideal candidate for Maryland's task force. Enclosed, please find more detailed information on his experience.

Our research into this problem indicates that U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements related to corrosion control and the removal of natural organic matter might play a role in these leaks. WSSC welcomes the opportunity to participate in, and share our information with, the task force. Mr. Buglass can be reached at 301-206-8082 or e-mail at bbuglas@wssewater.com. Thank you for your efforts to help address a problem impacting citizens and water utilities across Maryland and the nation.

Sincerely,

Jinhee Kim Wilde
Chair

Enclosure

cc: Principal Environmental Engineer (R. Buglass)