

WSSC Water's Role in the Potomac Interceptor

About the Potomac Interceptor

- The Potomac Interceptor (PI) is a 54-mile-long regional sanitary sewer pipeline with two river crossings that was constructed in the early 1960s by an Act of Congress.
- The PI is approximately 60 years old and carries about 60 million gallons of wastewater daily.
- While DC Water owns, operates and maintains this pipeline, the PI spans a 376 square-mile service area, which includes: Loudoun and Fairfax counties, including areas near Washington Dulles International Airport, Vienna, and Herndon, as well as portions of Montgomery County. The pipeline carries flows to DC Water's Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).

Why does Maryland's Wastewater Flow into DC?

- WSSC Water is the water and wastewater utility serving the majority of Montgomery and Prince George's counties.
- In the early 1900s, WSSC Water, the State of Maryland, and the District of Columbia (D.C.) began work on the planning for a regional wastewater collection system with wastewater generated in the northern Maryland suburbs of D.C. being conveyed into the system owned by D.C.
- Since the 1920s, WSSC Water has had agreements with D.C. concerning wastewater flow into the District.
- The 2012 Blue Plains Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) is the current agreement for regional sewer cooperation between six parties: District of Columbia, Prince George's County, Montgomery County, Fairfax County, DC Water and WSSC Water.
- The IMA covers all aspects of the shared use of Multi-Jurisdictional Use Facilities (MJUFs) owned and operated by DC Water to convey and treat wastewater at the regional Blue Plains WWTP. The aspects include wastewater treatment & conveyance; biosolids management; capacity allocations; equitable allocation of capital and Operations & Maintenance costs based on allocated capacity and use; operational coordination; and cooperative planning for future wastewater flow and load capacity.

Why Doesn't WSSC Water Treat Wastewater from all WSSC Water Customers?

- WSSC Water owns and operates six Water Resource Recovery Facilities (formerly known as Wastewater Treatment Plants) – three in Montgomery County and three in Prince George's County.
- Currently, on average, these six facilities treat 65+ million gallons per day (MGD) of wastewater. These facilities have a combined capacity of 95 MGD of wastewater.
- WSSC Water customers in Montgomery and Prince George's counties currently produce an average of nearly 200 MGD of wastewater.
- Today, more than 60 percent of WSSC Water's wastewater flow is conveyed to and treated at Blue Plains.
- Under the IMA, WSSC Water is allocated 169.6 MGD of Blue Plains' 370 MGD capacity.
- Additionally, some of the wastewater flow in southern Prince George's County is conveyed to the Charles County Mattawoman WWTP with a 3 MGD capacity allocation. A small amount of wastewater flow in northern Montgomery County in the Jonesville/Jerusalem areas is conveyed to the Town of Poolesville WWTP with a 0.02 MGD capacity allocation.
- Significant economies of scale can be realized by the establishment of regional wastewater collection and treatment systems in which resources are shared.

WSSC Water's Cost Share of the Potomac Interceptor?

- WSSC Water contributes to the costs associated with the Potomac Interceptor based on its allocated capacity within specific segments of the pipe.
- For the segment of the interceptor that collapsed, WSSC Water's cost share is 30.9 percent with a portion of that share sub-allocated to the City of Rockville at 15.87 percent. This means Rockville would pay about 4.9 percent of the total repair cost, leaving WSSC Water responsible for roughly 26 percent of the total cost.
- WSSC Water is seeking greater clarity on the costs and how potential federal funding received by DC Water may offset costs for which the regional partners are responsible.

Potomac Interceptor Collapse NOT Impacting Drinking Water



WSSC Water's Drinking Water is Safe



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