



Infrastructure Vulnerability and Project Updates for Southern Prince George's County

Stakeholder Awareness Briefing

June 25, 2026



Bottom Line Up Front

**There is no current
emergency situation!**

Drinking water service, fire flows, and other WSSC Water services remain **NORMAL**.

- This is **not** an emergency situation
- Drinking water remains safe and there is no impact on water quality or service delivery
- Customers are NOT being asked to take any actions at this time
- A vulnerability on a 36” water pipe running under Dower House Road in Clinton, MD was discovered during unrelated State Highway Administration work
- This issue together with the shutdown of a large main as part of system improvement at Old Branch Ave, decreases the resilience of the water system for a large portion of Prince George’s County.
- This briefing is intended for awareness in the event that emergency actions become necessary

Vulnerable 36” Drinking Water Pipe Under Dower House Road



Situation Overview

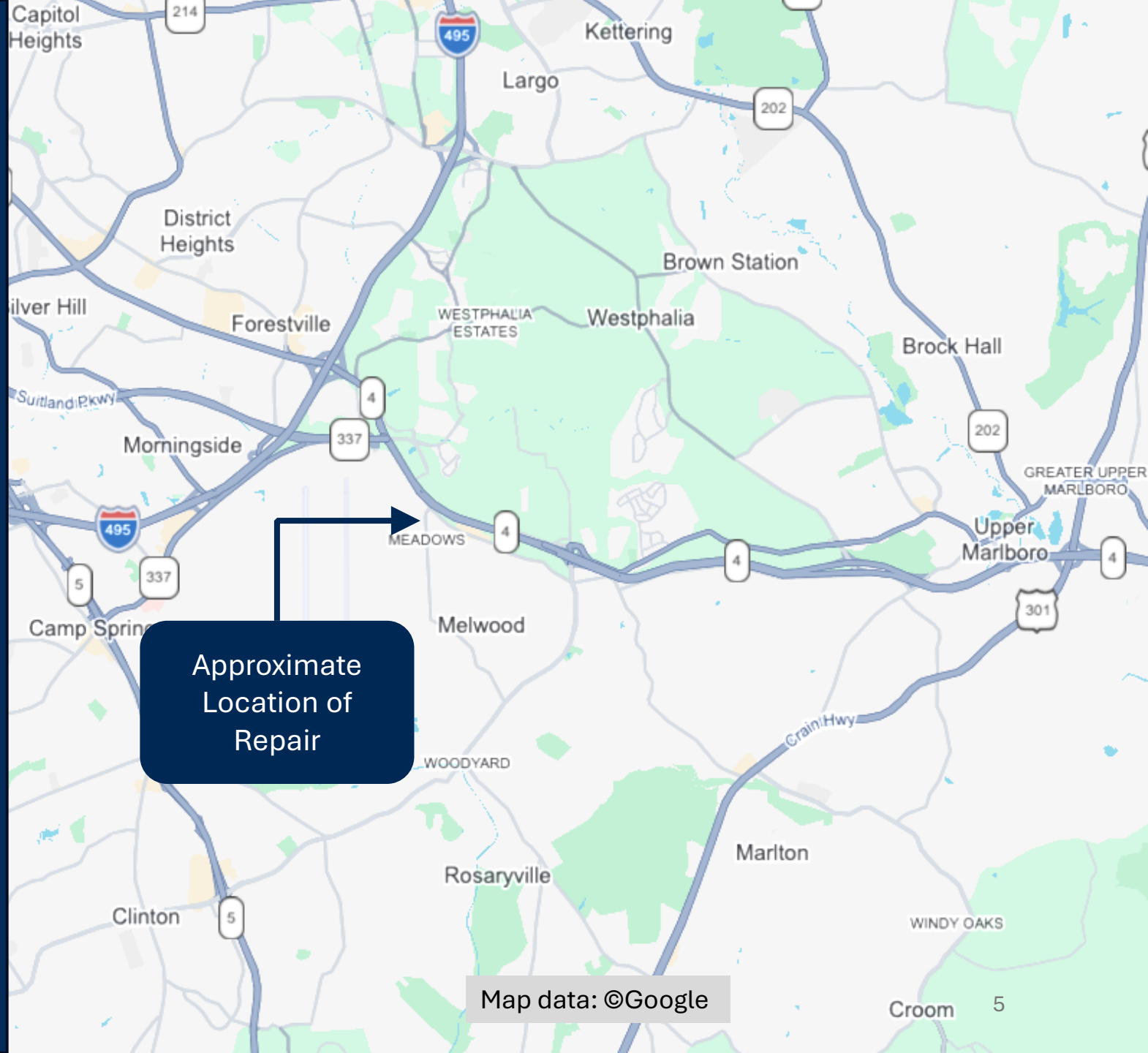
A 36-inch-diameter water main running under Dower House Road south of Pennsylvania Avenue provides safe, clean drinking water to large portions of southern and eastern Prince George's County.

- During Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA)'s 30-inch storm drain replacement at Dower House Road and Pennsylvania Avenue in Prince George's County, a sinkhole was found beneath the storm drain and the 36-inch diameter WSSC Water Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP).
- A crack and possible pipe movement were also observed.
- **NO LEAKS** identified and WSSC Water assesses that the 36" pipe is **NOT** at risk of imminent failure.
- The recommended solution is PCCP replacement and storm drain redesign to restore proper clearance. SHA will lead the storm drain redesign, and WSSC Water will coordinate PCCP replacement and construction.
- **Work will be sequenced after completion of a major capital improvement which includes a 30-inch tie-in at Old Branch Avenue** (accelerated to be completed in ~6 weeks) to avoid combined system impacts.
- **Modeling indicates potential significant impacts to the Clinton Zone and Camp Springs storage if the PCCP fails while work on the tie-in is in progress.**
- An emergency response plan is in place, including monitoring, leak detection, contractor readiness, material staging, and coordinated response.

Situation Overview: Pipe Repair Location

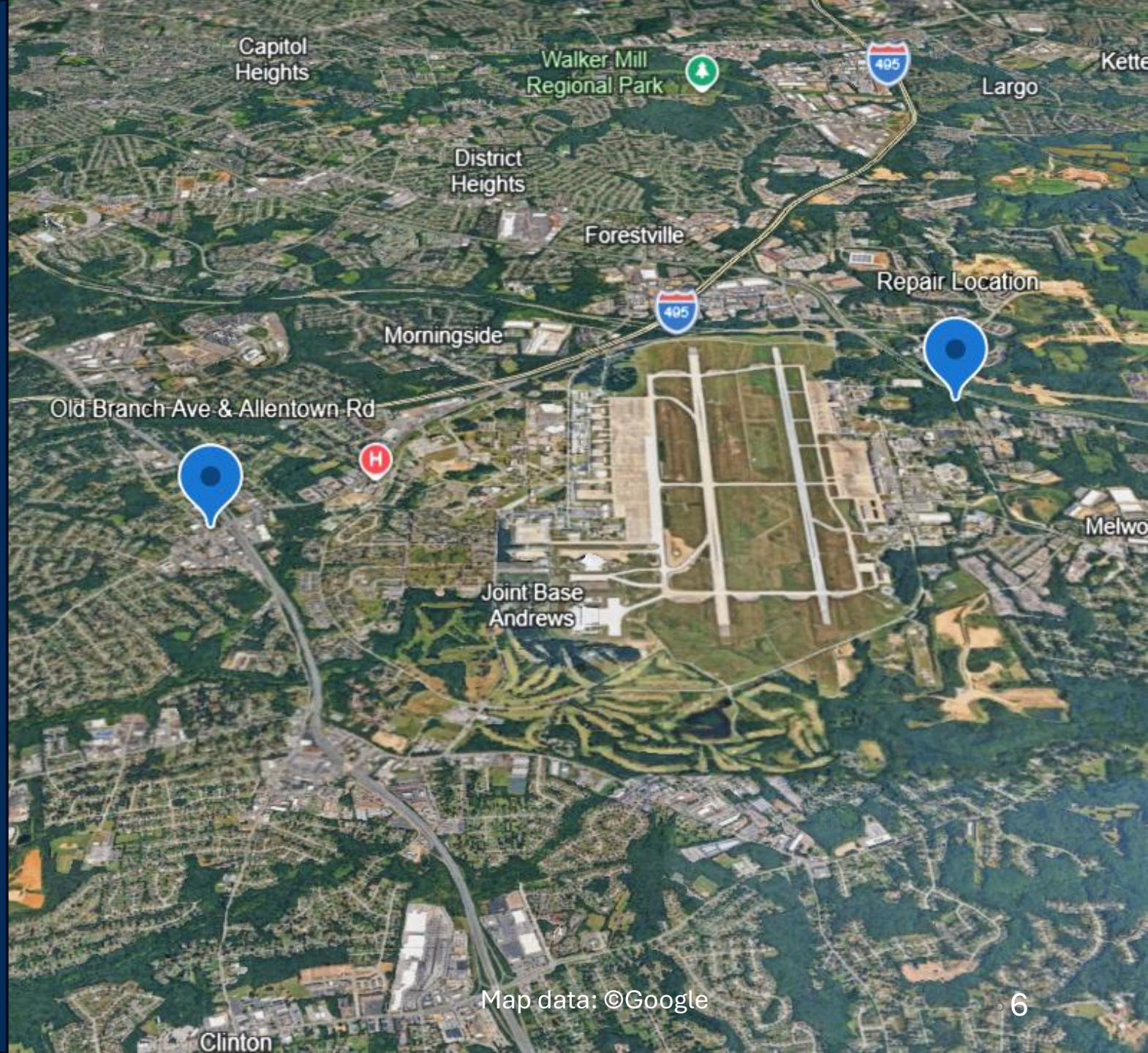
The location is just south of Pennsylvania Avenue on Dower House Road and just east of Andrews Air Force Base.

The 36-inch-diameter water main provides safe, clean drinking water to portions of southern and eastern Prince George's County.



Situation Overview: Pipe Repair Location



Work will be sequenced after completion of WSSC Water's 30-inch Old Branch Avenue tie-in (accelerated to be completed in ~6 weeks) to avoid combined system impacts.

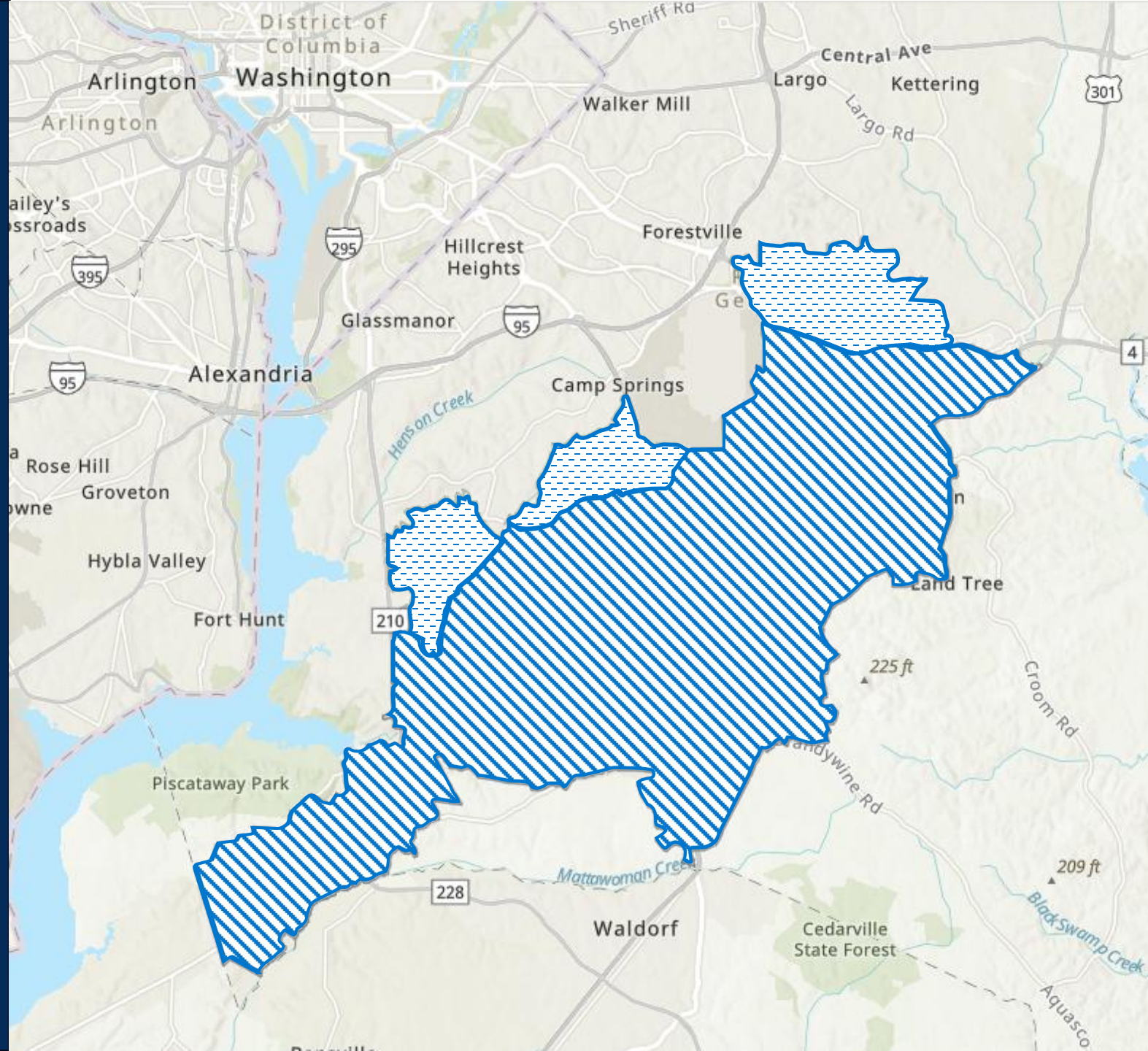


Situation Overview: Potential Impact Area

Customers in Melwood, Rosaryville, Clinton, Fort Washington, and Accokeek areas would be affected if there were a pipe failure.

Approximately 70,543 customer accounts are in the potentially impacted zone.

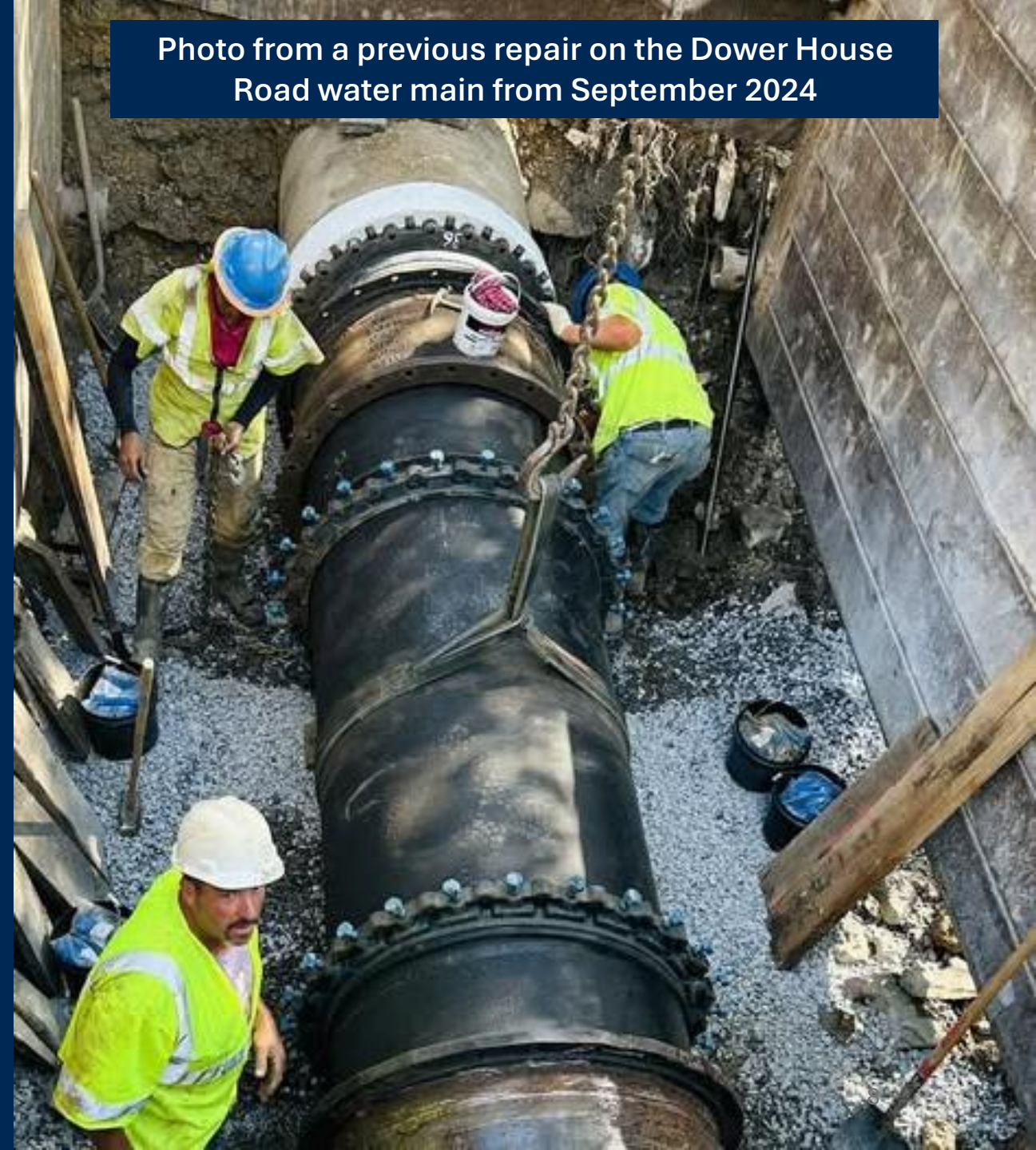
-  Area subject to possible Essential Water Use Only and/or Boil Water Advisory
-  Area subject to possible Essential Water Use Only Request only



Dower House Road Pipe – Inspections and Condition

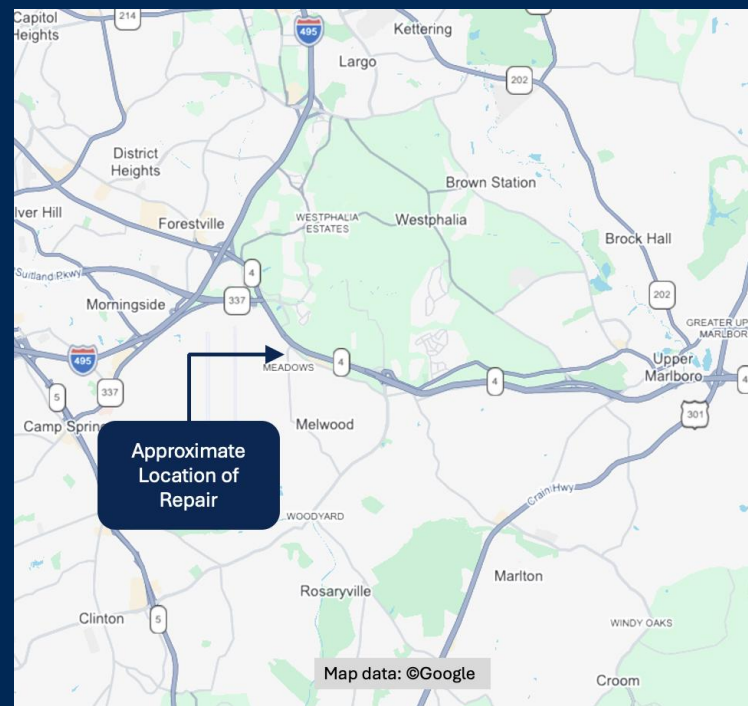
- Pre-stressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) installed in 1965.
- In April 2026, SHA notified WSSC Water of a sinkhole discovered at a utility conflict involving a 30-inch stormwater main.
- In May 2026, WSSC Water conducted an inspection of the sinkhole and the exterior of the pipe.
- The inspection identified a longitudinal crack on the PCCP main and signs of pipe movement.

Photo from a previous repair on the Dower House Road water main from September 2024



- A one-mile section of this main will be shut down to allow specialized contractors to perform the necessary repairs.
- While repairing the PCCP main, work will be done to repair the SHA storm drain.
- Work is expected to start after completion of an ongoing WSSC Water 30-inch Old Branch Avenue tie-in (in ~6 weeks) to avoid combined system impacts.
- Repairs will require significant traffic control, possible lane closures and excavation.
- During planned repair, while this section of main is out of service, this portion of Prince George's County continues to receive drinking water from a series of other water mains.
- Work is expected to take approximately 4 to 5 weeks to complete.

Repair Process and Timeline



Emergency Preparedness

WSSC Water is coordinating with Prince George's Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security and conducting contingency planning with internal and external stakeholders to address identified hazards and risks.



Enhanced leak detection and monitoring using Acoustic Fiber Optics



Materials are on-hand and accessible for emergency response

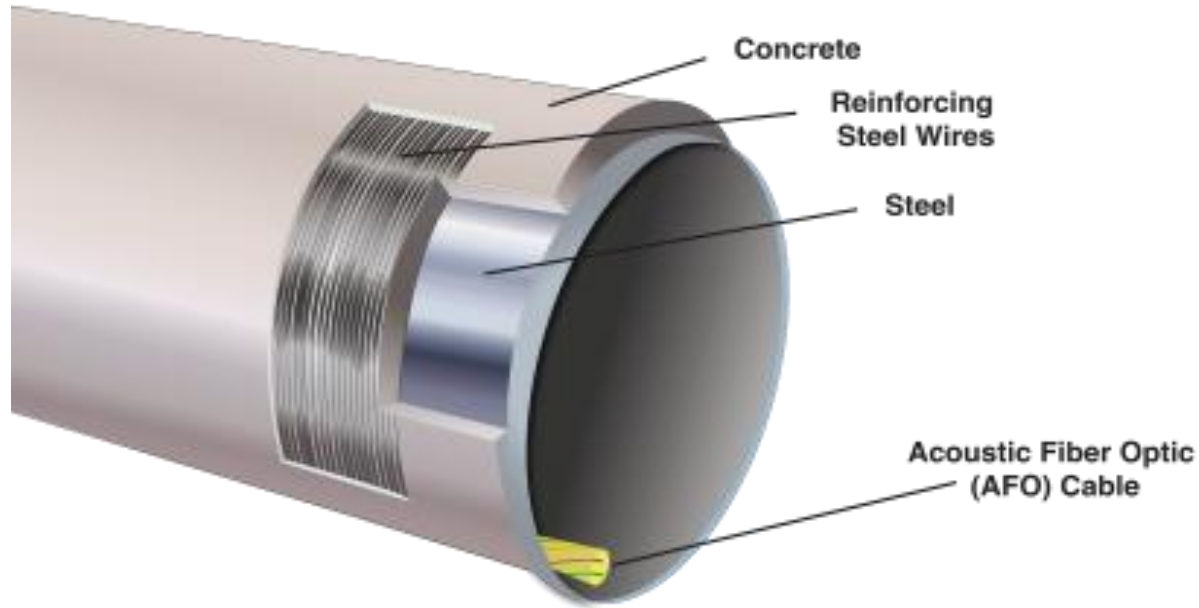


Detailed shutdown and restoration sequence



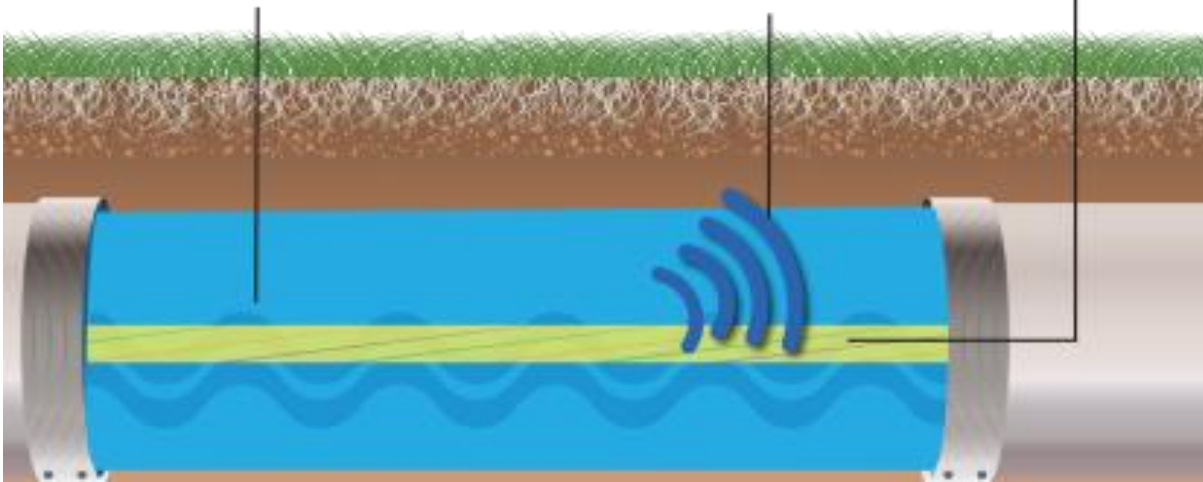
Internal operational coordination and notifications

Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP)



AFO cable floats inside PCCP and listens for "ping" of wire breaks

When AFO hears a "ping," the data is recorded and sent to WSSC Water



Acoustic Fiber Optic (AFO) Monitoring

- WSSC Water has installed Acoustic Fiber Optic (AFO) cable technology within many of its large pre-stressed concrete cylinder pipes (PCCP).
- The AFO cable floats inside the pipe and continuously monitors the structural condition of PCCP water mains ranging from 36 to 96 inches in diameter.
- If a potential issue is detected, trained personnel are immediately notified for further evaluation and response.
- WSSC Water began installation of AFO technology in 2007 and has the longest active AFO monitoring system in the country at 110 miles.
- Thanks to AFO, WSSC Water can identify potential issues early and make repairs in a controlled environment, significantly reducing the likelihood of emergency repairs and associated costs.

No Current Risk to Drinking Water Service



Water Quality Unaffected

Water quality remains unaffected, service is unaffected and the water is safe.

No Immediate Action Required

Officials and community members do not need to take any action at this time.

Reduced Resilience

Combination of this vulnerability and ongoing work have impacted the resilience of the water system.

What are the risks if the pipe fails?



Pipe failure could result in an **Essential Use Only Request** or a **Boil Water Advisory (BWA)** for portions/all of the impacted area.



Loss/no water for portions/all of the area is possible temporarily while the repair is completed.



If WSSC Water's system loses pressure, we would issue a BWA and sample water from across the area to ensure it is safe for consumption.

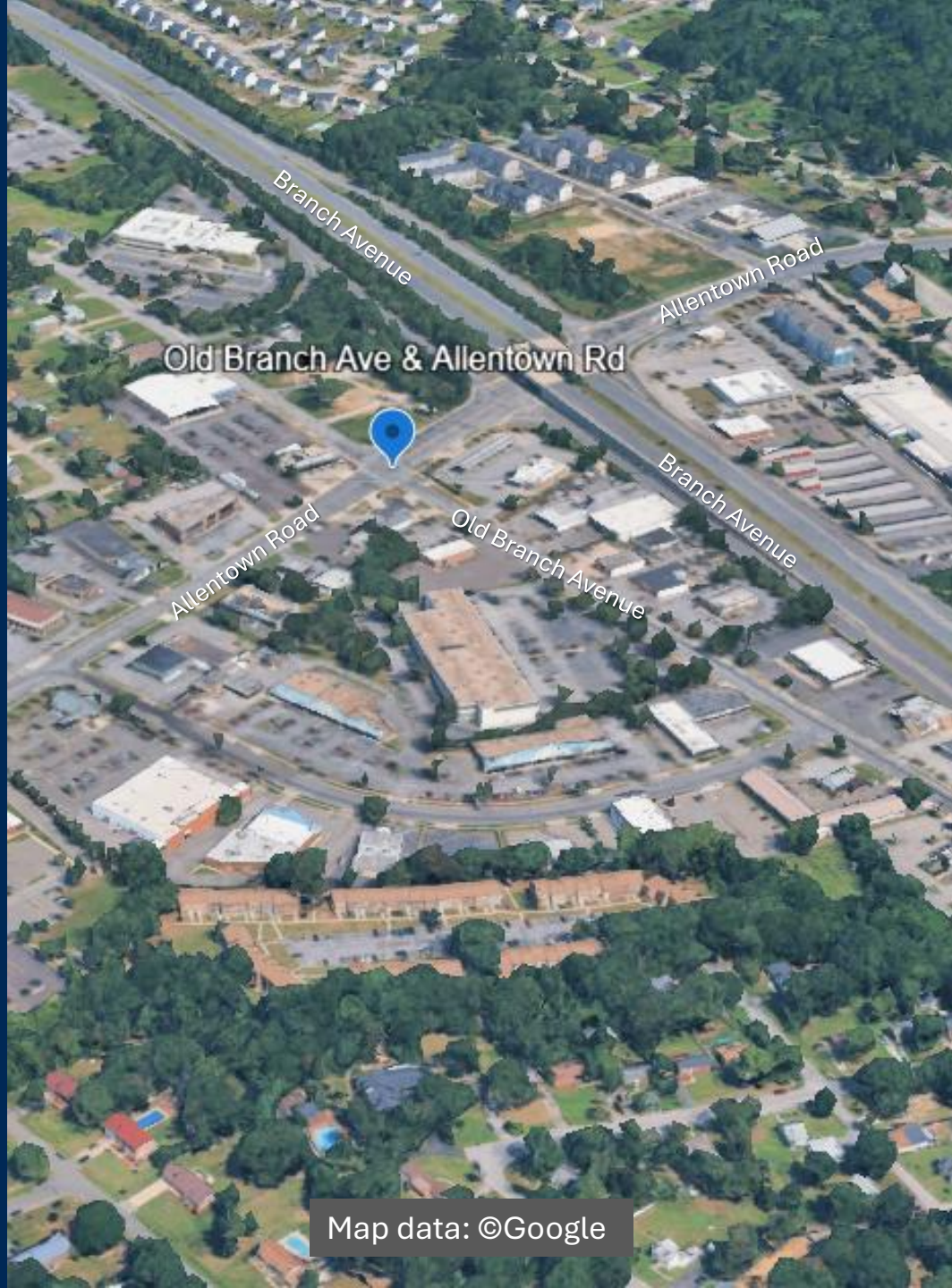
Once water safety has been confirmed, WSSC Water will lift the BWA and will notify customers that the advisory has been lifted.

Ongoing Capital Improvements to Increase Resilience for Southern Prince George's County



Old Branch Avenue 30-inch Water Main Replacement Project

- Located in the Clinton area of Southern Prince George's County on Old Branch Avenue between Allentown Road and Woodyard Road.
- This project is installing 3.05 miles of new 16-inch through 30-inch diameter water main – increasing capacity and redundancy.
- Remaining work consists of installing 3 valves, 2 valve vaults, 80 linear feet of 24-inch diameter pipe, and 40 linear feet of 30-inch diameter pipe at the intersection of Old Branch Avenue and Allentown Road.
- **This project is being accelerated** due to the necessary repairs at Dower House Road and will provide redundancy while that repair is completed.
- Work is expected to be completed **August 2026**, including final paving and striping.



Clinton Zone Phase IV 42-inch Water Main Replacement Project

- Work began in November 2024 and is estimated to be completed in **fall 2026**, including final paving and striping.
- Remaining work consists of installing 600 linear feet of 42-inch water main on Surratts Road and completing 36-inch tie at Brandywine Road & Piscataway Road intersection.
- **Current impacts:**
 - Overnight work and right-hand lane closure on Piscataway Road Eastbound at Brandywine Road.
 - This work began on June 7 and is taking place Sunday through Thursday, from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m., for approximately 6 to 8 weeks, weather permitting.



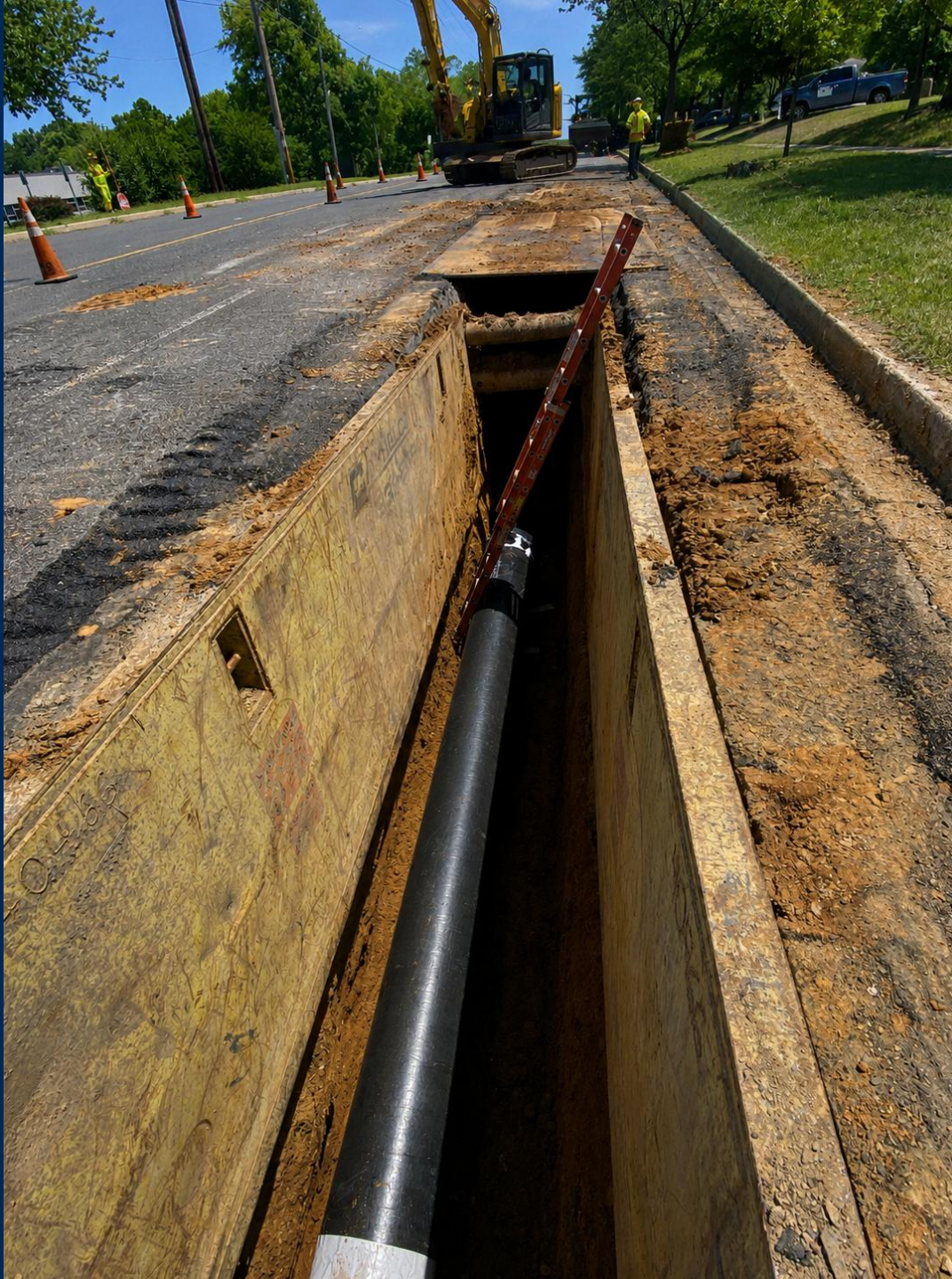
← Pictured left: Traffic control on Surratts Road (June 2026)

Allentown Road & Steeds Grant Way 16-inch Water Main Replacement Project

- This project is **65% complete**
- Work began in October 2025 and is estimated to be completed in **spring 2027**, including final paving and striping.
- 3200 feet of 16-inch water main has been replaced, with 1000 feet remaining.
- Bypass installation has begun to prepare for water house connections.

← Pictured left: Crews performing compaction testing on Allentown Road after installation of 16-inch water main (May 2026)





Bock Road Water Main & Browns Lane Pressure Reducing Valve Replacement Project

- This project is **10% complete**
- This project involves replacing 2.26 miles of 4, 6, 8, 10 and 20-inch water mains and installing a new pressure reducing valve vault at the intersection of Browns lane and Bock Road.
- Construction began in March 2026 and is estimated to be completed in **October 2027**, including final paving and striping.
- Installation of new 20-inch water main is currently under way along Bock road. Approximately 200 linear feet of new water main has been installed so far.

← Pictured left: Installation of 20-inch water main at Bock Road



Customer
Notification
System

**Receive alerts about WSSC
Water-related incidents near
your home, office, school, or
other important addresses.**



Register for *text or email* alerts
on up to three addresses.

What can you do to help?

- Leverage your communications tools to amplify WSSC Water messages
- Encourage sign up to WSSC Water's Customer Notification System

REGISTER AT [WSSCWATER.COM/CNS](https://www.wsscwater.com/cns)

Next Steps

- If you experience a water or sewer emergency, report it through our Emergency Call Center at 301-206-4002 or email emergencycallcenter@wsscwater.com

REPORT A WATER OR SEWER EMERGENCY



301-206-4002



EmergencyCallCenter@wsscwater.com



WSSC Water Mobile App

Available on Apple App Store and Google Play



Questions?

