



# Potomac Interceptor

## Briefing on Treatment Emergency Preparedness

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# There is no current emergency and there has been *no spill or overflow*.

**WSSC Water** is actively monitoring a deteriorating section of DC Water's Potomac Interceptor (PI) located near C&O Canal Lock 22 (Pennyfield Lock) in Potomac – approximately 2.1 miles upstream of our Potomac Water Filtration Plant (WFP), which **produces ~70% of WSSC Water's drinking water supply**.



DC Water will mobilize June 15 to rehabilitate ~1,700 linear feet of the PI over several months.



WSSC Water is monitoring the situation closely and coordinating with regional partners to manage elevated risk to our primary intake.

While the pipe is not owned, maintained, operated or being repaired by WSSC Water, we remain fully prepared to protect public health, drinking water quality, and service reliability for our 1.9 million customers should a failure occur.



**Emergency Repair Site**  
C&O Canal Lock 22  
(Pennyfield Lock)

Montgomery  
County, MD



**Potomac Water Filtration Plant**

**Legend**


Potomac Interceptor

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Emergency Repair Site

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River Flow



Fairfax  
County, VA

# Drinking Water Production



## Potomac WFP

Approximately 70% of the drinking water for our 1.9 million customers, typically producing **120-140 million gallons daily.**

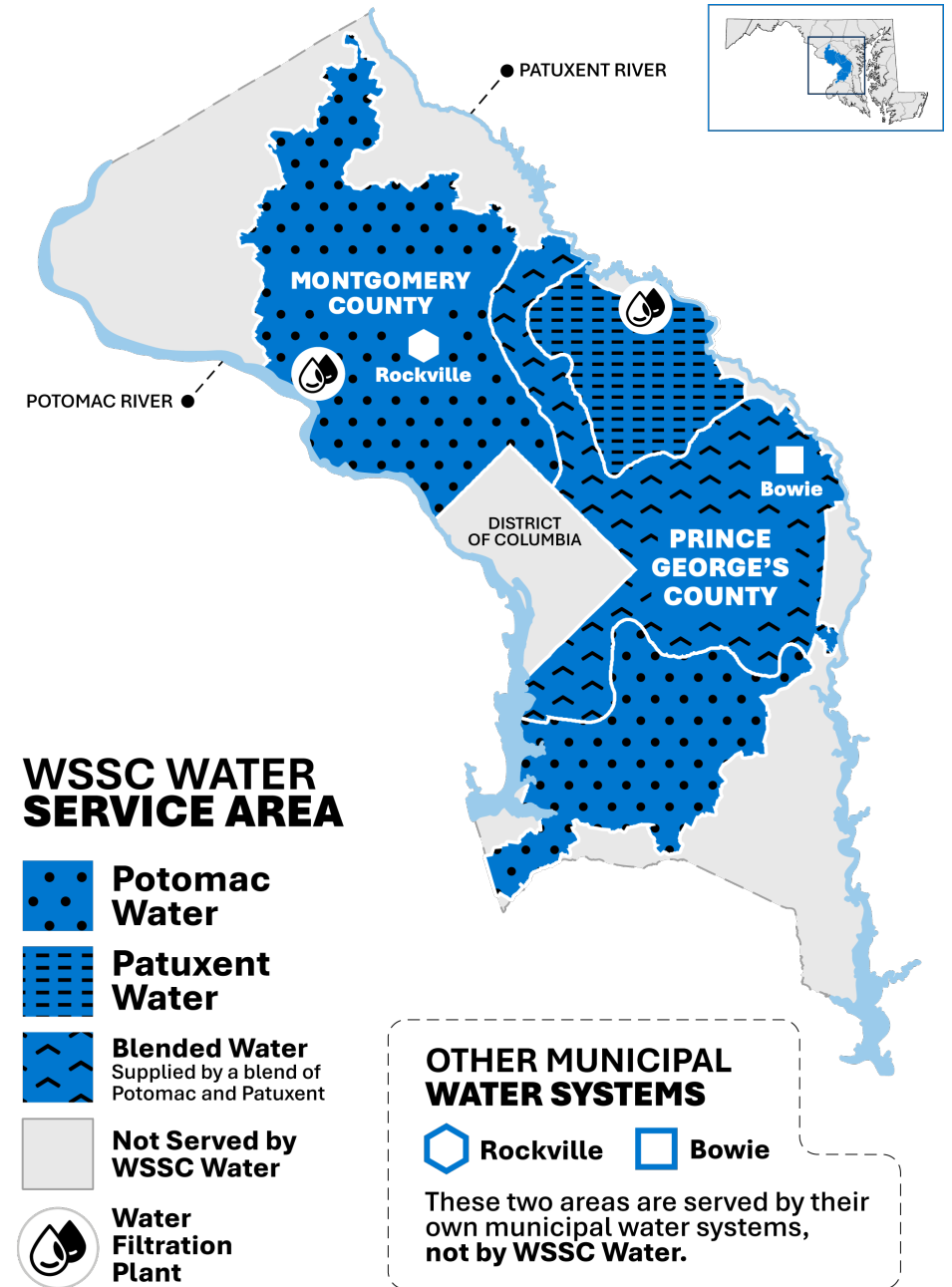
Treated water storage across our system provides additional operational flexibility and resilience.

\*Ability to produce 70-90 million gallons daily if needed.



## Patuxent WFP

Approximately 30% of the drinking water for our 1.9 million customers, typically producing **30-60\* million gallons daily.**





# What We Do Every Day

- Continuously monitor raw water entering the Potomac Water Filtration Plant.

Testing includes:

- Turbidity
  - Conductivity
  - pH
  - Organic carbon
  - Other key indicators
- Water quality experts monitor conditions 24/7.
  - Our treatment processes are designed to respond to changing source water conditions.
  - Early notification is CRITICAL.
    - **The sooner we are informed of a spill, overflow or changing conditions, the more options we have to protect water quality/public health, adjust operations and respond effectively.**

# If a Spill or Overflow Occurs

- ✓ **First priority:** protecting public health.
- ✓ Immediately evaluate river conditions and water quality.
- ✓ If necessary, temporarily close WFP intake while assessments are completed.
- ✓ Operational decisions will be guided by water quality data and established response plans.



Increase monitoring of water entering Potomac WFP to detect changes as early as possible.



Make operational and treatment adjustments

- Increase filter backwash cleaning frequency
- Enhance chlorine and ultraviolet disinfection doses



Closely monitor treated water quality indicators



Increase production at Patuxent WFP



Accelerate work with regional partners to stop the spill

# Possible Customer Actions



Depending on conditions, WSSC Water may issue an **Essential Water Use Only** request.



The goal would be to preserve system reliability and maintain fire protection capacity.



Customers would receive clear communication and guidance if action becomes necessary.

**Note:** Increased chlorination may result in temporary chlorine odor (swimming pool smell) but the water would remain safe to drink and use.



# Protecting Water Quality

- Modern water treatment facilities are designed to treat challenging source water conditions.
- Before resuming any intake operations, our experts would verify that water can be safely treated.

# Building Long-Term Resilience

- This situation highlights the importance of strengthening regional water supply resilience.
- On Tuesday, June 9, WSSC Water, Fairfax Water, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and government partners launched the Secure the Source study.
- The landmark, two-year study will evaluate options for several weeks of emergency backup water supply storage for the region.
- Regional challenges require regional solutions.

# Secure the Source Study



# Key Takeaways

**There is no current emergency and there has been no spill or overflow.**

- WSSC Water is closely monitoring the situation and coordinating with regional partners.
- We have established response plans and operational strategies designed to protect public health and safeguard drinking water quality.
- In our 108-year history, WSSC Water has never had a single drinking water quality violation.
- We are committed to proactive and transparent communication to keep our customers, stakeholders and regional partners informed.
- Mobilization: week of June 15, contractor is currently delivering materials to the site.
- Substantial completion: October 2026.



**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 five addresses.

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

# Contact

For more information, please email:

WSSC Water Office of Emergency Management  
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