



FROM THE TAP

THE WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS OFFICE



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Confirmed Commission Meetings

April 16, 2008
May 21, 2008
June 18, 2008

Auditorium
Richard G. Hocevar Building
14501 Sweitzer Lane
Laurel, MD-20707

Locations and dates subject to change. Check our website or call the Commission Office at 301-206-8000 to verify dates and times.

Can the Grease



Fats, oils and grease can clog sewer pipes and damage your home and the environment.

See Page 3 for details on canning your grease.

Earth Month April 2008

WSSC remains committed to our role as environmental stewards and we have many exciting events planned to celebrate Earth Month this April. We invite you to join in and help us make a difference in our own communities.

The Commission is dedicated to protecting and preserving water quality and is proud to be a partner in the Patuxent Reservoirs Watershed Protection Group.

We invite everyone to help protect and preserve our water resources. Register today for the following events by calling (301) 206-8240 or go to www.wsscwater.com and click on Earth Month.

April 5 from 9 am to noon

Join watershed neighbors, scout troops and school groups at various WSSC recreation sites on Rocky Gorge and

Triadelphia Reservoirs. Sites include Big Branch, Brownsbridge Road, Greensbridge Road, Pigtail Rec. Area, Scotts Cove, Supplee, or the Triadelphia Rec. Area

Or join the Isaak Walton League Wildlife Achievement Chapter in Damascus. Contact Meo Curtis at 301-604-3736 for more information.

April 12 noon to 4 pm

The H2O Fest Watershed Festival will be held on Brooklyn Bridge Road in Laurel between Bond Mill Road and Rt. 95. The festival will include Wetland on Wheels Environmental Concern, Inc., children's crafts table, WSSC sewer cleaning and inspection truck display, outside tours of T.H. Duckett Dam, Smart Car Fortwo, rain barrel raffle, live oyster demonstration, and a

wind power display.

Join WSSC, local elementary schools, government agencies, Boy Scouts of America, and the Patuxent Riverkeeper for an afternoon of thinking green to protect blue.

Call 301-206-8240 or go to www.wsscwater.com for details on these events.



The WSSC Water Fund

The Water Fund was created to help residential customers pay their delinquent water/sewer bills. It is maintained through the generous donations of community members in the Washington Suburban Sanitary District and is administered by the Salvation Army.

WSSC is responsible for coordinating funds disbursed to customers by the Salvation Army. This coordination entails verifying the total owed by the customer, placing a hold on the

account to allow time for payment, and tracking the amount contributed from the Water Fund.

The Salvation Army has been designated responsible for determining whether applicants qualify for assistance. The maximum any customer may receive is one yearly award of \$300 or less. To apply, you must receive water/sewer bills in your name, apply to the Salvation Army serving the county in which you reside, present picture identification, and

supply proof that your income falls within the established threshold. (This threshold is based on nationwide poverty figures for the number of occupants in a household, multiplied by 75%.)

Contact the Salvation Army in Montgomery County 301-515-5354 or in Prince George's County 301-277-6103.





State Watch: 2008 Legislative Session

WSSC RELATED BILLS

The following bills impacting WSSC have been filed for the 2008 Regular Session. The Montgomery County House Delegation will act first on WSSC bills this year.

PG/MC 102-08 has been reintroduced as amended in the 2007 Session. *WSSC and Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission - Appointments - Interviews and Financial Statements.*

WSSC Commissioners voted to Support this bill November 2007.

As of 3/21/2008, this bill has been reported out as Favorable by the Montgomery County House and Senate Delegations, and the Montgomery County Senate Delegation. It is awaiting

action by the Prince George's County Senate Delegation. It has also passed the full House (137-0) and awaits action in the full Senate.

PG/MC 104-08 has been introduced on behalf of the Prince George's County Council. *Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission - Budget Approval.*

WSSC Commissioners voted to Oppose this bill December 2007.

This bill was withdrawn from Session 3/12/2008.

PG/MC 106-08 has been introduced on behalf of the Prince George's County Council. *Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission - Systems Development Surcharge-Exemptions.*

WSSC Commissioners voted to support this bill December 2007.

This bill was withdrawn from Session 3/3/2008.

PG/MC 115-08 has been introduced by Del. Anne Healey. *Prince George's County Energy Tax-WSSC.*

WSSC Commissioners voted to Support this bill January 2008.

As of 3/21/2008, this bill has been reported out as Favorable by the Montgomery and Prince George's Counties House Delegations. It awaits action by the Montgomery County Senate Delegation.

Contact the WSSC Intergovernmental Relations Office at 301-206-8228 with questions or for information.

2008 SESSION DATES

3/24/08: Opposite Chamber Bill Crossover Date

3/31/08: Budget bill to be passed by both Chambers

4/7/08: Sine Die, last day of the 2008 Session

5/7/08: Final day for an extended Session.



Federal Outlook: Infrastructure Funding

Policymakers are giving increased attention to issues associated with financing and investing in the nation's drinking water and wastewater treatment systems, which take in water, treat it, and distribute it to households and other customers, and later collect, treat, and discharge water after use. The renewed attention is due to a combination of factors. These include financial impacts on communities of meeting existing and anticipated regulatory requirements, the need to repair and replace existing infrastructure, and concerns about paying for security-related projects.

The federal government has a long history of involvement with wastewater and drinking water systems,

with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) having the most significant role, both in terms of regulation and funding. The U.S. Department of Agriculture also plays an important role in rural communities through its water and wastewater loan and grant programs. These programs have been popular; however, states, local communities, and others have asserted that various program gaps and limitations may be diminishing their potential effectiveness. They also point to the emergence of new infrastructure needs and issues.

A number of interest groups and coalitions have issued reports on infrastructure funding needs and related policy issues, as

have EPA and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). They present a range of estimates and scenarios of future investment costs and gaps between current spending and future costs. EPA and CBO, in particular, caution that projections of future costs are highly uncertain, and that funding gaps are not inevitable. Increased investment, sought by many stakeholders, is one way to shrink the spending gaps, but so, too, are other strategies such as asset management, more efficient pricing, and better technology.

Congressional interest in these issues has grown for some time and is continuing in the 110th Congress. In each of the past three Congresses, House and

Senate committees acted on legislation to reauthorize and modify infrastructure financing programs in the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act, but no bills were enacted. The Bush Administration has addressed water infrastructure in a number of general ways, but has not offered legislative proposals of its own. EPA's principal initiative has been to support strategies intended to ensure that infrastructure investment needs are met in an efficient, timely, and equitable manner. Questions still remain where Congress will find the money to pay for infrastructure investments and by what methodology the money would be allocated if found.

Source: CRS RL31116 (1/23/2008)



Centralized Bidder Registration (CBR)

The WSSC Acquisition Office has enhanced the Bidder's Registration process with the implementation of our Centralized Bidder Registration (CBR) System.

As of December 3, 2007 ALL WSSC vendors and prospective vendors have been **REQUIRED** to be registered in the WSSC's CBR System database before they can view and receive complete WSSC solicitations.

Benefits of the CBR Include

- Automatic notification of bid opportunities that meet your selected criteria.
- Easy updates and maintenance of your company's contact information.
- Identification of SLBE / MBE businesses for subcontracting opportunities.

Contact Information

If you have questions about the WSSC CBR System, you will find a complete list of questions and answers on the Acquisitions' website www.wsscwater.com/business/CBR/FAQ.cfm.

You can also contact our Acquisitions Department directly calling 301-206-8288 or emailing AcquisitionOffice@wsscwater.com.

If you are a certified minority or small local business owner and have questions about certification and registration, you will find information on the SLMBE Office's website www.wsscwater.com/business/slmbe_program.cfm. You may also call them at 301-206-8800 or email slmbe@wsscwater.com

WSSC and Can The Grease

Grease poured down kitchen drains can clog sewer pipes, spewing sewage into the streams and rivers or into your basement.

Follow these easy steps to prevent sewage back-ups and overflows:

- Never pour kitchen grease or oil down the drain, even if you are "washing it down" with hot water.

- Pour cooled grease into a can (a soup can works great) and throw in the trash.
- Some cooking oils can be recycled into biofuels. Check to see if your county accepts cooking oil at their recycling facility.
- Some food and sauces have oils in them.

Scrape food into the trash or put into your compost pile.

For more information on what you can do to protect your home and environment from sewage back-ups and overflows, ask WSSC to send a speaker to your association meeting or classroom.

To request a WSSC presentation, free of charge, send an email to

communications@wsscwater.com, or call 301-206-8100.

You can also find a request form at www.wsscwater.com and clicking on Public Information, then Community Outreach.



The WSSC Customer Care Team

All of us at the WSSC welcome you to our family of valued customers. You are part of a family numbering 1.8 million residents who have come to expect water that meets or exceeds all standards for purity.

Our customers also depend upon us to safely collect, treat, and dispose of all wastewater. We are committed to providing you with a superior product. Our commitment to excellence also includes providing you with responsive, professional customer services.

The Customer Care Team in charged with caring for numerous areas of customer service including strategic planning, support services and customer relations. We encourage you to visit our website. www.wsscwater.com/service/index.cfm. You will find a wealth of information on many important topics for you and your family. We have links to detailed information about sewer blockages and backups, meter questions and answers, pinhole leaks, fire hydrants, claims for

damage, and billing options.

You can also call if you have additional questions, 301-206-4001 or 800-634-8400. If you wish to speak to a representative, call between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Or, dial those same numbers to access our Interactive Voice Response System that is available virtually around the clock. By using your touch-tone phone, you can check bill and payment information, enter a meter reading, or inquire

about a seven-day payment extension.

WSSC and the Customer Care Team are here to serve you . . . and we're proud to have the opportunity to do so!



Frequently Asked Questions Pharmaceuticals in Drinking Water

What is this I am hearing about drugs being in my drinking water?

The Associated Press is reporting that trace amounts of several pharmaceutical drugs have been found in the nation's drinking water. These pharmaceutical products used by people eventually find their way into the water supplies. The AP story also highlights how advances in technology now allow water industry professionals to detect more substances – at extremely low, trace levels – than ever before.

WSSC and our partners in the industry have been studying this issue for the past several years. The fact that a substance is detectable does not mean its presence is harmful to people. To date, research has not demonstrated an impact on human health from pharmaceuticals in drinking water when found that these incredibly low, trace levels.

Is my drinking water safe?

WSSC's water is safe because it meets or exceeds all safe drinking water standards. For our 89-year history, WSSC has always met or exceeded – and continues to meet or exceed – prevailing federal and state drinking water standards.

Should I use a filter or drink bottled water?

The best research to date does not demonstrate that there is a human health risk due to the extremely low levels of pharmaceuticals that may sometimes be present in drinking water. If you are concerned about this issue, we would recommend you consult your physician. If you choose to use home water filtration devices or bottled water to minimize risk, you would need to consult with manufacturers or providers of these alternatives on their ability to remove pharmaceuticals.

What kinds of drugs are being found? At what levels?

The drugs that were found in trace amounts in the Washington area were: Caffeine; the pain relievers Ibuprofen and Naproxen; Triclocarban, a disinfectant found in soap; Monensin, an antibiotic given to cattle; Sulfamethoxazole, an antibiotic used to treat infections; and Carbamazepine, an anti-seizure drug.

They were all found in extremely small amounts. People regularly consume or expose themselves to products containing various drugs in much higher concentrations through medicines, foods, beverages and other sources. The levels in which they are found in drinking water is incredibly minute by comparison.

For example, in the case of one of the pharmaceuticals that is most commonly found in drinking water sources, Carbamazepine, a person would have to drink more than 5,000 glasses of water a day to reach the limit of what is considered to be an acceptable daily intake.

What is WSSC doing about this issue?

This is not just a local issue. It is a national and regional issue. WSSC and other water utilities have funded leading industry research on water quality for many years. WSSC contributes to agencies such as the American Water Works Association Research Foundation (AwwaRF) and the Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF) to support their research projects, which include leading research on the issue of pharmaceuticals in water. WSSC will continue to support and monitor research on this issue. We will take prudent steps, as warranted, to ensure that we are providing safe, clean water to the community.



Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

Intergovernmental Relations Office

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