



2016 Accomplishments

Potomac River Basin Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership

Government Committee

- Held a meeting on August 16th in Frederick, Maryland, to discuss interest in collaborative source water protection with stakeholders in the Monocacy and Catoctin watersheds. Stakeholders are interested in pursuing a collaborative approach to source water protection and identified spill response as an initial priority issue to address. A follow-up meeting is being planned for early 2017.

Enhancing chemical contaminant knowledge

- Explored two tools for identifying contaminant sources in basin: Corona Environmental's WaterSuite and EPA's DWMAPS.
- The WaterSuite project was completed in early summer and utility members participated in a training session led by Corona Environmental and hosted by Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments.
- Utility and state members participated in a day-long WaterSuite work session led by ICPRB and hosted by Fairfax Water on July 28th. During the work session, participants dove deeper into the results of the susceptibility analysis and explored the potential applications of WaterSuite in the basin.

Source protection from toxic and non-toxic algae

- Created an online repository and information sharing site (Microsoft SharePoint site maintained by EPA Region 3) to post resources on harmful algal blooms.
- Participated in multiple HAB-related webinars including:
 - EPA Inland HAB Discussion Group, 10/20/16
 - Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and Capacity Building in Action, 9/20/16
 - Solve a Major Water Quality Issue: HABs, 9/13/16
 - HABs Educate and Engage Webinar, 9/1/16
 - Cyanobacteria Monitoring Program in New England, 8/31/16
 - EPA HABs Strategy Discussion, 8/9/16
 - Penn State HABs Webinar, 6/21/16
 - EPA Webinar: Responding to HABs, Optimization Guidelines, 5/31/16

Implement improvements to spill response

- Identified top three priorities from previous spill events and exercises:
 - Develop a monitoring plan
 - Develop a secure web-portal for internal spill event communications

- Conduct outreach to potential sources of contamination to inform them of sensitive resources downstream
- Using a set of criteria for a web communications portal, ICPRB setup the PotomacSpills@groups.io to test the use of the application during a spill event. The portal uses a blog format to share pertinent information related to a spill event and broadcasts this information to pre-approved members of the group. A calendar function allows the results of ICPRB's spill model to be posted as calendar items showing the approximate date and time the spill will reach each downstream intake.
- A spill monitoring plan is being drafted, reviewed, and further refined during the final months of 2016.
- Five facilities upstream of Little Falls have been identified to conduct outreach in 2017. A draft letter of invitation to tour a utility member's water treatment plan will be completed by December 2016. Talking points are being compiled to guide discussions with facility representatives and outreach will begin in 2017.

Urban Issues

- Participated in a regional road salts workshop on June 27th hosted by Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments.

Reaching Out

- Produced the 2015 Annual Report.
- Developing a draft pamphlet on the benefits of joining the Partnership to be used for recruiting smaller drinking water utilities to become members.