



2017 Work Plan

Potomac River Basin Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership

Priority Projects

Enhancing chemical contaminant knowledge in our watershed: Using available tools to better understand the impact of facilities on our sources of drinking water supply.

This project will focus on chemical contaminant risks by better understanding the chemicals stored and utilized in the Potomac basin. Building on the newly developed WaterSuite tool, the Partnership will define how to use the tool moving forward and formalize a governance structure between MWCOG and the utilities. Users of the tool will continue to add appropriate data and information with a focus on collecting outstanding SARA Tier II data. Work will continue on facility outreach materials and initial contact with upstream facilities will begin. Identifying and prioritizing risk from upstream sources will continue throughout the year.

Implement improvements to regional, cooperative spill response.

The Partnership, along with regional partners will implement identified spill response improvements such as setting up a means for information sharing, holding an exercise, and learning more about available chemical information. In 2017, the Partnership will continue to refine a spill monitoring plan, enhance spill communications using the PotomacSpills@groups.io web portal, and plan a spill exercise in the upper basin.

Explore source water protection activities related to toxic and non-toxic algae.

Information and resources on toxic and non-toxic algae will continue to be posted to the project Microsoft Sharepoint site hosted by EPA Region 3. Participation in relevant algae webinars will continue while a more specific algae project is formed based on the work group's interests and available resources.

On-Going Efforts

DWSPP Communications

The Reaching Out workgroup will continue to produce the annual report, make updates to outreach materials, and assist the other projects as needed. A pamphlet on the benefits of joining the partnership will be created to recruit more small drinking water systems.

Water Quality Data

The main aim of the Water Quality Data workgroup is to support other workgroups by gathering data and information for their efforts. The workgroup will support any or all of the projects, as required.

Explore creation of upstream source water committee(s)

The Government Committee will continue to build on momentum from the first Monocacy-Catoctin watersheds stakeholders meeting. The committee is currently planning a second meeting in early 2017 with additional meetings likely. An initial meeting for stakeholders in West Virginia is also being planned for early 2017.

Workgroup Issue tracking

The established workgroups will continue to monitor and report on research and legislation on topics of interest. This may include:

- Emerging Contaminants – pharmaceuticals, endocrine disruptors, microbeads
- Early Warning and Emergency Response – pipeline safety
- Urban Issues – road salts, water quality standards, stormwater

Other (pursued with outside funding)

An Assessment of Forest Protection Opportunities and Potential Reductions in Sediments, Nutrients, and Total Organic Carbon in the Freshwater Potomac River

With funding from the Water Research Foundation, the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, DC Water, Fairfax Water, Washington Aqueduct, and WSSC, ICPRB will conduct a two-year research effort to:

- determine future water quality changes near Fairfax Water, Washington Aqueduct, and WSSC's Potomac intakes by preserving varying degrees of existing forested lands;
- conduct an initial assessment of the impact of water quality changes on treatment costs; and
- use the results to develop recommendations for source water protection activities.

During the first year of work the utilities worked with ICPRB to develop quantitative relationships between raw water quality, water quality chemical dose and subsequently treatment costs.