



## 2015 Accomplishments

### Potomac River Basin Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership

#### Government Committee

Initial meetings were held in the Monocacy watershed and with West Virginia systems to discuss interest in a collaborative source water effort.

#### Emerging Contaminants

- Tracked UCMR3 data as available from Potomac basin utilities to identify and understand trends. Summaries of EPA's January and June 2015 data sets prepared and distributed.
- Information session on Chlorate held during February 2015 Partnership meeting, summary available on Partnership's website.
- Participated in ad hoc group on algae and algal toxins.
- Participated in early planning meetings, tracked and reported progress at Partnership quarterly meetings on DC Water's new research project on "Assessing the Impact of Anthropogenic Discharges on Endocrine Disruption in the Potomac River Watershed."
- Supported WRF Project 4551 (Terminology for Improved Communication Regarding CECs).
- Tracked research reports relevant to emerging contaminants and drinking water; reviewed USGS report on ECs in septic systems; participated in EPA Region 3 Pharmaceuticals & Personal Care Products/Contaminants of Emerging Concern Workgroup calls.
- Tracked and reported on US Senate and House chemical reform bills; noted passage of new law on harmful algal blooms.
- Promoted and supported national drug take back event held on 26 September 2015.
- Supported Urban Issues workgroup by reviewing several NPDES facility permit renewals.

#### Urban Issues

- Conducted a survey on water utilities' understanding of the Water Quality Standards program and its relation to source water protection efforts.
- Participated in the NPDES public review process for several permit renewals in the Potomac Watershed.
- Continued efforts to work with entities regionally on best management practices regarding deicing chemicals to reduce their impact on sources of drinking water supply.
- Sponsored an informational session featuring a USGS presentation on Increasing River Chloride Trends in Snow-Affected Urban Watersheds.

### **Early Warning and Emergency Response**

- Participated in discussions of EPA's DWMAPS and Corona's WaterSuite tool. Utility members have invested in WaterSuite and actively participated in its development. The issue of how to share information with Partnership members is still under discussion. Assisted Corona with the delineation of the zone of critical concern for their analysis of potential threats.
- Participated in a large-scale exercise with Colonial Pipeline. The exercise focused on helping the players determine their role(s) within a unified command. It provided the utilities and Colonial Pipeline to better understand each other's capabilities and constraints.
- Conducted follow-up activities from spills to improve regional response.
- ICPRB and COG completed annual updates to their respective contact lists for spill events.

### **Water Quality Data**

- Reached out to each basin state to discuss the data they collect, their monitoring programs, and findings on water quality conditions in general. The focus this year was on Maryland.
- With the workgroup's input a map of the data gathering effort in the basin was created by ICPRB. It is linked to on the workgroup webpage. The workgroup assisted in trying to track down some of the missing data points. Data were gathered on the HAB monitoring stations in the Potomac basin.
- Participated in the ad hoc workgroup on algae and algal toxins.
- Sponsored an information session on water quality monitoring efforts in Maryland.
- Supported other workgroups by maintaining an inventory of water quality data in the basin and helped with analysis as required.

### **Reaching Out**

- Assisted the Emerging Contaminants workgroup with UCMR3 communications efforts.
- Produced the 2014 Annual Report, including a re-design.
- Re-designed the website and transferred web content.
- Submitted and awarded Water Research Foundation grant for ICPRB to conduct an assessment of forest protection opportunities and potential reductions in sediments, nutrients, and total organic carbon.
- Participated in panel discussion for Virginia Tech Executive Masters class on source water protection in the Potomac basin.
- Shared Public Notification Plan and drinking water advisory templates with West Virginia systems.