



2016 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. The project will utilize the newly developed WaterSuite tool (thereby serving to help QA/QC the draft tool), and regulatory program tools such as NPDES permits, SPCC plans, AST and UST regulations, to gain a more complete understanding of the entire spectrum of chemicals that are stored, transported, or otherwise used within the Potomac basin. The objective is to utilize chemical information in order develop action items that will help minimize the potential impact on drinking water supplies. Potential examples of actionable items would be comments on permits, discussions with state regulators, and directly engaging companies/entities in dialogue. Much as the Partnership has “moved the ball” with actionable dialogue with Colonial Pipeline, this project seeks to generate actionable follow-up for the next tier of risks to water supply.

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.

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

This effort will define the source water protection aspects related to toxic and non-toxic algae that are not already being handled by others in the region. Communication resources will be developed as needed.

On-Going Efforts

DWSP Communications

The Reaching Out workgroup will continue to produce the annual report, make updates to outreach materials, and assist the other projects as needed.

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 work with water systems and county planners in areas upstream of the DC area to determine interest in pursuing collaborative source water protection.

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)

Regional Source Water Assessment and Data System Tool

COG and the National Capital Region utilities are working with Corona Environmental Consulting to build a tool for a basin-wide source water assessment (WaterSuite). The project's tasks include:

- Develop a methodology for identifying and organizing possible sources of contamination
- Develop an information system to facilitate methodology application and fast access to potential source of contamination data
- Calibrate the methods developed based on efforts by Greater Cincinnati Water Works and other partners
- Use tools to update Potomac Source Water Assessment

The Partnership may be asked to weigh in during the development of the tool, including how the tool could be used to determine priorities for the Partnership and further source water protection goals.

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 will work with ICPRB to develop quantitative relationships between raw water quality and treatment costs.