

# POTOMAC RIVER BASIN DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PARTNERSHIP



## 2022

## Annual Report

A coalition of water utilities and state, interstate, and federal agencies working together to amplify regional source water protection since 2005.



# A MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS



Rudy Chow,  
Washington Aqueduct



Dwayne Roadcap,  
Virginia Department of Health

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Safe, trusted, and affordable drinking water requires hard work. Source water protection matters. Everyone depends on drinking water, which protects public health and ensures economic prosperity. Many enjoy recreational swimming, boating, fishing, and other outdoor activities that depend on clean water. Wildlife depends on it too.

Dedicated professionals from many organizations must collaborate and make decisions to ensure water is safe and available. The Potomac River Basin Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership (DWSPP) honors this commitment and has worked to protect drinking water for 18 years and counting. Emerging contaminants, such as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), salt and de-icing management, microplastics, pathogens, and other point and non-point source pollution, pose potential risks to public health within the watershed. The DWSPP's work on these priorities improves emergency preparedness and response, reduces risks, and improves decision-making. We look forward to everyone's help and participation in DWSPP's quarterly meetings, focused workgroups, and information sessions in 2023.



# DWSPP MEETING AT DC WATER'S "HQO"



First time meeting in person since 2019!

On November 2, 70 DWSPP members (40 virtual; 30 in person) convened for the annual meeting. Those in person met at DC Water's headquarters, cleverly named "HQO." The meeting focused on PFAS communications and included a review of DWSPP's 2022 accomplishments and a tour of HQO.



DC Water Headquarters

How was this building shaped?

The curvilinear building form adapts to the constraints of the site in the way that fluid conforms to a corner.

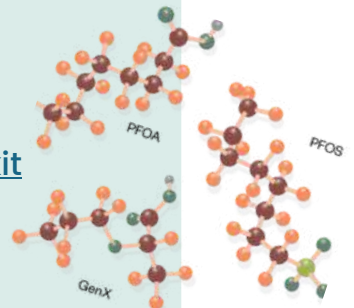


PFAS One Water Risk Communication Toolkit



DC Water's HQO

- Certified LEED Platinum
- 30,000-gallon cistern to capture rainwater for water reuse
- Wastewater powered heating
- Tinted glass sun shades to reduce energy



DWSPP Recorded Meetings:

- February 2, 2022
- August 4, 2022

# URBAN & INDUSTRIAL ISSUES

- Monitored, reviewed, and commented on NPDES facility renewals or other discharge issues
  - Merck, Sharp & Dohme (VA)
  - Allegany Ballistics Lab Site (WV) – Site Remediation
  - VERSO Luke facility Lime Kiln facility (WV) – Voluntary Site Remediation Application
  - Island Creek Coal Company (WV) – Underground Injection Permit
  - Maryland Water Quality Standards Triennial Update (MD)
- Supported coordination for WaterSuite with Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) Water Sector Program
  - Consideration of use of information on PFAS from WaterSuite GIS contamination source identification layer
- Focused on salinization issues from winter chemicals
  - Participated in National Science Foundation funded research in the Occoquan watershed
  - Participated in MWCOC regional salinization monitoring and education efforts



Chair: Greg Prelewicz,  
Fairfax Water

# EARLY WARNING & EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- Took the lead on the Spill Response Plan (from the Water Quality workgroup)
- Continues to operate and maintain the Microtox CTM Bioluminescence System to improve understanding of how to utilize the system for treatment decisions



Chair: Douglas Grimes,  
Fairfax Water

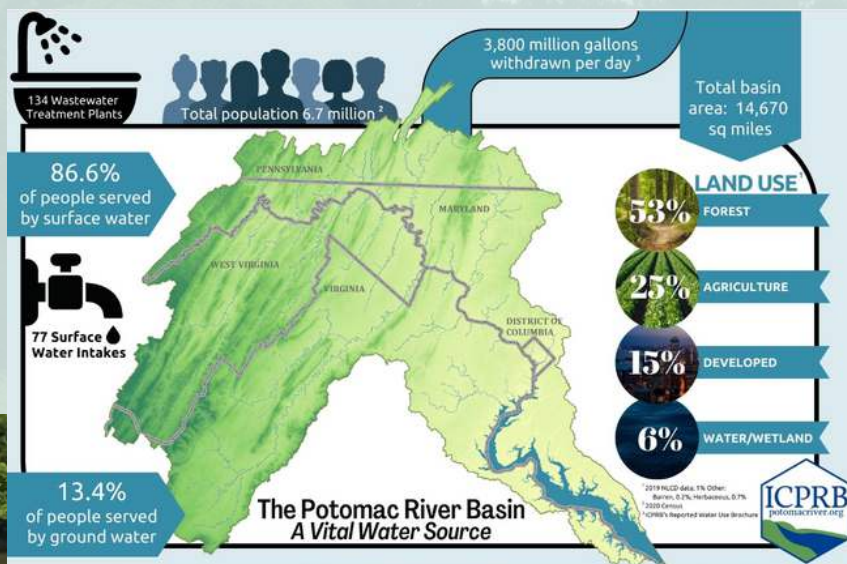


# REACHING OUT

- Created the [2021 DWSPP Annual Report](#)
- Developed and distributed the monthly "Members Only" newsletter to keep members up to date on DWSPP member and workgroup activities between quarterly meetings
- Created a [special newsletter](#) and shared social media posts celebrating National Source Water Protection Week
- Continues to identify and recruit new DWSPP members



Chair: Lisa Ragain,  
Metropolitan Washington  
Council of Governments



# WATER QUALITY

- Developed the [PFAS Monitoring Map](#)
- Tracked resources
  - Utility Spill Response Plan
  - Salt monitoring locations
  - Harmful algal blooms (HABs) monitoring locations map
  - Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) monitoring locations
- Collaborated with other workgroups
  - Spill Response Plan activities w/ Early Warning and Emergency Response workgroup



Chair: Niffy Saji,  
Fairfax Water



# AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

- Developed and enhanced relationships with state Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff in Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia
- ICPRB developed a watershed assessment for the [Little Pipe Creek watersheds](#), the first phase of the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI). MD NRCS will use this plan to make decisions about funding allocations, priority areas, and priority agricultural practices
- Engaged in stakeholder meetings for the recently selected Cacapon and Lost Rivers Watershed NWQI. The watershed was resubmitted for the planning phase in FY23
- Continued conversations with American Water Works Association (AWWA) about Farm Bill funding programs for source water protection, in anticipation for the new 2023 Farm Bill



Chair: Pam Kenel,  
Loudoun Water

# CONTAMINANTS OF EMERGING CONCERN

- Below are the priority CECs that the workgroup is focused on:
  - Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
  - Microplastics
  - Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) and Cyanotoxins
- Focus on Microplastics:
  - Members of the workgroup have been learning about and discussing microplastics with academics in our region and experts across North America.
  - ICPRB generated a white paper, "[Considerations for Monitoring Microplastics in the Non-Tidal Potomac River](#)," with financial support from the DWSPP and EPA.
  - Members are considering preliminary sampling to determine if methods are capable of detecting microplastics in source water in local watersheds.
- Water utility members of the workgroup are preparing for sampling starting in 2023 under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) – 29 of the 30 contaminants are PFAS compounds.



Chair: Bradley Schmitz,  
Loudoun Water



# ABOUT US

**Mission:** To serve as a cooperative and voluntary partnership working towards the goal of improved source water protection of the Potomac River in recognition of the vital role of the river in supplying drinking water to millions of people within the Potomac watershed and in support of the multi-barrier approach to safeguarding the drinking water supply for public health.



## 25 MEMBERS

### Government Agencies

- District of Columbia Department of Energy & Environment
- Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin
- Maryland Department of the Environment
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
- United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3
- United States Geological Survey
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- Virginia Department of Health
- West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources
- West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection

### Water Suppliers

- Berkeley County Public Service Water District, WV
- City of Frederick, MD
- City of Hagerstown, MD
- City of Rockville, MD
- Corporation of Harpers Ferry, WV
- DC Water
- Fairfax Water
- Frederick County, MD
- Loudoun Water
- Town of Leesburg, VA
- Town of Romney, WV
- Town of Shepherdstown, WV
- Washington Aqueduct
- Washington County, MD
- WSSC Water



[www.potomacdwspp.org](http://www.potomacdwspp.org)