



## COG WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM UPDATES

(As of 3/17/16)

### General Water Resources:

Updates on work supported by COG's RWQM Work Program and other water-related activities supported by COG's Department of Environmental Programs

### Water Quality & Source Water Protection

#### Dominion Power Plans to Flush Coal Tar

The Virginia State Water Control Board has approved Dominion Power's plan to treat and flush millions of gallons of coal ash water from the Possum Point power plant into Quantico Creek, but it is being met with some regional opposition.

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To read the full article  
[click here.](#)

#### Drug Take Back Options, Protective of Water Quality

COG's Community Engagement Campaign will be promoting the **DEA Drug Take Back Day on April 30, 2016**. Regional CVS stores sell postage paid envelopes for mailing unwanted medications. CVS will also partners with law enforcement agencies by donating drug take back kiosks to police departments. Walgreens has advertised that it will be installing drug take back kiosks in some of its stores nationwide.

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For more information  
visit [www.protectyourpipes.org](http://www.protectyourpipes.org)

### Water Infrastructure

#### Water Infrastructure Survey

COG staff will be transmitting surveys to COG's local governments and water utilities to help update and expand on the region's water infrastructure database. This data will be used to help ensure that accurate and up-to-date data for the region's wastewater, drinking water and stormwater systems and facilities is available to support various COG factsheets, reports and in some cases to ensure that CBP modeling data for the region is accurate.

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### Wastewater

#### RWFFM & WWTP Data

COG is working to update the Regional Wastewater Flow Forecast Model (RWFFM) to generate new flow projections for COG's WWTPs, based on the COG's recently approved Round 8.4 demographic data trends. COG is also working to send out a survey to update/verify the historical wastewater data for the region. This will not only help provide accurate and up-to-date data for various COG factsheets and other water infrastructure summaries; but the data will also ensure that the inputs to the CBP's models is accurate. This wastewater data also aided into gathering the water-related emissions and other findings for COG's GHG inventory project.

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#### State of the Art (SOA) / Enhanced Nutrient Reductions (ENR)

COG's wastewater treatment plants have either completed or will complete their plant upgrades to meet stricter SOA/ENR nitrogen requirements for the Bay TMDL. Based on the latest updates all of the plant upgrades will have been completed by 2018 – well in advance of the current 2025 Bay Program deadline – which COG reflected in its Region Forward goals. Note: Many plants are actually treating to low nitrogen concentration levels now; which can occur when their current flows are less than their rated capacity. These upgrades will ensure that capability to treat future growth in the region.

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## Stormwater

### Stormwater Procurement

COG staff are working with regional stormwater programs to compile and cross-share RFPs and bid agreements, and to see whether a regional tree planting contract or rider clause will be feasible for the COG region. More details on stormwater procurement and cost data will be shared a future meeting.

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### Stormwater Workforce Development

The Aspen Institute Workforce Development project updates are as follows:

- Stormwater worker credentialing efforts are being coordinated among DC Water, the Center for Watershed Protection and others. The DC Water/Water Environment Federation curriculum and job description efforts are continuing. COG received the first two job descriptions from Clean Water Partners, which is also working on credentialing.
- COG staff are in discussions with the UMD Environmental Finance Center and Center for Workforce Progress on completing the jobs demand analysis. Funding options for the work are being developed. The initial focus will be on Prince George's County, Montgomery County and the District of Columbia. Then it can be expanded to the full COG region.
- Outreach to the workforce training providers will wait until COG has more data on the jobs demand analysis and training curricula. COG is monitoring Corvias' community outreach partnerships, to share their best practices.

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### DC Water and the Water Environment Federation Launch Development of a National Green Infrastructure Certification Program

In January of 2016, the legal agreement to construct large scale green infrastructure (GI) to control combined sewer overflows (CSOs) to the Potomac River and Rock Creek was entered in Federal Court. This agreement amends a 2005 Consent Decree between DC Water, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Justice that is the basis for DC Water's 2.6 billion Clean Rivers Project. The COG Board formally supported DC Water's proposed Green Infrastructure efforts via Board Resolution in April 2014 because of the regional benefits for stormwater management throughout the region.

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In February, DC Water and the Water Environment Federation (WEF) signed an agreement to develop a National Green Infrastructure Certification Program, which would support DC Water's recently announced legal agreement to construct large-scale GI to help control combined sewer overflows (CSOs) in the District of Columbia. The program will be developed on an expedited schedule, with the first certifications being granted in early 2017. COG staff are coordinating with the parties as part of the regional stormwater jobs efforts.

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## Drinking Water

### Change in Drinking Water Disinfection

For a short period each year our region's water utilities employ treatment methods to clean water pipes. From March until May, utilities in the District of Columbia and Virginia switch from chloramine to chlorine for drinking water disinfection as part of their spring cleaning process. Utilities in Maryland employ distribution system flushing to preserve and clean their system's infrastructure. Both methods are safe, effective, and standard treatment practices.

Additional information can be found here:

[https://www.dewater.com/news/listings/press\\_release761.cfm](https://www.dewater.com/news/listings/press_release761.cfm)

[https://www.dewater.com/news/listings/documents/chlorine\\_switch\\_faq\\_2016.pdf](https://www.dewater.com/news/listings/documents/chlorine_switch_faq_2016.pdf)

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## Additional Items

### 2016 Resilient Virginia Conference – March 22-23

From March 22-23, Resilient Virginia will be holding its 2016 annual conference in Richmond. Resilient Virginia seeks to implement resiliency planning & strategies throughout the Virginia communities.

### CWEA Looking For Industrial Professionals

The Chesapeake Water Environment Association in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Employment Development (MOED) and the Baltimore City Department of Public Works (DPW) has created the first ever youth career mentoring program of its kind in the United States. This program has dual goals that include educating local teens and young adults about the water industry and its careers opportunities, and developing a pipeline of future workers with the desired skills and abilities needed to fill entry-level positions in the water industry on the both the public and private side of the business.

### Transforming Communities: Trash-Free Solutions for Healthy lives, Clean Land, and Safe Water Summit – March 22

In conjunction with the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Potomac River Watershed Trash Treaty, this year's Summit will reflect on a decade of successes as well as set the stage for specific, achievable trash reduction goals in the future. The event will feature roundtable discussions on key topics and your registration fee includes lunch, networking opportunities, and the chance to have your voice heard among key local decision makers

Keynote Panel includes The Honorable Rushern L. Baker, III & The Honorable Ike Leggett. Moderators include Jim Dinegar, President and CEO Greater Washington Board of Trade

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

**Spring (date TBD)** – PCBs & Permitting Issues Work Session

**Early Summer (tentatively May)** – Road Salts “Water Quality & Best Management Practices” Workshop

**March 18th** – CBPC Meeting

**April 30<sup>th</sup>** – DEA's Drug Take Back Day

**May 1-7** – National Drinking Water Week