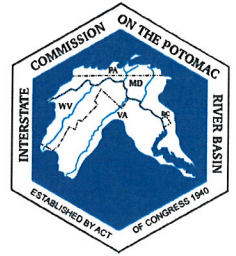


INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON THE POTOMAC RIVER BASIN

51 Monroe Street, Suite PE-08
Rockville, MD 20850
(301) 984-1908
FAX (301) 984-5841
<http://www.potomacriver.org>



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Joseph K. Hoffman

General Counsel

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(*)--Executive Committee
(a)--Alternate

October 17, 2011

George Washington Plan Revision
George Washington & Jefferson National Forests
5162 Valleypointe Parkway
Roanoke, VA 24019

To Whom it May Concern:

The Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin supports the continued use of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests to help protect high quality drinking water to the downstream population in the Potomac River basin.

Covering more than seven percent of the basin, the forests supply a significant amount of the surface water available to those near or downstream of the forests. These source waters, in addition to the other tributaries of the Potomac River, supply approximately five-million people in the basin with drinking water. Moreover, this water is supplied to critical federal facilities, including the U.S. Capitol, White House, Pentagon, and Central Intelligence Agency. It is also supplied to federal agency headquarters, such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Forest Service.

While the forests' role in ensuring high quality water for drinking purposes is recognized in the draft plan, a number of surface water intakes on the main stem Potomac River downstream of the forests are not included in Table 2.7 (Drinking Water Supplies within or Downstream of George Washington NF) on page 2-33. Those omitted include:

- City of Brunswick, Maryland
- City of Rockville, Maryland
- City of Hagerstown, Maryland
- Town of Sharpsburg/City of Williamsport/Washington County, Maryland
- Frederick County, Maryland
- Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, Laurel, Maryland
- Washington Aqueduct (Army Corps of Engineers), Washington, D.C.

I recommend that the list of intakes above be included in future versions of this table and that another survey of intakes be conducted to ensure all intakes are

The ICPRB is an interstate compact commission established by Congress in 1940. Its mission is the enhancement, protection, and conservation of the water resources of the Potomac River and its tributaries through regional and interstate cooperation. Represented by appointed commissioners, the ICPRB includes the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and the federal government.

included. These, along with those already listed, should be accounted for when impacts to water quality from management decisions on forest land are being deliberated.

Sincerely,



Joseph K. Hoffman, Executive Director
Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin