

DRAFT GENERAL UPDATES & UPCOMING EVENTS

WATER RESOURCES GENERAL

Climate Change Adaptation

- COG staff participated in two regional adaptation meetings, one sponsored by NASA/Federal Facilities Council, the other by the Dutch Embassy/Northern Virginia Regional Commission
- The US Global Change Research Program *Draft National Climate Assessment* was released in January, 2013; comments are accepted through April 12th (report found here <http://ncadac.globalchange.gov/>).

Overseen by a 60-member Federal Advisory Committee, and with 240 contributing authors, this Assessment found continued observed evidence of rising air and water temperatures, rising sea level, and changes in precipitation patterns consistent with earlier model projections. This assessment places a greater emphasis on climate resilience and decision support than the previous 2009 assessment. The following are a sample of regionally-relevant findings in the Water Resources section: (<http://ncadac.globalchange.gov/download/NCAJan11-2013-publicreviewdraft-chap3-water.pdf>):

- Expected impacts:
 1. Droughts are expected to intensify particularly in the Southeast US; floods in the Northeast. The COG Region straddles both the Northeast and the Southeast.
 2. Expected changes in precipitation, land use, and water demand will affect groundwater availability in ways that are not well monitored or understood.
 3. Air and water temperatures, precipitation intensity, and droughts affect water quality in rivers and lakes.
- Planning for climate impacts:
 1. Stationarity is no longer reliable as the central assumption in water-resource risk assessment and planning. Instead, a new paradigm that provides additional flexibility in institutional and legal processes will need to be developed, rather than relying on one that narrowly optimizes the distribution of water based on historical experience.
 2. The economic, social, and environmental implications of climate change-induced water cycle changes are very significant, as is the cost of inaction. Increasing resilience and enhancing adaptive capacity are useful strategies for water resources management and planning in the face of climate change.
 3. Adaptation responses will need to: address considerable uncertainties in the short-, medium-, and long-term; be proactive, integrated, and iterative; and be developed through well-informed stakeholder decision processes functioning within a flexible institutional and legal environment.

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Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) Workplan Water-related goals

COGs CEEPC policy committee recently collected regional climate/energy environment information through a survey to inform its goals and targets for [2013-2016 in the CEEPC Work Plan](#). The survey was sent to schools, water utilities, and local governments in January and received responses in February. An overview of responses will be presented at the next CEEPC meeting on March 20th, 2013. CEEPC provides leadership to the COG Board and member jurisdictions, implementing and elaborating on [Region Forward](#) sustainability targets and [National Capital Region Climate Change Report](#) goals.

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WASTEWATER

Regional Wastewater Flow Forecast Model (RWFFM) & Wastewater Process Updates

- COG staff is continuing to work with the wastewater facilities to verify WWTP service areas, along with identifying sewer vs. septic service areas for the entire COG region.
- Staff is also verifying the accuracy of the WWTP service area boundaries in relation to county & district borders.
- Staff is continuing to update the plant process and contact information for all of COG's WWTPs based upon feedback from the facilities.
- Initial summaries of this information will be available to review in May 2013.

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DRINKING WATER & DROUGHT MANAGEMENT

On April 4, 2013, COG will host a Drought Monitoring Workshop for area water supply and drought monitoring members in our region.

- The goals are to review the Metropolitan Washington Water Supply and Drought Awareness Plan and the triggers and corresponding actions used to declare drought conditions (NORMAL, WATCH, WARNING and EMERGENCY).
- Participants will also evaluate the various tools used to monitor drought to determine if additional tools are needed to accurately assess conditions.
- A summary of outcomes and recommendations of the workshop will be available on [COG's Water Supply website](#).

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UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

- Water Distribution Rehabilitation Technologies Webinar
 - **March 14th** - Water Law Resource is hosting a live 90-minute audio conference on water distribution rehabilitation technologies presented by Professor Neil S. Grigg of Colorado State University. [Register here](#).
- EPA Climate Ready Water Utilities Webinars:
 - **March 13th - Adaptation Strategies Guide**
The Adaptation Strategies Guide helps water utilities learn about and begin climate change adaptation planning. This webinar explains the impacts different regions throughout the country can expect to face along with adaptation strategies that can be used to help prepare systems for impacts.
 - **April 10th - Workshop Planner / Adaptation Strategies Guide**
This joint webinar highlights the Workshop Planner and the Adaptation Strategies Guide,

and how a utility can use them both when developing adaptation plans. It will also highlight utility experiences with the tools.

○ To Register, visit: <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/watersecurity/climate/index.cfm>

- **March 15th - CBPC Meeting**
- **March 20th - CEEPC Meeting**
- **March 12-24 - DC Environmental Filmfest, <http://www.dcenvironmentalfilmfest.org/>**
- **April 8th - MD WIP Local Technical Work Group meeting** will be held at MDE from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. There will be a conference call number, but not a webinar link. Presentations will be posted to the MDE website in advance of the meeting.
- **April 27th -DEA Drug Take Back Event.**
COG is tracking efforts to keep pharmaceuticals out of our waterways; this is one small step toward that end. Later in April, this website will list locations, throughout our region, where the public can drop off unwanted medications. For more information see:
http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/
- **May 6-9, 2013 - Water Environment Federation & Partner's [Energy & Water 2013](#): Integrated Solutions for Advancing Technology and Management.** Nashville, TN