COG's Regional Wastewater Flow Forecast Model

Cooperative Forecasting and Data Subcommittee September 1, 2009

Tanya T. Spano, Principal Environmental Engineer Department of Environmental Programs/Water Resources Program Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments <u>tspano@mwcog.org</u> / (202) 962-3776



RWFFM

(Regional Wastewater Flow Forecast Model)

- Uses for the RWFFM
- Background
- Flow Projection Methodology
- Application of RWFFM Results



Uses for the RWFFM

To provide engineers, planners, and policymakers with wastewater flow projections that can be used to:

- Enhance regional wastewater flow management & planning efforts (Blue Plains is a specific sub-regional example); and
- Predict when wastewater treatment plants will reach individual nutrient (Phosphorus & Nitrogen) load caps

 as designated under the Chesapeake Bay TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Loads)



Background

- RWFFM Demographic-based model that
 - Utilizes demographic data from COG's Cooperative Forecasting Program
 - Links the data to TAZ GIS layer
 - GIS sewershed layer for each wastewater plant's service area is then linked to TAZ layer
- Calculations Use MS Access database
 - Demographic data recomputed on a sewershed basis
 - Incremental changes in demographic data used to forecast incremental wastewater flows



Background

- COG has been performing wastewater flow projections for many years
- Blue Plains Flow Forecast Model (BPFFM)
 - Created to computerize the calculations for Blue Plains WWTP's entire service area – DC, MD & VA (1993, 2003 update)
 - Several elements are in the process of being updated
- RWFFM Created by expanding BPFFM to include all WWTPs in COG region



Flow Projection Methodology

- Future flows are computed for each wastewater treatment plant
- Projected Flow = Base Year Flow + Incremental Flow
 - The Base Year Flow is derived from historical flow records
 - The Incremental Flow is computed using demographic projections



Flow Projection Methodology

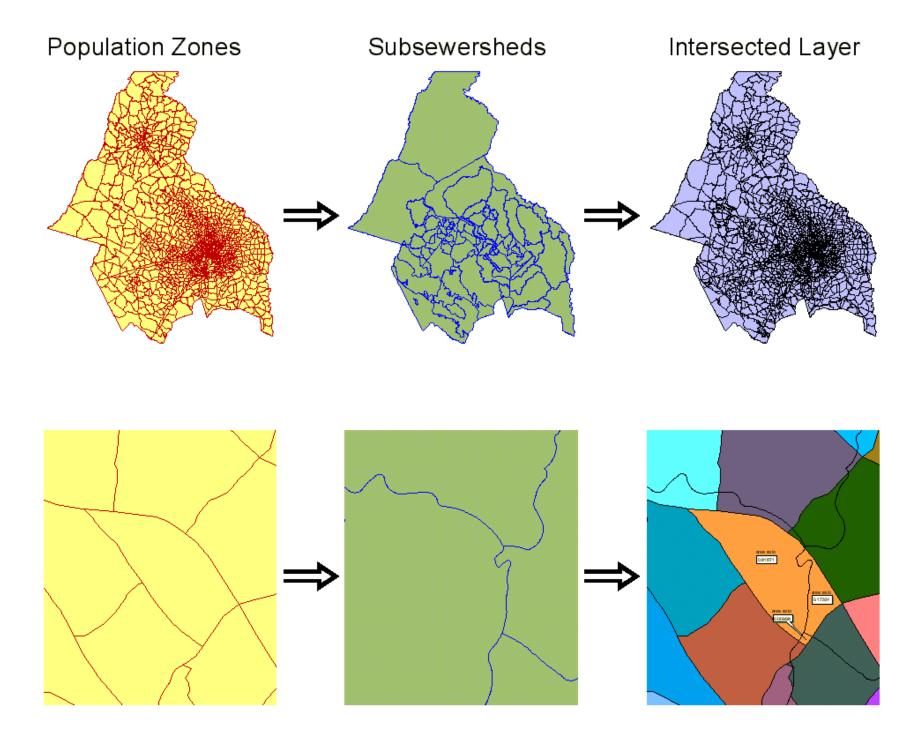
- Input Data--Population Demographics
 - COG has administered the Cooperative Forecasting Program since 1975
 - The Forecast includes five-year projections (2000-2040) for Employment, Households, and Population
 - COG Member jurisdictions provide data & review compiled results for approval by COG Board of Directors
 - Current version being used Round 7.2

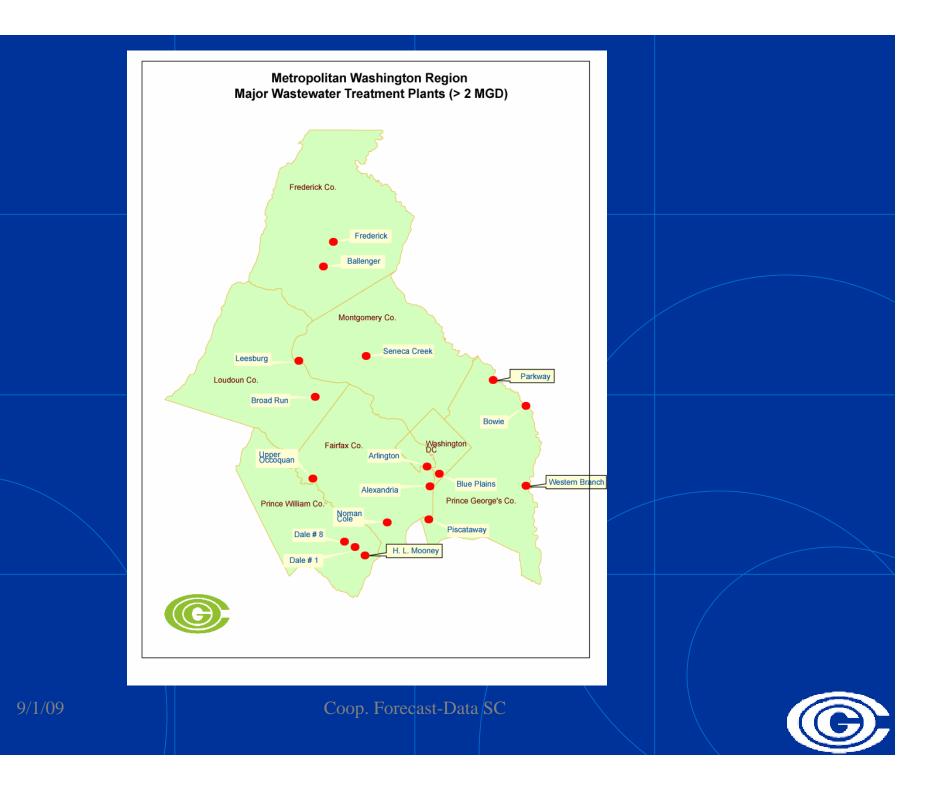


Flow Projection Methodology

- Input Data--Flow Factors
 - Flow factors (for Households and Employment only) are applied to incremental demographics to compute incremental wastewater flows
 - Summing the base flow and the incremental flows yields total future flow
 - Flow factors can be customized (e.g., subsewershed basis, household type, etc.)



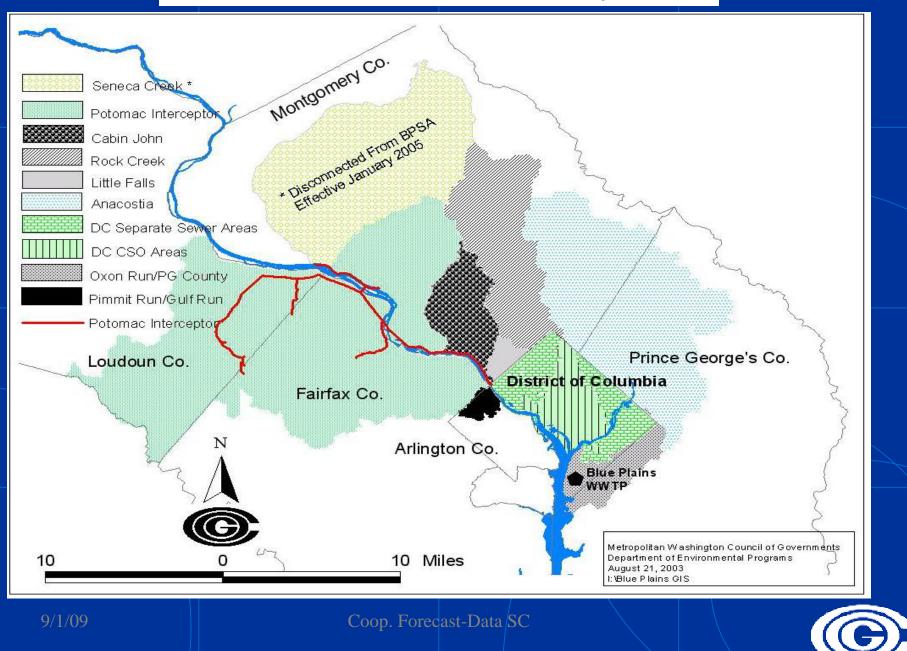






9/1/09

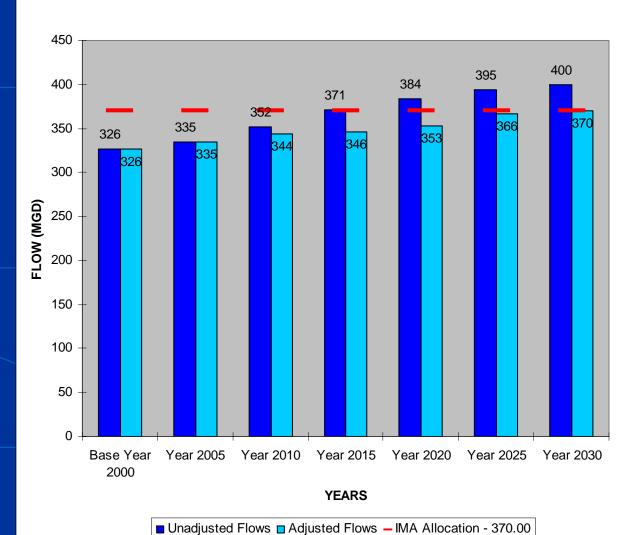
Blue Plains Service Area Map



Application of RWFFM Results

- RWFFM Updates
 - Updating sewered/septic areas, plants, base year flows, etc.
 - Blue Plains Service Area Study (2003 report being updated)
- COG's GW 2050 Effort (e.g., growth/capacity metrics)
- Chesapeake Bay Program (see graphic)
 - 2030 Growth Scenarios work
 - Bay TMDL (wastewater load) cap loads





Based on Preliminary Round 6.3 Cooperative Forecasts, RWFFM Run 7/01/03

(Example Only - Projections currently being updated, 9/1/09)

9/1/09

Coop. Forecast-Data SC

WASTEWATER FLOW PROJECTIONS BLUE PLAINS TOTAL

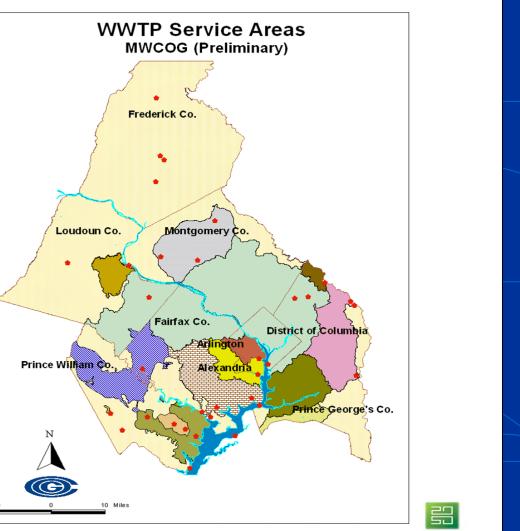


Potential Metric : Wastewater Capacity / Nutrient Load Cap

- Annual Nutrient Load Caps (primarily Nitrogen - TN) are based on a Plant's Design Capacity Flow and a specific TN concentration

- TN concentrations are generally set at 3-4 mg/l

- Therefore, flows are a reasonable indicator of how close a plant is to reaching both its design capacity and its nutrient load cap



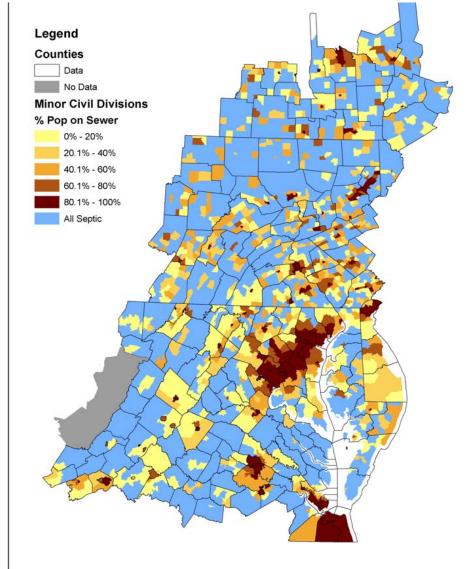
GreaterWashington2050



Coop. Forecast-Data SC



CBP's Forecasting Population on Sewer vs. Septic: Modeling service area based on population distribution



Coop. Forecast-Data SC



9/1/09