



BLUE PLAINS IMA REGIONAL COMMITTEE

777 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 300 • Washington, D.C. 20002-4239 • (202) 962-3200 • FAX (202) 962-3203

District of Columbia

District of Columbia –
Water and Sewer
Authority

Fairfax County

Montgomery County

Prince George's County

Washington Suburban
Sanitary Commission

Date: February 17, 2016

To: Blue Plains Parties

From: Blue Plains Intermunicipal Agreement Regional Committee (IMA-RC)

Subject: Transmittal of the IMA-RC's Annual Report – Calendar Year 2015

Background

Under the terms of the 2012 IMA (effective April 3, 2013), the IMA-RC is charged with the interpretation, administration, implementation, and oversight of the IMA. The IMA-RC has been organized and is functioning under the terms of the 2012 IMA to address the many issues involving the Blue Plains advanced wastewater treatment plant and the working relations between the regional partners of this agreement.

Accordingly, the members of the IMA-RC are pleased to transmit this annual report as called for in the 2012 IMA. This annual report is for the calendar year 2015 period of January 1, 2015 through December 30, 2015.

Overview

You will see in the report that the IMA-RC has continued to address a variety of governance, technical, financial and planning issues over the past year – and expects to continue this important work as envisioned under the 2012 IMA. In addition, it is important to point out the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the staff of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOCG) to the work of the IMA-RC that was provided under a service agreement approved in the past year as a contractual agreement under the IMA.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please be sure to contact your jurisdiction/agency IMA-RC member, or Tanya Spano, COG staff at (202) 962-3776 / tspano@mwco.org.

BLUE PLAINS 2012 IMA

IMA REGIONAL COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Year 2015

(January 1 through December 31, 2015)



PURPOSE

The Blue Plains 2012 Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) was formally adopted as of April 3, 2013. That agreement outlines the rights and responsibilities of the Parties to the IMA to address the many flow, capacity, financial and coordination issues associated with the operation of the Blue Plains wastewater treatment plant (Blue Plains). This annual report fulfills a specific obligation of the Blue Plains IMA Regional Committee (IMA-RC) under Section 2. Governance (E.9.) to prepare an annual report for the Parties *'regarding the implementation of this IMA....'*

This annual report summarizes activities overseen by the IMA-RC during Year 2015 (January 1, through December 31, 2015), and notes many of the new or evolving issues and activities that the IMA-RC expects to address over the coming year.

BACKGROUND

The 2012 IMA was officially endorsed in April 2013. On November 14, 2014, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia entered the order substituting the 2012 IMA for the 1985 IMA. This completed the final step in the legal process to make the 2012 IMA the official agreement of record between the Blue Plains Parties.

SUMMARY OF IMA REGIONAL COMMITTEE (IMA-RC) ACTIVITIES

As outlined in the IMA, the IMA-RC is responsible for implementing the IMA, serving as a forum for in-depth discussions and coordination, and making various recommendations. The range of issues that are currently being addressed by the IMA-RC can generally be organized into six themes: Governance, Long-term Planning, Flow and Load Capacity Management, Financial Commitments, Biosolids Management, and Legal Matters. The text and table that follow provides an overview of the range of issues that the IMA-RC addressed over the past year, notes key actions and decisions that were made, and identifies some of the pending issues and decisions that they, their subcommittees, and/or work groups are expected to make in the coming year.

The IMA-RC members appointed by the IMA Leadership Committee (IMA-LC) for this reporting period were:

Ayana Rockett (2016 IMA-RC Chair) and Spencer Davis [Melanie Bell/Scott Burrell] - District of Columbia

Leonard Benson and Aklile Tesfaye [Walter Bailey] – DC Water

Shahram Mohsenin and Randy Bartlett – Fairfax County

Lisa Feldt and David Lake [Bob Hoyt] - Montgomery County

Dawn Hawkins-Nixon and Shirley Branch [Larry Coffman] – Prince George's County

Gary Gumm (2015 IMA-RC Chair) and Ken Dixon [Craig Fricke] – WSSC

Note: Names in brackets indicate previous IMA-RC members during this reporting period.

HIGHLIGHTS

Active Support of Technical Subcommittee (TechSc) – The TechSc is composed primarily of staff from the operating agencies, and meets on a monthly basis in order to evaluate technical issues and advance the work of the IMA-RC for specific projects. Its role is to discuss and evaluate the technical aspects of issues such as billing meters, emergency planning, allocations for Multi-Jurisdiction Use Facilities (MJUF) project costs, etc., and to develop recommendations for formal decision at the quarterly IMA-RC meetings. During this past year, the TechSc continued to provide ongoing support to the IMA-RC and to implement several projects that had begun the year before.

Approved Application of Cost Allocation Methodologies for Various MJUF Projects

Based on recommendations of the TechSc, the IMA-RC:

- Approved the use of DC Water's **Asset Management Phase 2 Capital Cost Allocation Methodology** and its application to that program's activities.
- Approved the use of DC Water's proposed **Northeast Boundary Tunnel (NEBT) Cost Allocations** (i.e., MJUF portion of the Clean Rivers project).
- Agreed with DC Water's recommendation regarding cost allocations for their **CSO LTCP Green Infrastructure (GI) initiative**, i.e. that GI projects are defined as District-only (not MJUF).
- Approved the use of DC Water's **MJUF Conveyance System - O&M Cost Allocations Methodology Report** and application of the cost allocations.
- Agreed with the use of DC Water's **MJUF Conveyance System - O&M Cost Allocations User Guide**.

Implemented the Blue Plains Service Area (BPSA) Billing Meter Assessment Study

With the active support of the TechSc and the Billing Meter Work Group, the IMA-RC:

- Approved the scope, funding and implementation of a **BPSA Billing Meter Assessment Study**. COG issued a contract with the RJN Group, and work began in November 2015 and is expected to conclude by the fall of 2016.
- Directed the TechSc – and its Billing Meter Work Group, to oversee the BPSA Billing Meter Assessment Study - and to develop a scope of work for a proposed BPSA long-term billing meter service contract. That second contract is anticipated to be issued by and managed by DC Water.
- Directed COG staff to brief DC Water's EQ&SS Committee on the BPSA Billing Meters Assessment Study work efforts at an upcoming meeting (i.e., February 18, 2016).

Evaluating Potential for Sending New/Modified Flows & Loads into the Potomac Interceptor (PI) and to Blue Plains – WSSC & WAD Requests

The IMA-RC was advised that:

- WSSC and the Washington Aqueduct Division (WAD) have made requests to discharge drinking water plant filter backwash flows into the PI for treatment at Blue Plains.
- Fairfax County, Loudoun Water, and Herndon have also expressed an interest in potentially sending more flows through the PI to Blue Plains.

- All of these potential situations were anticipated when the 2012 IMA was written.
- The IMA-RC directed the TechSc to address the technical issues associated with these requests and to present their recommendations to the IMA-RC over the coming months.
 - The two key areas of technical focus will be to review and assess any implications to Blue Plains' operations/processes, and to evaluate the PI transmission capacity under various flow scenarios.

Oversaw Implementation of the 2012 IMA

As part of their ongoing efforts to ensure that the 2012 IMA is a 'living document', the IMA-RC:

- Approved a set of technical edits to four of the 2012 IMA Operating Agreements (OA) (i.e. OA #2, 3, 5, 6) and to recommend those edits to the IMA-LC for formal approval.
 - As envisioned when the 2012 IMA was approved, the OA edits help to document various technical refinements, details and funding approvals that the IMA-RC has agreed to during the past two years.
 - These OA edits had previously been vetted by the IMA-RC's associated technical Work Groups as well as the Legal Work Group.
- Instructed the TechSc to continue to evaluate if/how other technical work may also need to be reflected in the various OAs.

Summary of IMA-RC Activities		
Areas of Focus <i>(IMA reference)</i>	Objectives / Goals	Actions / Outcomes
<p>1. Flow Management & Long-term Planning <i>(Sections 6 & 7, & OA #3 & 4)</i></p>	<p>Evaluate current & future flows & address management within BPSA</p>	<p>Evaluating Potential to Send New/Modified Flows & Loads to Potomac Interceptor (PI) & to Blue Plains The IMA-RC was advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ WSSC & Washington Aqueduct Division - Requested to discharge drinking water plant filter backwash flows to Blue Plains – some through the PI ○ Fairfax County, Loudoun Water, & Herndon - Expressed interest in potentially sending more flows thru PI to Blue Plains <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● IMA-RC directed TechSc to address technical work associated with those requests and to present their recommendations to the IMA-RC: ● Key technical reviews/evaluation will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implications to Blue Plains' operations/processes ○ PI transmission capacity under various flow scenarios <p>Evaluating BPSA Emergency Planning Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DC Water regularly updated the IMA-RC & TechSc re: emergency planning evaluations & potential actions for BPSA ● DC Water expects to provide additional updates in the coming year
<p>2. Financial Commitments <i>(Section 5 & OA #2)</i></p>	<p>Address how Capital and O&M costs are allocated</p>	<p>With the active support of the TechSc, the IMA-RC approved the application of several cost allocation methodologies that DC Water recommended for various projects and program areas, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Asset Management Phase 2 Capital Cost Allocation Methodology ● Northeast Boundary Tunnel – Clean Rivers MJUF Cost Allocations ● CSO LTCP Green Infrastructure initiative (i.e., non-MJUF costs) ● MJUF Conveyance System - O&M Cost Allocations Methodology Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MJUF Conveyance System - O&M Cost Allocations User Guide

<p>3. Flow & Load Measurement & Management (Section 6 & OA #3)</p>	<p>Address Billing Flows</p>	<p>Implemented the Blue Plains Service Area (BPSA) Billing Meter Assessment Study With the active support of the TechSc and the Billing Meter Work Group, the IMA-RC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved the scope, funding and implementation of a BPSA Billing Meter Assessment Study. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A contract with the RJN Group was signed and work began in November 2015, with work expected to conclude by fall 2016. • Directed COG staff to brief DC Water’s EQ&SS Committee on the BPSA Billing Meters Assessment Study work efforts at an upcoming meeting (i.e., February 18, 2016). <p>Proposing a BPSA Long-term Meter Service Contract</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directed the TechSc to work concurrently to develop a scope of work for a proposed BPSA Long-term Service contract. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ That contract is anticipated to be issued by and managed by DC Water.
<p>4. Biosolids Management (Section 9)</p>	<p>Oversee research and coordinate on operational & outreach matters</p>	<p>Endorsed Additional Blue Plains Biosolids Research & Program Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IMA-RC approved funding for the joint WERF and UMD Research Proposal “<i>Assessment and Demonstration of the Use of High Quality Biosolids.</i>” • The study is expected to promote the use of Class A EQ biosolids to support DC Water’s Biosolids Program priorities.
<p>5. Legal Matters (Section 10)</p>	<p>Address legal matters associated with Operating Agreements & any proposed amendments</p>	<p>Oversaw Implementation of the 2012 IMA As part of their ongoing efforts to keep the 2012 IMA a ‘living document’, the IMA-RC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved transmittal of technical edits to four of the 2012 IMA Operating Agreements (OA) (i.e. OA #2, 3, 5, and 6) to the IMA-LC for formal approval. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ These edits had previously been vetted by the IMA-RC’s associated technical Work Groups as well as the Legal Work Group. ○ As envisioned when the 2012 IMA was approved, the OA edits help to document various technical refinements, details and funding approvals that the IMA-RC has agreed to during the past two years. • Instructed the TechSc to continue to evaluate if/how other technical work may also need to be reflected in the various OAs.