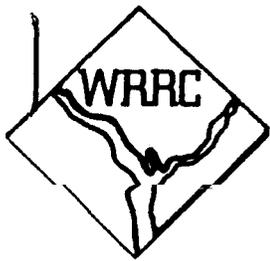


# WATER HIGHLIGHTS



D.C. WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH CENTER. WASHINGTON, D.C.

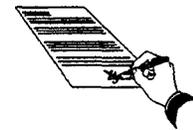
UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



Spring 1996

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## Water Institute Reauthorization Signed Into Law



Following passage in the House and Senate, the President signed HR 1743 to amend the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 to extend the authorizations of appropriations for the Institute Program through fiscal year 2,000.

The House concurred in a -Senate Amendment to specifically reauthorize the separate competitive regional program begun in FY 1996. The President's budget for FY 1997 as in past years contains no funding for the Water Research Institute Program.

It is hoped that the WRI Program will once again survive with the strong assist of its new five year authorization and continuing encouragement of its many friends in Congress and at the state and local levels of government.

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### Independent D.C. Water/Sewer Authority Planned

The Mayor's Order, 96-43 of March 27, 1996 established an Executive Transition Team for The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority.

The Transition team is tasked to take the lead in implementing the transfer of existing Department of Public Works, Water and (Continued on next the next page)

Independent D. C. Water/Sewer Authority  
Planned

(Continued from previous page)

Sewer Utility Administration (WASUA) to an independent "Water and Sewer Authority."

The Blue Plains Sewage Treatment Facility is the primary target of these executive management actions.

**Draft D.C. Anacostia River Tonics Plan**

**I. OVERVIEW**

The District of Columbia Government is Developing an Anacostia River Tonics Management Action Plan to address the impacts of chemical contaminants ("toxics") on human and ecological health in the Anacostia River watershed. Many individuals and organizations with various interest in the Anacostia River have participated in the development of the plan. The idea of these "stakeholders" are reflected in the draft plan that is now available. The D.C. Environment Regulation Administration, the agency responsible for developing the plan, is seeking feedback on the draft plan from an even broader spectrum of the watershed community. A summary of the draft plan is provided here for your information.

The District of Columbia Government has been active in a broad range of preservation and restoration efforts in the Anacostia River Watershed for over a decade, through water quality monitoring, environmental education, enforcement

of water quality standards, and other related activities. It coordinates these activities with the other state, local and

Federal government agencies in the Water Restoration Committee, and also participates in the Chesapeake Bay Program, a regional effort to restore the Chesapeake Bay.

The monitoring programs of the D.C. Government and other studies in the Anacostia River watershed have documented the presence of chemical contaminants in the river's water, sediments and fish. Because several contaminants have been detected at potentially harmful levels in certain species of fish, the D.C. Government has issued an advisory that recommends limiting consumption of fish caught in D.C. Waters. There is also evidence that these contaminants may be impacting the ecological health of the river. Based on these findings, the Chesapeake Bay Program designated the Anacostia River as a "Region of Concern" and directed the D.C. government to develop a plan that would address chemical contamination problems in the river.

**Vision Statement:**

Effective management of chemical contaminants is critical to the overall restoration of the Anacostia River. In the future, chemical contamination will no longer impact the community of plants and animals in and around the river. Even in the midst of the diverse human activities in this urban watershed, people from all walks of life will look to the river as a source of plentiful, edible fish, recreational opportunities, and simple natural beauty.

(Continued on the next page)

## Goal Statement

The Goal of toxics management for the Anacostia River watershed within the District of Columbia is to reduce and eventually eliminate the known and potential impacts of chemical contaminants on ecological and human health.

### Objectives:

#### **Objective 1: Coordination and Funding**

Develop partnerships and funding mechanisms to implement coordinated toxics management activities at the local and regional levels.

#### **Objective 2: Public Education, Awareness, and Participation**

Through outreach and education programs, raise awareness about toxic issues throughout the Anacostia River community and encourage public participation in toxics **management**.

#### **Objective 3: Research and Monitoring Conduct**

those research and monitoring activities needed to complete the characterization of chemical contamination in the river and to well inform future management decisions.

#### **Objective 4: Localized Sources Control**

Virtually eliminate all localized sources of chemical contaminants to the river, such as those from point sources discharges, leaching or runoff from contaminated upland sites, and sewer discharges traceable to particular facilities or areas in the watershed.

#### **Objective 5: Diffuse Source Control**

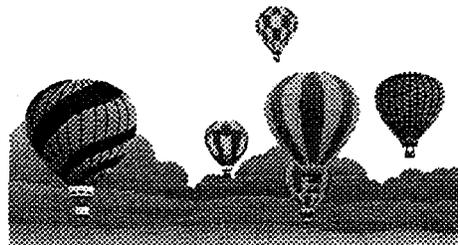
Significantly reduce inputs of chemical contaminants to the river from diffuse or nonpoint sources.

#### **Objective 6: Contaminated Sediments**

Decrease and eventually eliminate the harmful impacts of contaminated sediments, including those affecting sediment-dwelling organisms directly and these affecting humans and other organisms indirectly through the food chain.

## II. To Get the Plan

Copies if the full draft plans are available from the project manager, Dr. Mohsin Siddique, at (202) 645-6601. Please submit your comments on this summary and on the full draft to Dr. Siddique at D.C. ERA, 2100 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue S.E. Washington D.C. 20020-5735





## *Drinking Water Safety - A Call for Action*

# 4

A report by group of experts, released at the May 1996 meeting of the American Society for Microbiology, entitled, "A Global Decline in Microbiological Safety of Water : A Call for Action," raises important questions regarding prospects for increasing compromises in the safety of drinking water.

Dr. Rita Colwell, President of the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute and a coauthor of the report stated in the preface "Water Quality and Safety are issues that increasingly attract the attention of the public and health authorities and engage the energies of microbiologists, engineers, and epidemiologists. The increase in waterborne outbreaks, both in frequency and severity, has raised the visibility of water microbiology in the public domain. Unfortunately, funding for research in the areas of water microbiology and public health has been declining at this time of pressing need for information to underpin decision-making and response to emergency events."

"The subject of microbiological safety water will very soon become an international priority as travel across national boundaries and the sheer numbers of human citizens increase in the decade ahead, placing Promethean demands on water resources. The issues presented in this document merit very serious attention. If ignored, the consequences will be unavoidable."

At an earlier colloquium convened by the American Academy of Microbiology in Ecuador in 1995 a plan of action to mitigate microbiologically unsafe drinking water was developed based of the following conclusions and recommendations:

The list of potentially pathogenic microorganisms transmitted by water is increasing significantly each year. Newer methods, especially molecular genetic-based methods, must be used to detect these pathogens.

Development, implementation, and maintenance of low cost, low technology water treatment systems are critical for reduction of global morbidity and mortality associated with waterborne diseases.

Waterborne disease must be made reportable and active surveillance implemented, both nationally and internationally.

- Improved risk assessment methodology and database development are needed for waterborne disease.

(Continued on the next page)

Drinking Water Safety - A Call for Action  
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Governments, non-governmental organizations, institutes, and individuals with influence to effect public opinion must be educated about the social and economic burden of Waterborne diseases

Politics related to waterborne disease are needed to integrate the concerns and enable implementation of water treatment in both developed and developing countries

Training, education, technology transfer, and communication with the public through television, radio, and print in subjects relevant to microbiological safety of water must be undertaken immediately.

A copy of the report prepared by Timothy B. Ford and Rita R. Colwell may be obtained from: The American Academy of Microbiology, 1325 Massachusetts Ave, N.W. Washington D.C. 20005-4171

### **DCWRRC Special Awards**

DCWRRC presented special water awards and prizes to students from District Schools for their science projects displayed at the 1996 D.C. Science Fair. Dr. Vicki Guerrero, a UDC faculty member and WRRC Principal Investigator performed outstanding judging duties in electing finalists, as she has for the past nine years.

The names of individual student awardee's, their project titles and their schools are listed as follows:

Grand Prize: Jeji Rice - "The Effects of a Restored Wetland (the Kenilworth Marsh) on The Water Quality": Woodson Senior

First Place : Ben Wiseman- " The Effect of Limestone on Coniferous Trees"; Alice Deal Junior High School

Second Place: Charles Murray, Jr. "Saving the Chesapeake Bay One Yard at a Time"; Gonzaga College High School

Second Place: Calvin Wingfield - "The Effects of Acid Rain on Plant Roots", Jefferson Junior High School.

Third Place: Luca Adelfio- "Fish, Crayfish And Insects, Oh My!", Sidwell Friends School

Honorable Mention: Issa Abdulcadir- "Water Quality in Rock Creek Park"; Saint Albans School

Honorable Mention: Asia Carter- "Is there Life in Washington Rivers"; Baccus Junior High School

Honorable Mention: Jamal Mackey & Matthew Fairley- "Water Quality" Jefferson Junior High School

## Drinking Water Resources

Environmental Protection Agency  
Safe Drinking Water hotline, 800-  
426-4791, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-  
5 p.m.

ACIL (formerly American Council of  
Independent Laboratories), referral  
Service, \$10; (202) 877-5872; Fax  
(202) 877-0021

American Association for Laboratory  
Accreditation, free referral service;  
(301) 670-1377, fax, (301) 869-1495

Clean Water Lead Testing/ EQI, send \$17 check  
for test kit and questionnaire, One University  
Heights Asheville,  
N.C. 28804

NSF International (formerly National  
Sanitation Foundation); Ann Arbor, Mich,  
offers filtration information and a list of  
members and certified products; (800) 673-  
6275

Water Quality Association, Lisle, Ill.  
Offers buying tips and a list of members; (800)  
749-0234

International Bottled Water Association,  
Alexandria, offers a list of members and  
information on cryptosporidium; (800) 928-  
3711

## Coming Events

July 10-12, 1996, Chesapeake Association Annual  
Conference, Ocean City, Maryland, for more  
information, contact Laura Stone at (301) 840-1123

July 15-20, 1996, International Society for  
environmental Biotechnology, Third International  
Symposium, Northeastern University, Boston  
Massachusetts, USA, for more information, contact,  
Dr. Donald L. Wise at (617) 373-2992 or fax, (617)  
373-2784

July 30, 1996, The Universities council on Water  
Resources" Integrated Management of Surface and  
groundwater", San Antonio, Texas, for more  
information, contact, (409) 845-1851

August 29-30, 1996, Stormwater Management  
Modeling Workshop, for more information contact,  
Dr. Lyn James at (519) 767- 0197 or fax, (519) 767-  
2770

September 22-25, '96, Rivertech '96, Chicago, IL,  
for more information write:

*Coming Events*

(Continued from previous page)

Rivertech 96', International Water Resources Association, University of Illinois, 1101 West Peabody Drive, Urbana IL 61801-4273

September 22-26, 1996, AWRA 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference and Symposium on GIS & Water Resources, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Bonaventure Resort & Spa, for more information, contact, The American Water Resources Association at (703)904-1225 or fax (703) 904-1228

October 7-8, 1996, 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pacific Northwest Water Issues Conference, Red lion- Columbia River, Portland, Oregon, For more information, contact, The Oregon Water Resources Institute at (541) 747- 4022 or fax, (541) 737-2735

October 7-10, 1996, Instrument Society of America '96, Chicago, IL, for more information, contact Ionics Incorporated at (617) 926-2500

September 1-6, 1997, IX World Water Congress, Montreal Canada, for more information, contact, Aly M. Shady at +1 (819)994-4098 or fax, +1 (819) 953-3348

**Internet Connections**

The Chesapeake Bay Program, Home Page: [http// www.epa.gov/r3](http://www.epa.gov/r3) chespk.

**DCWRRC via National Institutes for Water Resources (NIWR), Home Page:**  
**<http://wrri.eng.clemson.edu/>**

EPA online Library system ( OLS): [telnet:// epaibm.rtpnc.epa.gov](telnet://epaibm.rtpnc.epa.gov);

EPA Gopher Server: <//gopher.epa.gov>; or [gopher://earth 1.epa.gov](gopher://earth1.epa.gov)

EPA World Wide Web Server: <http://www.epa.gov>;

GPO Federal Bulletin Board System: [telnet: // federal. Bbs.gpo.gov](telnet://federal.bbs.gpo.gov);

NTIS Fedworld: <http://www.fedworld.gov>; or <telnet://fedworld.gov>;

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