



WATER HIGHLIGHTS,

D.C. WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH CENTER, WASHINGTON,
UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



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Highlights of Testimony on Behalf of the DC Water Resources Research Center Before the D.C. City Council March 15, 1995

Potomac and Arakawa in Japan named "Sister Rivers"

The Arakawa in Japan and the Potomac River have been designated "Sister Rivers" under a new program of international cooperation and exchange. Both waterways flow through their national capitals.

Like the Potomac River, high population density has taken its toll on the water quality of the Arakawa. The Japanese river runs from Mt. Kobushigatake to drain agricultural areas and Tokyo before emptying into Tokyo Bay. Mr. Curtis Dalpra represented the Potomac Commission at the signing in Japan.

Several witnesses testified on behalf of the D.C. Water Resources Research Center before the Committee on Education and Libraries of the D.C. City Council in consideration of the FY 96 UDC Budget. - See *Highlights on page 3.*

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Products Offer Alternatives to Household Toxins*

The Guide to Hazardous Waste Around the Home contains information on safe handling and disposal of hazardous products around the home and safer alternatives for household tasks. The Household Hazardous Waste Project at Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield, and Missouri-produces it. To receive a copy of the guide, send \$9.95 (Missouri residents add 6.475 percent sales tax) to the Household Hazardous Waste Project, 1031 East **Battlefield, Suite 214, Springfield, MO 65807.**

Buy Smart, Buy Safe is a 20-page consumer guide to less toxic products. The booklet includes health and environmental ratings of specific products. To receive a copy send a check for \$ 5 to the Washington Toxics Coalition, 4516 University Way, N.E., Seattle, WA 98105.

The Household Hazardous Waste Disposal wheel is a quick reference guide for identifying and properly managing 32 potentially hazardous household automotive products. The wheel is a good tool for community outreach. To order a wheel contact the Environmental Hazards Management Institute, 10 New Market Road, P.O. Box 932, Durham, NH 03824, or phone (603) 868-1496. The cost for each is \$3.95, with volume discounts available.

*Editors' Note: This item was quoted from the Spring 1995 issue of *DNTAP*, a quarterly newsletter published by the National Drinking Water Clearing House of West Virginia

DC Water Supply Has A New Chief'

¹Chesapeake Newsletter. Volume XXXI No. 3. July 1995. AWWA Chesapeake Section.

Mr. Tom P. Jacobs is the new Chief of the Washington Aqueduct Division (WAD), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He is responsible for overseeing the Dalecarlia and McMillan Reservoirs and Water Treatment Plants. Together, these plants supply drinking water to residents and hundreds of thousands of visitors to the DC area. The DC Water Supply System received media attention in December 1993 when the plant experienced high turbidity in its finished water, which resulted in boil water alert, and the change in leadership.

Mr. Jacobs says his greater challenge for the future is to ensure that the treatment plants will be on compliance with newly proposed EPA rules. The WAD is a federal entity and does not have the same access to the Capitol market as other water works to do support system upgrades and improvement projects. As a

potential remedy to the financial limitations, the Secretary of the Army has recommended their conversion to a non-federal public authority.

Alternative Household Cleaning Solutions is one in a series of consumer issues fact sheet sheets prepared by the Penn State Cooperative Extension Office. To receive free copy, contact the publications Distribution Center for Penn State University, 323 Agricultural Administration Building, Penn State University, University Park, PA 16802, or call (814) 863-7869

STATEMENT BY ROCKWOOD H. FOSTER, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE DC CITY COUNCIL

As a former member of the pre-Home Rule D. C. City Council including Chairperson of the Environmental Committee and one who has been continually and actively engaged in a variety of local and regional environmentally related roles since then, it is a pleasure to take this opportunity to comment on several, relevant. Areas of service provided by the University of the District of Columbia through it's Water Resources Research Center.

The University is rightly proud of the Water Resources Research Center and its many achievements for more than twenty years. For the past two decades, the Center staff and associated principal investigators have made some significant contributions to water resources research, management and education in the District of Columbia. The Center through its many projects has trained more than 130 undergraduate and graduate students, most of whom have obtained degrees and employment in water resources related fields in the District pond federal governments and with international agencies. The Center draws its expertise from all relevant colleges and departments of the University, including the Environmental Sciences, Biology, Civil Engineering, the Business and Public Administration Departments and from other universities in Washington, D.C.

The Center also plays an important and perhaps lesser-known role in sharing its expertise with neighboring state governments and regional bodies. I have had first hand knowledge of the significant contributions made by the Center Director and staff during my own service over the past two decades as a member of two regional advisory bodies. These re; the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (representing the states of MD, VA, WV, PA, DC and the federal government) and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay the group responsible for initiation of actions which led to the creation of the Chesapeake Bay Restoration program.

I urge the Committee to continue its strong support and encouragement of programs of research, training and public outreach and information dissemination of such important public benefit that are provided by the Water Resources Research Center at the University of the District of Columbia.

EXCERPTS OF STATEMENT BY PHIL COHEN, FORMER CHIEF HYDROLOGIST, U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The D.C. Water Resources Research Center is one of 54 such centers or institutes first authorized by the Water Resources Research Act of 1964 and located at land grant universities across the nation. These centers each receive a small matching grant from the federal government to help support a program of water resources research, education, and information and technology transfer.

The 54 centers or institutes are as different and unique as the States and territories that they serve, but they all share the same objectives. The Water resources Research Act requires that they develop programs that "foster the entry of new research scientists into water resources fields: the training and education of future water scientists, engineers and technicians; the preliminary exploration of new ideas that address water problems or expand understanding of water and water-related phenomena; and the dissemination of research results to water managers and the public.

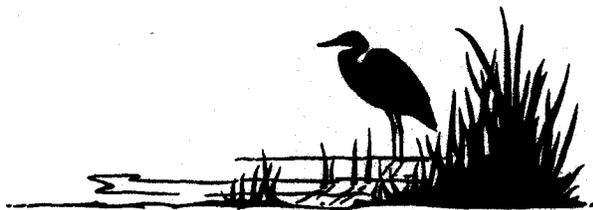
The D.C. Water Resources Research Center has been an active and productive part of the institute network. In recent years, it has supported research on such topics as the effects of pollution on the ecology of the Anacostia River, the impact of erosion and sedimentation on the water quality of the estuarine portion of the Anacostia river, activators and inhibitors of hydrilla enzymes, the determination of dissolved metals introduced into municipal water as a result of deterioration of water distribution lines, and the toxicity of Anacostia River sediments.

The D.C. Center has reached beyond the university community with its programs. It supports local agencies in their efforts to increase awareness about such issues as lead in drinking water, radon, and the effect of urban activities on water quality. It also presents awards for outstanding water resources research projects at local high school science fairs.

Outside of the Academic community, but working with selected universities and federal agencies; the Water Resources Division is assisting the Bureau Of Indian Affairs with its Water Resources Technician Training Program: This program, is -designed to introduce talented, Indian youth to the field of water resource development and management. It is intended to provide students with an awareness of potential employment opportunities in the field of water resources and to encourage college education.

The D.C. institute is the only one in the 48 contiguous states located on the campus of a minority institution. Perhaps more importantly, it is the only one serving an exclusively urban area. It is therefore especially appropriate and fitting that the D.C. center receive strong support to enable it to address the urban water resources issues facing the District of Columbia as it moves towards the year 2000.

**STATEMENT BY
SACHS,**



**HERBERT M.
EXECUTIVE**

DIRECTOR, INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON THE POTOMAC RIVER BASIN

The Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) urges continuing support for the Water Resources Research Center located at the University of the District of Columbia. The Center is primarily a research facility, providing assistance to researchers not only at UDC, but also at other colleges and universities in the District. Through partnership with the university, the center provides training for both graduated and undergraduate pursuing academic work in water resources and related fields. Other activities of the center include information transfer to administrators, managers and other users, and the dissemination of educational materials.

These functions are straightforward and are performed at water resources centers across the country. The D.C. center has fulfilled its mission with distinction over the past 20 years, making significant contributions to water resources research, management, and education in the District. The D.C. center also serves a very unique role for the District by providing a more-customized approach to local water quality problems. Many D.C. residents' feet their city was bypassed during the big clean up of the Potomac River in the 1970s because little attention was paid to the Anacostia. The reason given, which is factually correct, is that the emphasis in the 1970s was in building, enlarging and improving sewage treatment plants, of which there were none in the Anacostia. So while the waste quality of the mainstream Potomac was greatly improved, the Anacostia, running through the District, remained polluted. The disparity between the Potomac and the Anacostia became much more apparent. While the Potomac became more swimmable and fishable, the Anacostia gained the dubious distinction of being labeled as one of America's dirtiest rivers.

The bottom line is that the Anacostia needs fixing, and efforts started some eight years ago with the creation of the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Committee, on which the District is represented. Work of the Committee is focused on identifying and correcting non-point sources (i.e. no single identifiable source) of pollution in the Anacostia include sewage leaks, combined sewer overflows, illegal dumping, and soil erosion.

Correcting non point sources requires new technologies that are just emerging. In their application, they must be tailored to meet the needs of a specific watershed. The Water Resources Research Center is addressing the unique problems of the Anacostia through its research and technology transfer activities. Probably just as important, residents who want to become more active in environmental activity can take advantage of the education and information facilities of the center. This resource is not to be taken lightly. Many sources of nonpoint pollution can be addressed by citizen action if the citizenry is informed and motivated. The motivation factor is so very important in the Anacostia watershed whose restoration was thought to be a lost cause by many residents.

The Anacostia is an interstate stream with drainage from both MD and DC. The ICPRB is an active participant in the Anacostia restoration and the center is kept aware of the Commission's activity by having representatives from both the Center and UDC on the Commission.

I have used the Anacostia to illustrate the important role played by the center to the District. Others could have been used, but I believe this to be the most meaningful. The ICPRB sincerely hopes the city can continue its support of the center and the University.

WRRC Reports

Development of a Groundwater Contour Map for the Water Table Aquifer in the Atlantic Coastal Plain Deposits of Washington, D. C
By Gordon Matheson, Beverly Flick and Farshad Amini.

One important objective of this research was to develop a: groundwater contour map, that could be used as the basis for evaluating the general groundwater flow direction and interaction with surface waters.

Even though significant research has been published on the general groundwater flow characteristic on the major aquifers in the region, prior to 1993 no significant research had been completed on the characteristics of the uppermost water table aquifer in this area.

Institutional and Financial Management of the District's Water Resources: Trend Analysis 1981-1993. By Dr. Yearn Choi.

This research project has assessed financial management in the District's water resources: water/sewer rate setting, water/sewer rate setting mechanisms, water/sewer bonds, and budget, water quality and privatization of water management.

Water is an essential necessity of lives. We cannot survive without it, and therefore, water management has been a very important task for all local governments.

DC WRRC Assisting in the West Bengal Water Crisis

"Drinking the Wafer of Death" was the title of an article *in* the Guardian newspaper of January 6, 1995 which described how scientists from Jadaupur University, Calcuta, India discovered that people in the villages of west Bengal are being slowly poisoned by naturally occurring Arsenic from the wells, they dug to provide fresh drinking water:

The DC WRRC through its Deputy Director, Mr. James Hannahanl has responded to the urgent call, made by the Indian scientists for input from the rest of the world. The DC WRRC has been in contact with *the* Global *Crisis* Action *office* of the International Red Cross and crescent societies in Geneva, Switzerland and is alerting *the* U.S. wad resources community to this major disaster, soliciting their advice and assistance.

If interested in helping *with* this problem, please make contact with: Mr. Urlch Jaspers. Disaster Policy Department, International Red Cross and Crescent Societies. 17 Chemin Des Crets. P.O. Box 372 CHI211. Petit-Saconnex. Geneva 19, Suisse. Phone (41-22) 733-0895

Drought in Southern Africa Will Likely Remain

Zimbabwe, Malawi, Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique, and other countries in Southern Africa are still suffering of drought. A deadly combination of four straight years of little rain and growing populations has resulted in a regional drought that has swept across the southern portion of Africa. At least seven nations are reporting some degree of drought this year, and even when rain⁹¹ is abundant, these countries suffer from poor living standards.

Even more ominously, experts warn that drought is not a short-term phenomenon in the region. Expanding populations have used up most of the available water supplies, and the, Kalahari Desert *is* claiming more and more hectares of what previously was fertile land. Water scarcity *is* still a main problem.

The Anacostia Garden Club

This club was formally organized in October 1989 by a group of concerned citizens who wanted to improve the environment. It is a mixture of young, old, male, female, blacks and whites, and others. Members participate in public service to improve the community.

The club has many activities and is always seeking for new members. To participate,
Call: (202) 678-6396 or
Write to: 1624 U Street, S.E.,
Washington, D.C. 20020.



Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces up, snow is exhilarating; there is no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather.

--John Ruskin

The University of the District of Columbia is an equal opportunity and affirmative institution. Its programs, employment and educational opportunities are available to all people regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, family responsibilities, or political affiliation.

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