

General Manager's Message



Dear Customers,

In mid-December, we celebrated another milestone in our unprecedented effort to reduce the amount of pollution that flows into the Anacostia River. On the banks of the river on a brisk

day, we christened our new massive tunnel boring machine (TBM) which will soon be lowered deep underground to dig a 2½ mile tunnel.

This TBM is named "Nannie" for Nannie Helen Burroughs, a prominent 20th century African-American educator and civil rights activist, who founded a school for women and girls in Northeast DC. We hope Nannie will help us educate many people about the environmental benefits of a healthier, cleaner river.

Nannie joins another TBM named Lady Bird in tunneling segments that will eventually stretch 13 miles and alleviate combined sewer overflows to the Anacostia. A combined sewer overflow occurs during heavy rain when the mixture of sewage and stormwater cannot fit in the sewer pipes and overflows to the nearest water body.

The tunnel work is part of the DC Clean Rivers Project - federally mandated but funded almost entirely by you the ratepayers. I'm pleased to report the project is on-schedule and on-budget and when it's complete will pay environmental dividends for generations to come.



George S. Hawkins

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DC WATER ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2014

DC Water continued its global leadership in water sector science, technology, operations and management. Just a few highlights for the year follow:

An award-winning year

The Authority and its staff members demonstrated leadership with more than 25 awards in 2014. Included were:

- General Manager George Hawkins was named one of nine **"Public Officials of the Year"** by *GOVERNING Magazine* and profiled in the December issue alongside a governor, a mayor and other public servants whose leadership and innovation stood out on a national scale. He was also named **"Business Leader of the Year"** by the District of Columbia Chamber of Commerce.
- NACWA (National Association of Clean Water Agencies) awarded DC Water the **Platinum Award for Excellence in Management**.
- Randy Hayman, General Counsel, won two awards from the *Washington Business Journal*. He was selected as one of the region's top 25 **"Minority Business Leaders of the Year"** and was also named a **Legal Champion**.
- Walt Bailey, Assistant General Manager of Wastewater Treatment, was awarded the **Edward J. Cleary**



Award by the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists (AAEES). He was also inducted into the **Virginia Tech Academy of Distinguished Civil and Environmental Engineering Alumni** for his career accomplishments and contributions to the profession.

- DC Water's research team, in collaboration with others, won a Global Honor Award in Research from the **International Water Association (IWA)**.

Engineering and environmental protection projects make huge strides

- DC Water made significant progress on two environmental projects on the Blue Plains plant. First, the Authority completed the \$950 million Enhanced Nutrient Removal facilities to meet new EPA requirements reducing nitrogen leaving the plant in effluent — to 3.9 mg/liter, perhaps the strictest permit in the nation.
- The other project turns the solids left over at the end of the wastewater

see **ACHIEVEMENTS** continued on back



Ring in the New Year with Safe Water!



Add these easy tips to your New Year's resolutions so your glass is filled with quality tap water all year long.

1. When water sits in household pipes at length, water quality can suffer. Run cold water for two minutes before using for drinking and cooking. Any activity that uses water will move fresh water through your pipes, such as flushing the

toilet, taking a shower or doing laundry.

2. Use only cold water for cooking and drinking. Metals, sediment and bacteria can build up in hot water tanks. Drain the water heater annually to minimize this buildup.

3. The screen (aerator) that is located at the tip of your faucet can collect material and become clogged. Unscrew the aerator and rinse it out every few months. Replace aerators that are in poor condition. Find them at your

local hardware store.

4. If you use a water filter, routinely replace the filter cartridges to prevent any buildup of sediment or bacteria. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for replacement.

5. Make sure to identify and remove sources of lead in your household plumbing. Request a free lead test kit from DC Water by calling (202) 612-3440.

Achievements *continued*

treatment process into electric and steam power, generating about a third of the plant's power needs. This project is nearly complete and is expected to start up in early 2015.

- Two projects to help alleviate flooding in Bloomingdale and LeDroit Park were completed. Two underground structures at the McMillan site were converted to hold stormwater, while fifteen rain gardens were installed along Irving Street, NW, to hold approximately 4.5 million gallons of combined sewage during heavy rains. The First Street Tunnel Project (a larger storage tunnel) is under construction, slated for completion in 2016.
- DC Water's Clean Rivers Project roared forward with "Lady Bird" (a tunnel boring machine or TBM) passing the halfway point in her journey and the delivery and naming of her sister TBM "Nannie."

Financial innovation and excellence

DC Water better matched the financing of the Clean Rivers Project tunnels with their life-expectancy. The Authority became the first water/wastewater utility in the U.S. to issue century bonds

with a 100-year final maturity. The \$350 million sale was also the first "green" bond issue in the U.S. debt capital markets certified by a third party. That introduced DC Water to a new pool of Socially Responsible Investors. The century bonds spread the cost of the project out to the generations that will use it—a more fair solution for all. And so unique it won regional "Deal of the Year" by *The Bond Buyer*.

Sustainability

DC Water is on the leading edge of sustainability efforts, with research, planning and construction of flood protections and renewable energy facilities. Portions of a sea wall were built to protect the Blue Plains plant from Potomac River flooding in serious storm events. In addition to the anaerobic digestion project for renewable energy, plans were laid for large-scale solar panel installations to generate additional renewable power.

DC Water awarded seven prizes for Phase I of its Green Infrastructure Challenge for innovative uses of green practices to reduce runoff. Phase II winners will be announced soon, and



Allen Lew, DC Water Board Chair, accepts ceremonial check from Goldman, Sachs & Co.

will be awarded contracts to design and construct their ideas.

Celebrating a milestone

The nation celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act this year and DC Water led a regional event — "A Toast to Tap" with EPA, local businesses, regional partners and national organizations.

Lending a helping hand

DC Water's customers, employees and residents continued to contribute to the SPLASH fund (Serving People by Lending a Supporting Hand) to assist those customers in the most dire need. Together, we raised more than \$115,984 in Fiscal Year 2014 to keep 309 families in water and sewer service.



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

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