WHAT'S ON water is life NEWS FOR DC WATER CUSTOMERS | VOL. 16 ISSUE 9

General Manager's message



Dear Customers,

One of the great strengths of DC Water is the talent and stability of our workforce. It is incredible how many employees have been with the Authority and its predecessors – for 10, 20, 30, 40, even 50 years! That depth of experience translates

into a wealth of institutional knowledge, and it has a lot to do with our success delivering high quality water and wastewater services to you, day in and day out.

Unfortunately, no one stays forever and it was with heavy hearts this fall that we said goodbye to one of our longest serving and most accomplished employees. Walt Bailey arrived at Blue Plains in 1972 when the plant occupied just a fraction of this sprawling 150 acre campus. He retired this fall as Assistant General Manager, having led our wastewater treatment operations into the 21st Century. He turned the plant into a world class facility that exceeds every relevant performance standard, and yet always deflected credit to his talented team.

The amazing new biosolids treatment system you will read about in this issue was planned, researched and built on Walt's watch. It is a fitting legacy to his leadership and contributions over 43 years at DC Water, and for that reason, shall be known as the Bailey Bioenergy Facility – a small tribute to Walt's enduring impact on our enterprise and our city.

Deorge S. Hankins

George S. Hawkins gmsuggestions@dcwater.com

DC Water unveils innovative waste to energy project

DC Water unveiled the \$470 million wasteto-energy project that is producing a net 10 megawatts (MW) of electricity from the wastewater treatment process, providing clean, renewable energy to power about one-third of the Blue Plains plant's energy needs. DC Water CEO and

General Manager George S. Hawkins was joined to commission the project by District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, EPA Acting Deputy Administrator Stan Meiburg, U.S. Department of Energy Deputy Assistant Secretary Kathleen Hogan and local elected and appointed officials.

The project, which broke ground in 2011, was only viable through the use of innovative technology never before used in North America. DC Water not only brought the CAMBI® thermal hydrolysis process to the continent, in addition Blue Plains is now the largest thermal hydrolysis installation in the world. Thermal hydrolysis uses high heat and pressure to "pressure cook" the solids left over at the end of the wastewater treatment process. This weakens the solids' cell walls to



make the energy easily accessible to the organisms in the next stage of the process—anaerobic digestion. The methane these organisms produce is captured and fed to three large turbines the size of jet engines to produce electricity. Steam is also captured and directed back into the process.

The facilities include a dewatering building, 32 sleek thermal hydrolysis vessels, four concrete 80-foot high anaerobic digesters that hold 3.8 million gallons of solids each, and three turbines the size of jet engines.

DC Water CEO and General Manager George S. Hawkins, commented, "This project embodies a shift from treating used water as waste to leveraging it as a resource. We are proud to be the first to bring this innovation to North America for the benefit of our ratepayers, the industry and the environment."





What is DC Water doing in our streets?

The nation's capital has a rich past, dating back centuries and figuring prominently in our nation's history. Like other older cities, parts of the District's water and sewer systems were put in place in the 1800s.

Caring for that system through preventive maintenance and repair is vital to provide reliable delivery of drinking water and wastewater services.



There are many assets that DC Water manages, which include the water distribution system, the sewer infrastructure, wastewater treatment facilities and fire hydrants. DC Water and its contractors perform construction activities throughout the city to improve water quality and system reliability, increase water pressure in some areas, and maintain adequate flows throughout the system.

Performing work on the system is a highly technical and difficult job that requires exceptional skill and expertise. The members of the teams that perform this work take the responsibility seriously and work hard to minimize disruptions and outages.

DC Water works closely with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), District Councilmembers, Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANC), other agencies and various neighborhood organizations and associations to coordinate and communicate construction activities. For water or sewer emergencies and construction questions, please call the DC Water Command Center at (202) 612-3400.

Imagining a day without water in the Nation's Capital

Below our feet, over a thousand miles of pipe transport clean water to homes and businesses in DC. Many of these pipes have reached their replacement age and are more likely to cause problems for our customers. all of life's necessities and A broken water pipe means that simple tasks, such as taking a shower or washing dishes, are no longer an effortless turn of the wrist. In October, we participated in a national educational campaign called "Imagine

a Day Without Water" to raise awareness about this vital resource and the infrastructure that delivers it. We asked the public to imagine a day without water, because we know that water is essential for luxuries. Through a series of media interviews and public forums, DC Water

CEO and General Manager

George S. Hawkins described his commitment to making sure DC never has to realize a day without water. By implementing smart technology and proactively upgrading our system, we can ensure that those pipes hidden below the street will continue to reliably serve our customers.

> **Imagine a Day Without Water**

October 6-8, 2015



SPOTLIGHT ON

WASHINGTON AREA **BICYCLIST ASSOCIATION**

Since 1972, the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) has been working diligently to create a healthy and more livable region. WABA promotes bicycling for fun, fitness, and affordable transportation. The group's mission for a healthier environment extends to DC's trails and watersheds.

WABA's DC Trail Rangers program puts friendly faces out on area trails to offer assistance, keep the trails clear of debris, and report problems to 311. Their trail cleanup events bring volunteers together to pick up trash before it gets washed into our rivers and sewers.

You can catch the DC Trail Rangers out on the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail—roughly twelve miles of multi-use trail that runs on both sides of the Anacostia River and connects parks, stadiums, restaurants and neighborhoods to the river.

In 2012, DC Water and WABA partnered to create a "Down the Tubes" ride—a tour of water and wastewater infrastructure by bicycle. More than 50 people participated, visiting DC Water's facilities including Fort Reno, the Bryant Street Pumping Station and the Main and O Street Sewer Pumping Stations, along a route mapped and led by WABA cyclists. DC Water staff led tours and described the processes that take place in the facilities. The 13-mile ride concluded on the banks of the Anacostia River.

To learn more about the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) or how to get involved, please visit waba.org



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

810 First Street, NE, Washington DC 20002 | dcwater.com

George S. Hawkins | CEO & General Manager





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