

WHAT'S ON



TAP?

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.

George S. Hawkins
gmsuggestions@dcwater.com

DC Water unveils innovative waste to energy project

DC Water unveiled the \$470 million waste-to-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.”



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