



# NEWS RELEASE

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Contact:  
Chris Augsburger  
(410) 962-2809  
Chris.augsburger@us.army.mil

## Washington Aqueduct Opens New Residuals Processing Facility

WASHINGTON – Leaders from the Washington Aqueduct, the surrounding communities and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers celebrated the completion of the new Residuals Processing Facility today at a plaque unveiling ceremony for the \$106 million-dollar, 66,000 square-foot facility. The main building and ancillary facilities will eliminate the need to dispose of approximately 30,000 dry tons of water treatment residuals back to the Potomac River by collecting the material and disposing it onto dry land. This facility is the realization of a twenty-five year effort by the Corps and the Environmental Protection Agency to develop ways to alternatively dispose of residuals.

“The construction of this facility demonstrates not only the Army’s commitment to environmental sustainability, but also the value of cooperation between the communities and the governments that we serve,” said Col. Trey Jordan, the commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, who own and operate the Aqueduct.

Historically, river solids removed during the water treatment process have been disposed of by flushing them to the Potomac River under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by EPA, Region III. In 2003 a reissued version of the NPDES permit significantly limited the permitted discharge of water treatment solids to the river. Washington Aqueduct and EPA Region III entered into an agreement that allowed discharges to continue while Washington Aqueduct studied, designed and constructed the buildings, equipment and processes required to collect, transfer and dewater the residuals for trucking to off-site disposal in compliance with the new NPDES permit.

“The project will have a positive impact on the health of the Potomac River by eliminating discharge of water treatment residuals back to its ecosystem,” said Tom Jacobus, the General Manager of the Washington Aqueduct. “It also signals increased water quality benefits, as sediment is continuously removed from the basins and reservoirs.”

The effort took a collaborative approach among Washington Aqueduct; Washington Aqueduct’s three wholesale customers – D.C. Water, Arlington County, Va., and the City of Falls Church, Va.; the Environmental Protection Agency, Region III; D.C. political leadership; community stakeholders; and contractors CH2M Hill and Archer Western.

Washington Aqueduct operates and maintains the Dalecarlia and McMillan Water Treatment Plants, from which safe, reliable and cost-effective drinking water is provided for approximately one million people living and working in and visiting the District of Columbia, Arlington County, Va., and the City of Falls Church, Va.

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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – BALTIMORE DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 1715, BALTIMORE, MD 21203

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