



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON AQUEDUCT
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, BALTIMORE DISTRICT
5900 MACARTHUR BOULEVARD, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20016-2514

September 10, 2004

Dear Neighbor:

I'm sending this letter to follow-up on the public meeting we held at the Dalecarlia Water Treatment Plant on Tuesday, September 7, 2004. In reflecting on the meeting, we believe that its format, location and overall effectiveness fell short of many peoples' expectations. We regret that and want to inform you of our immediate plans to improve the public's involvement in the development of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project to collect and dispose of our water treatment process residuals.

In the next few days I'll be sending you another letter that announces a specific date, time and location of a follow-on meeting along with a specific agenda. At least half of the time at our upcoming meeting will be devoted to listening to your thoughts and ideas about the project, for the record, and answering your questions. In the remaining time we will explain the specific steps we took to develop the initial 26 alternatives and how we applied the screening criteria. We will also present the status of the alternatives receiving greater analyses in the draft EIS. This analysis is revealing the strengths and weaknesses of the alternatives. While not yet complete, it will be the basis for recommending a preferred alternative when we complete the Draft EIS and request public comment on it later this fall. In particular, we plan to discuss some of the emerging implementation issues related to the monofill and the Blue Plains alternatives.

We also expect that over the next several weeks we will hold additional meetings to continue to update you and to receive input. My next letter will contain more specifics on these.

We have already received some requests for us to "start over" by considering new alternatives and then rescreening all of the known alternatives in order to have a potentially different set of alternatives to examine in the Draft EIS. As part of our continuing public involvement process, we will take any new alternative that the public offers and evaluate it against the same criteria we previously used. If it successfully satisfies those criteria it will be added for full evaluation in the Draft EIS. To keep to our legally mandated schedule, we would need your ideas before the end of September.

I also want to tell you that in addition to the meetings referred to in this letter, we will have a public hearing during the review period after the Draft EIS is published.

Before our next meeting, we will post additional project information on our web site: <http://washingtonaqueduct.nab.usace.army.mil/aqueduct.htm>. This may help you keep track of our progress, and it may be useful to you in shaping your comments back to us. We also think it will be a helpful resource if you are unable to attend one of the meetings. For those without Internet access we can provide you this information by mail.

If you have questions or suggestions you would like us to consider for the next meeting, please contact us via our website, or at our mailing address shown in the letterhead, Attn: Michael Peterson, or call us at 202-764-0025. We welcome your participation and look forward to the opportunity to work with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas P. Jacobus", is written over a white rectangular background.

Thomas P. Jacobus
General Manager