

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

Mr. John T. Dunn, P.E.
Chief Engineer/Deputy General Manager
District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority
5000 Overlook Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20032

JAN 19 2005

Dear Mr. Dunn:

Thank you for your December 15, 2004 letter outlining the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority's (DCWASA) plans for completing the distribution system unidirectional flushing program in 2005.

In your letter you state that DCWASA will provide an outline of a proposed ongoing flushing program to EPA by January 31, 2005. Please include with that outline a description of the resources to be employed to complete the suspended 2004 unidirectional flushing plan, and a proposed schedule with start date, end date, and major milestone dates to establish your expected completion progress (i.e., 25%, 50% and 75%) for the 60% of the distribution system which was not flushed in 2004.

The extended periods of time necessary to complete flushing individual locations in the fall of 2004 suggests that there is a build-up of debris in the distribution system. This highlights the need to complete a thorough flushing of the distribution system as soon as practical in 2005 to minimize the chance of detrimental water quality changes. It also points to the need to conduct an aggressive flushing program each year.

EPA is also analyzing distribution system data collected by DCWASA. It would be very helpful for our analysis to have information that shows when each zone of the distribution system was flushed to help us assess the effects of the flushing program over time. Please provide, at your earliest convenience, a schedule that shows when each flushing zone was flushed in 2004 and a corresponding map that shows the locations of these zones (electronic format is acceptable). As the unidirectional flushing program is completed in 2005, please report the zones flushed at each of the major completion milestones listed above (percent of system flushed).

If you have any questions, please contact Rick Rogers, Chief of the Drinking Water Branch at 215-814-5711.

Sincerely,

Jon M. Capaeasa, Director
Water Protection Division

