



Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July 29, 2021

The Honorable Ben Cardin
United States Senate
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
United States Senate
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
U.S. House of Representatives
1705 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Anthony Brown
U.S. House of Representatives
1323 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators and Congressional Members,

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC Water) is the nation's 8th largest water utility with a service area that spans nearly 1,000 square miles in both Prince George's and Montgomery Counties; serving 1.8 million residents. Their mission includes being entrusted by our community to provide safe and reliable water and return clean water to our environment. They strive to perform these services all in an ethical, sustainable and financially responsible manner.


The future is taking shape in Prince George's County; more specifically in Accokeek, in the form of a cutting-edge water treatment and green energy project. WSSC Water is transforming the way the Piscataway Water Resource Recovery Facility will handle waste from five existing water resource recovery facilities. The Piscataway Bioenergy Project - the largest and most technically advanced project ever constructed by WSSC Water - will use innovative technology to recover resources and produce green energy. In the coming years, the Piscataway plant will evolve into a bioenergy production facility that uses efficiency, technology and sustainability to enhance the region's environmental and financial health. This \$262 million project is expected to serve our customers for the next 100 years.

The Piscataway Bioenergy Project will transform how WSSC Water handles biosolids - the nutrient-rich organic materials produced by the wastewater treatment process - from five existing water resource recovery facilities. Using cutting-edge technology, the new facility will significantly reduce the amount of biosolids left over from the treatment process, thus reducing costs to haul and dispose of the product. The biosolids will be significantly cleaner "Class A" biosolids, making the disposal process much easier and allowing the final product to be sold and distributed as fertilizer. With cleaner Class A biosolids, WSSC Water will save money by eliminating the use of lime, which is applied to Class B biosolids to control odor.


This new process is forecast to reduce operating costs by more than \$3 million per year, which will save money for our customers. An added benefit will be the process that creates the Class A biosolids will generate methane gas that can be used to power the plant, reducing WSSC Water's greenhouse gas emissions by 15 percent. Taken together, these benefits show that WSSC Water's investment in this bioenergy facility is both environmentally friendly and financially sound. The Piscataway Water Resource Recovery Facility will become WSSC Water's showcase for maximizing value by investing in a green future. The Piscataway Bioenergy facility is expected to be operational in spring 2024.

The Piscataway Bioenergy Project is crucial to WSSC Water in fulfilling its overall mission. The project requires additional funding in the amount of \$194 million. As you may know, it previously received federal funding for the feasibility study, and we would appreciate your continued support. We support WSSC Water's request and respectfully ask for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive



Calvin S. Hawkins, II
Chair, County Council

cc: Tara H. Jackson, Chief Administrative Officer
Joy Arnold Russell, Chief of Staff
Jared M. McCarthy, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Government Operations
John E. Erzen, Deputy Chief of Staff
Rhea L. Harris, Director, Intergovernmental Affairs Division
Terry L. Bell, Council Liaison
Carla A. Reid, General Manager/CEO, WSSC Water