

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

Chairman: Raymond W. Bellamy, 1957
J. Norman Ager, 1957; L. S. (Ted) Ray, 1957
James B. Parkhill, Secretary-Treasurer
Arthur C. Keefer, General Counsel
Harry B. Shaw, Chief Engineer

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The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission was created by the General Assembly of Maryland in 1918. It is composed of three members appointed by the Governor for a term of six years. When the Commission was organized, the Washington Suburban Sanitary District had an area of 94 square miles. Additions were made to the District in succeeding years by the General Assembly of Maryland. It now contains 213 square miles within Prince George's and Montgomery Counties adjacent to the District of Columbia. The present District has an estimated population of 395,000 and an assessed valuation of 828 millions of dollars.

The Commission provides for the construction and the operation of the water supply and sewerage systems, has jurisdiction over storm drainage, plumbing, and the location of utilities and provides refuse disposal service within the Sanitary District. It also operates a refuse collection service in the suburban portion of Montgomery County. As of December 31, 1952, the water and sewerage systems of the Commission contained 1,076 and 920 miles of mains respectively.

The main source of water supply of the Sanitary District is the Patuxent River, which has been impounded by the construction of a dam near Brighton in Montgomery County. There is under construction another dam on the same river near Laurel in Prince George's County. When this dam is completed, the Washington Suburban Sanitary District will have an assured yield from the Patuxent River of slightly over 40 million gallons daily. The Commission also obtains a portion of its water supply from the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River, which water is treated in a rapid sand filtration plant at Burnt Mills. It has a third source of supply from deep wells at Forest Heights in the southern portion of the District. This underground supply will yield at present 1.4 million gallons daily.

At the present time sewage is disposed of by discharging it into the District of Columbia sewerage system and treating it at the Anacostia Sewage Treatment Works of the Commission near Bladensburg, Maryland. Negotiations are under way with the District of Columbia whereby all the sewage of the Sanitary District will be treated at the District of Columbia Sewage Treatment Plant at Blue Plains.

Refuse is disposed of by means of an incinerator located at Lyttonsville and a sanitary landfill at Fairland in Montgomery County and an incinerator at Bladensburg in Prince George's County.

The construction operations of the Commission are financed from proceeds of bonds. These bonds are retired with funds from several