

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, created by the General Assembly in 1918, consists of six members, two of whom are appointed by the Governor, two by the County Council of Montgomery County, and two by the Board of County Commissioners of Prince George's County. All serve four-year terms. When the Commission was organized, the Washington Suburban Sanitary District had an area of 94 square miles. In succeeding years the General Assembly has made additions, and the District now contains 326 square miles within Prince George's and Montgomery counties adjacent to the District of Columbia. The present Sanitary District has an estimated population of over 500,000 and an assessed valuation of \$1,238,053,863.

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, 1956, the water and sewerage systems of the Commission contained 1,332 and 1,111 miles of mains respectively.

The main source of water supply of the Sanitary District is the Patuxent River, which the Commission has impounded by the construction of dams near Brighton in Montgomery County and near Laurel in Prince George's County. With the completion of the dam at Laurel, the Washington Suburban Sanitary District has 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 discharged into the District of Columbia sewerage system for treatment at the District of Columbia Sewage Treatment Plant at Blue Plains. An incinerator located at Lyttonsville in Montgomery County and a sanitary landfill at Anacostia River Park in Prince George's County dispose of refuse.

The construction operations of the Commission are financed from proceeds of bonds retired with funds from several sources. The general construction bonds are retired by front foot benefit charges and ad valorem taxes. Bonds for major water and sewer construction are retired from water consumption and sewerage usage charges respectively. Refuse incinerator bonds are retired from receipts of the refuse service, and storm water drainage bonds are retired from ad valorem tax receipts.

(Acts 1918, chap. 122; Acts 1920, chap. 518; Acts 1924, chaps. 189, 190, 252, 469; Acts 1927, chaps. 506, 507; Acts 1931, chaps. 232, 522; Acts 1935, chap. 597; Acts 1937, chaps. 45, 140, 296, 389, 391; Acts 1939, chaps. 193, 253, 257, 266, 540; Acts 1941, chaps. 280, 668, 802, 892; Acts 1943, chaps. 450, 451, 468, 520, 522, 524, 525, 526, 993; Acts 1945, chaps. 917, 1024, 1029; Acts 1947, chaps. 143, 361, 362, 363, 365, 732, 733, 734, 736, 739, 820; Acts 1947, (Sp. Sess.) chap. 66; Acts 1948 (Sp. Sess.) chap. 57; Acts 1949, chaps. 342, 537, 538, 539, 541, 728; Acts 1950, chaps. 92, 93, 94; Acts 1951, chaps. 100, 376, 384, 385, 562, 563, 691; Acts 1952, J.R. 6; Acts 1953, chaps. 183, 349, 350, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 366, 374, 386, 430, 434, 521, 522, 626, 666, 786; Acts 1955, chaps. 78, 79, 117, 118, 154, 231, 256, 356-358,