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The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, created by the General Assembly in 1918, consists of six members appointed by the Governor. Two are nominated by the Commissioners of Prince George's County, and two, by the Montgomery County Council. The Governor selects the other two, one from each county. All serve four-year terms, except that the terms of two members appointed in 1959 will be for an initial term of two years. 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 about 600,000 and an assessed valuation of \$1,433,230,556.

The Commission provides for the construction and the operation of the water supply and sewerage systems, has jurisdiction over storm drainage, pumping, 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. The Commission has been designated as the organization responsible for the administration, maintenance and operation of the Anacostia River Flood Control and Navigation Project. As of December 31, 1958, the water and sewerage systems of the Commission contained 1,575 and 1,315 miles of mains respectively.

The main present 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. The Patuxent Filtration Plant gives the Washington Suburban Sanitary District an assured yield of 65 million gallons daily. The Commission also obtains a portion of its water supply from the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River, where water is treated in a rapid sand filtration plant at Burnt Mills. A third source of supply comes from deep wells at Forest Heights in the southern portion of the District. Total supply is about 80 million gallons daily.

Construction of the new Watts Branch Filtration Plant started in early 1959. This is the Commission's first tap of the Potomac River, and the first section of the facility is scheduled to go into operation in 1960 with a production capacity of 30 million gallons daily. These facilities will be expanded over successive 10-year periods to an ultimate capacity of 120 million gallons daily in 1990. The Commission expects to be serving 1.2 million people, twice the number of its present customers, by the turn of the century.

(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, 496, 647-659, 664, 686, 687, 717, 723; Acts 1957, chaps. 585, 271, 586, 186, 591, 345, 779, 624, 637, 642, 361, 362, 363; Acts 1959, chaps. 225, 228, 229, 243, 286, 461, 470, 471, 618, 654, 656, 707, 710, 776, 779, 785).