



National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal
National Historical Park

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C&O Canal News Release

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Submerged Potomac River water supply intake approved

Montgomery County, Md.— The National Park Service has approved a request from the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) to upgrade its Potomac River water supply intake along the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park. The project will involve construction of a new submerged water intake in the river and the placement of permanent water filtration structures within the park.

The decision document allows WSSC to implement the preferred alternative identified in the project's [environmental assessment](#). Infrastructure improvements identified in this alternative include constructing a boat ramp, a parking area and a permanent access road to support WSSC operations. In exchange for a perpetual easement for the existing and proposed intake facilities, a land exchange between the NPS and WSSC will occur prior to construction. WSSC will also contribute to a mitigation fund for impacts associated with the proposed construction of this project; this fund is separate from the land exchange. WSSC plans to begin construction in about two years.

The environmental assessment & FONSI are available [online](#).

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ABOUT C&O Canal NHP: Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park preserves and interprets the historical, natural and recreational resources of the C&O Canal. Over 5 million visitors a year enjoy the opportunities for recreation and understanding that the park has to offer. For more information, visit the park's website at www.nps.gov/choh.