

**Government of the District of Columbia**  
**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3F**  
*Van Ness • North Cleveland Park • Wakefield • Forest Hills*

3F01 – David Dickinson, Chair  
3F02 – Carolinn Kuebler, Vice Chair  
3F03 – Naomi Rutenberg, Treasurer  
3F04 – Leah Frelinghuysen  
3F05 – Andrea Molod, Secretary  
3F06 – Monika Nemeth  
3F07 – Vacant



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**RESOLUTION REGARDING DC WATER REHABILITATION OF SEWERS IN SOAPSTONE VALLEY  
AND NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
**MAY 21, 2019**

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia (DC) owns sanitary sewers and manholes as well as storm water sewer outfalls (Assets) in Soapstone Valley (SV) between Connecticut Avenue and Broad Branch within the boundaries of ANC 3F and has entrusted management, operation, and maintenance of these Assets to DC Water (DCW), a DC agency also known as the DC Water and Sewer Authority;

WHEREAS, some of these Assets are on federal government land managed by the National Park Service (NPS) and others are on rights of way (ROWs) owned by DC and managed by the District Department of Transportation (DDOT);

WHEREAS, DC's Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE) has responsibility to regulate the storm water sewer outfalls into and otherwise protect and monitor water quality of Soapstone Creek (which originates at Woodrow Wilson High School, is channeled in a storm sewer between Wisconsin and Connecticut Avenues, and emerges at a storm sewer outfall in SV) [see Reference (a) below];

WHEREAS, DCW concluded, years ago, that all these sanitary sewers and manholes (most of which are 110 years old), several stream crossings where erosion has exposed once-buried sanitary sewers, and two of the outfalls need to be rehabilitated, approving a Project to do so on both DDOT and NPS land [see References (b), (c) and (d)];

WHEREAS, the NPS determined that the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) applies to DCW's entire rehabilitation Project because part of it would be implemented on NPS land, that NPS is the NEPA "lead agency", and DCW has helped NPS prepare documents that NEPA requires including a Statement of Facts (SOF) and a proposed Environmental Assessment (EA);

WHEREAS, the NPS is a component of the Department of the Interior (DOI) and subject to its changing NEPA and EA directives [see Reference (e)];

WHEREAS, DCW recently informed ANC 3F that NPS is about to issue an EA for public comment [see Reference (f)];

WHEREAS, ANC 3F as early as 2013 and 2015 hosted community forums (and adopted resolutions) because of multiple concerns as to SV sewers and their rehabilitation and Soapstone Creek water quality and bank erosion; and

WHEREAS, ANC 3F — considering that its residents enjoy views of this forested valley some 40 feet below street grade, hike trails on both DDOT and NPS land, dispose of sanitary sewage through pipes and manholes in this valley, have storm water from their properties and neighborhood streets released into Soapstone Creek through outfalls in this valley, and could be injured by any leaks or ruptures of Assets — established in 2015 (and annually renewed) a Standing Committee on Soapstone Valley, Parks & Trails [see Minutes of Sept. 15 and Oct. 20, 1965].

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ANC 3F requests

1. That NPS confirm it will schedule a 60-day public comment period once it issues its EA (posting the EA online and making some hard copies available).
2. That NPS confirm it will host a public meeting in the middle of that public comment period during which NPS and DCW will (a) discuss the EA, (b) take questions, and (c) answer such questions on the spot to the extent they can.
3. That NPS also decide to schedule a second public meeting a couple of weeks later (which would facilitate follow-up interactive questions).
4. That NPS confirm it has forbidden DCW to meet with ANC 3F's Standing Committee during the public comment period.
5. That NPS confirm that it will prepare a Comment Response Document (CRD) with DCW input at least 30 days after close of the public comment period and that it will then either (a) sign and issue a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) thereby ending its EA NEPA-compliance process or (b) embark on preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
6. That both NPS and DCW confirm that they will consider and respond to any comments ANC 3F may submit during the public comment period.
7. That DCW also confirm that it will give "great weight" to ANC 3F comments.
8. That DCW meet with ANC 3F's Standing Committee as soon as possible to discuss aspects of the SV Project that DCW would implement only after NPS issues a FONSI (assuming NPS will do that), such as procurement process and actual construction practices.
9. That DCW meet with ANC 3F's Standing Committee as soon as possible to discuss generic technology and policy issues not limited to NPS land or SV (for example, what

does DCW know about useful life of sewer linings? or What is DCW's City-wide policy for lined sewers after lining lives end?).

10. That DCW meet with ANC 3F's Standing Committee as soon as possible to discuss aspects of its SV Project on DDOT land [see Reference (g)].
11. That DCW meet with ANC 3F's Standing Committee as soon as possible to discuss unavoidable impacts of its SV Project on trees and trails in SV.
12. That DCW inform ANC 3F of its estimated "worst case" releases of sanitary sewage to the SV environment.
13. That DCW inform ANC 3F as to average and peak flows of sanitary sewage through the SV sewer pipes and how much (if any) originate outside ANC 3F.
14. That DCW provide ANC 3F maps of each sub-shed from which various Assets that DCW proposes to rehabilitate receive sanitary sewage or storm water.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Commissioners Dickinson and Kuebler are authorized to speak on behalf of ANC 3F regarding this matter.

ANC 3F passed this resolution at its meeting on May 21, 2019, which was properly noticed and at which a quorum was present, by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining.



David Dickinson  
Chair, ANC 3F

References:

(a) DOEE, "Notice of Public Comment on Draft MS4 Outfall Repair Schedule" (June 2013), <https://doee.dc.gov/node/572902>, Part 2, Outfalls F-117 and F-140  
[https://ddoe.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ddoe/page\\_content/attachments/Outfall%20Program%20Report 06-24-2013 FINAL COMPILED Part%20of%204.pdf](https://ddoe.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ddoe/page_content/attachments/Outfall%20Program%20Report%2006-24-2013%20FINAL%20COMPILED%20Part%20of%204.pdf)

(b) NPS, "DC Water's Proposed Sewer Rehabilitation Projects, Glover Archbold and Soapstone Valley Parks" (2013)  
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=198&projectID=47855&documentID=54106>

(c) Marlene Berlin, "Something is missing from Soapstone sewer planning" (FHC July 29, 2013)  
<https://www.foresthillsconnection.com/news/somethings-missing-from-soapstone-sewer-planning/>

(d) David Jonas Bardin "DC Water presents new Soapstone sewers alternative" (FHC Aug. 4, 2015) <https://www.foresthillsconnection.com/news/dc-water-presents-new-soapstone->

sewers-alternative/

(e) DOI “Additional Direction for Implementing Secretary’s Order 3355 Regarding Environmental Assessments” (Aug. 6, 2018)

[https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/so\\_3355\\_additional\\_direction\\_on\\_eas\\_08.06.2018.pdf](https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/so_3355_additional_direction_on_eas_08.06.2018.pdf)

(f) David Jonas Bardin “DC Water and NPS weeks from revealing plans for 110-year-old Soapstone sewers” (FHC April 25, 2019) <https://www.foresthillsconnection.com/news/dc-water-and-nps-weeks-from-revealing-plans-for-110-year-old-soapstone-sewers/>

(g) David Jonas Bardin and Marjorie L. Share, “How DC Water repaired a 1908 sewer pipe in Soapstone Valley (FHC Aug. 25, 2015) <https://www.foresthillsconnection.com/news/how-dc-water-repaired-a-1908-sewer-pipe-in-soapstone-valley/>

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