

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Energy and Environment



Natural Resources Administration
Water Quality Division

February 3, 2016

Pat Jakopchek
Commissioner
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3F
Box 244
4401-A Connecticut Ave NW
Washington, DC 20008

**Re: Resolution Requesting Water Quality Data for Soapstone Valley Creek and
Melvin Hazen Tributary**

Dear Commissioner Jakopchek:

This letter is a response to Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 3F's resolution requesting water quality data collected from Soapstone Valley and Melvin Hazen Creeks, specifically data for Escherichia coli (E. coli). Tables 1 and 2 provide E. coli data the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) compiled from the water quality monitoring stations in Soapstone Valley and Melvin Hazen Parks.

Date	Time (24-hr)	E. coli (MPN/100 mL)
2/4/2014	10:55:40	57
5/20/2014	10:52:14	1,120
8/12/2014	10:40:36	2,420
11/4/2014	10:38:50	20
2/3/2015	10:37:00	16
5/12/2015	10:51:45	54
8/11/2015	10:42:08	816
11/3/2015	10:35:28	39

Date	Time (24-hr)	E. coli (MPN/100 mL)
3/18/2014	11:09:57	210
6/3/2014	11:10:50	502
9/16/2014	10:42:21	276
12/2/2014	11:06:00	3,784
3/3/2015	11:05:00	340
6/2/2015	11:26:30	>2,420
9/21/2015	11:11:22	84
12/15/2015	10:47:18	326

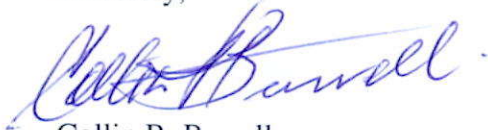
DOEE interpreted the data in these tables using the benchmarks in the District of Columbia Water Quality Standards Regulations. According to these regulations, DOEE used an E. coli benchmark standard of 410 MPN/100 mL for these single samples. MPN stands for most probable number to measure the bacteria in a 100-milliliter (mL) water sample.

Samples collected from the Melvin Hazen Creek Station in May 2014, August 2014, and August 2015 exceeded the DC Water Quality Standards benchmark value. Samples collected from the Soapstone Valley Station in June 2014, December 2014, and June 2015 exceeded the benchmark value. As a result of these E. coli levels, DOEE listed Soapstone Valley and Melvin Hazen Creeks as impaired.

Source (or host) identification is very difficult, and DOEE's current ambient water quality monitoring program does not identify the sources that contribute E. coli via fecal pollution. Therefore, there is no current data to determine whether the source is from human or animal waste. DOEE acknowledges the importance of identifying microbial (or bacteria) sources and will pursue opportunities to study them. We will keep you apprised of any developments.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Joshua Rodriguez, Chief of the Water Quality Division Inspection and Enforcement Branch at (202) 535-2226 or joshua.rodriguez@dc.gov.

Sincerely,



Collin R. Burrell
Associate Director
Water Quality Division