

# STAFF RECOMMENDATION

J. Mann

NCPC File No. 6450



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**FIRST HIGH SERVICE RESERVOIR, SECOND HIGH SERVICE RESERVOIR,  
THIRD HIGH SERVICE RESERVOIR, GEORGETOWN RESERVOIR, AND  
DALECARLIA WATER TREATMENT PLANT  
INSTALLATION OF WATER SYSTEMS COMMUNICATION ANTENNAS  
Washington, DC**

Submission by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

September 2, 2004

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## Abstract

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington Aqueduct Division, has submitted plans for the installation of antennas at the First High Service Reservoir, Second High Service Reservoir, Third High Service Reservoir, Georgetown Reservoir, and Dalecarlia Water Treatment Plant, located in the northwest quadrant of Washington, DC. A total of seven transmitting and receiving antennas will be installed at the five locations.

## Commission Action Requested by Applicant

Approval of preliminary and final building plans pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 8722(d) and Section 5 of the National Capital Planning Act (40 U.S.C. § (b)(1)).

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## Executive Director's Recommendation

The Commission:

**Approves** preliminary and final building plans for the installation of seven antennas at five U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sites in the northwest quadrant of Washington, DC, for a period not to exceed five years.

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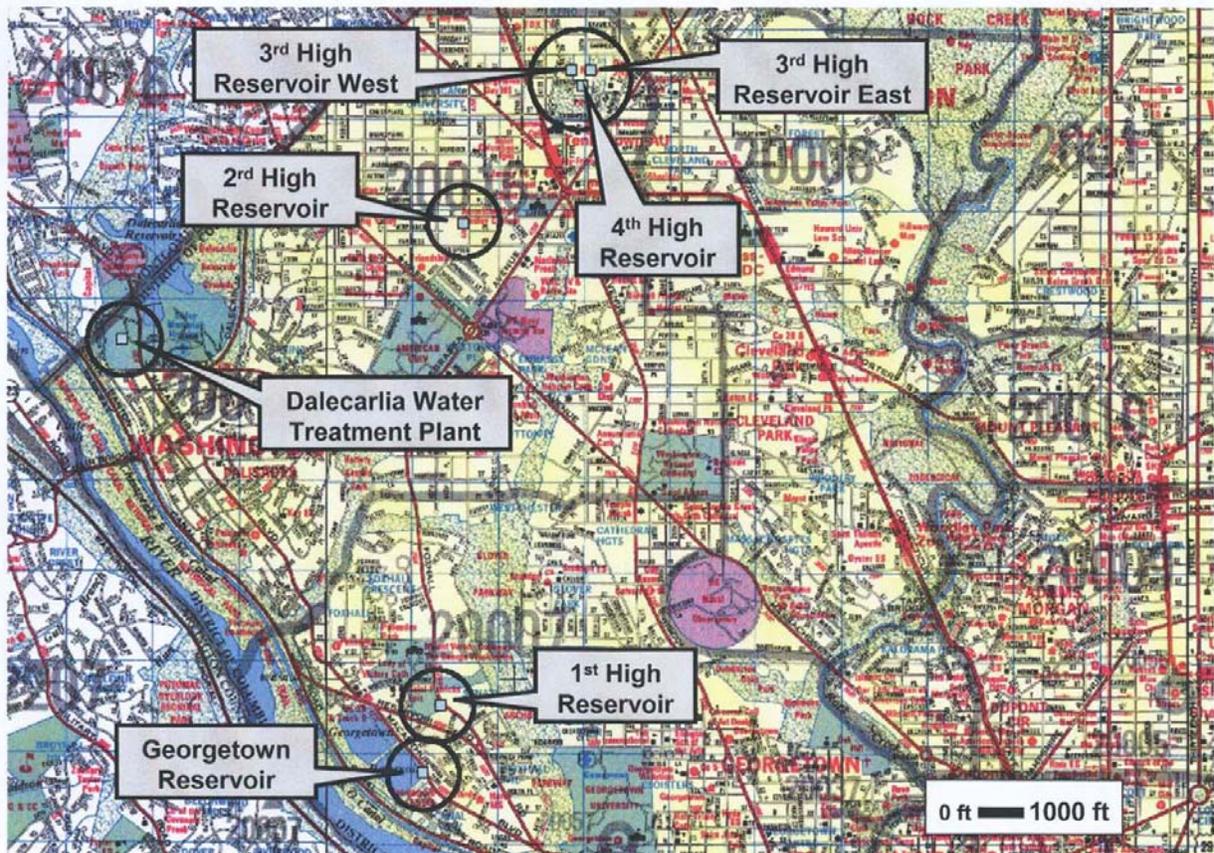
## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### Sites

Seven antennas will be installed at five locations in the northwest quadrant of the District of Columbia.

- First High Service Reservoir on Reservoir Road near the intersection of Whitehaven Parkway and Foxhall Road.
- Second High Service Reservoir on Verplanck Place, between 44<sup>th</sup> Street and 45<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Third High Service Reservoir at Fort Drive, west of Howard Street and adjacent to Fort Reno Park.
- Georgetown Reservoir, on MacArthur Boulevard, between Reservoir Road and Elliott Place.
- Dalecarlia Water Treatment Plant at the intersection of McArthur Boulevard and Little Falls Road.

### Proposed Washington, D.C. Antenna Locations - Overview



### Background

The Washington Aqueduct Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers collects water from the Potomac River, treats it to safe drinking water standards and supplies it to distribution systems that are owned and operated by local jurisdictions. To ensure optimal and secure water delivery, operators at the water treatment plants need to have accurate information about the

quantity of water entering the distribution systems. The existing telephone lines used currently are vulnerable to severe weather and human intrusion and are proposed to be replaced with a wireless communication system to transmit data from its remote facilities to the Dalecarlia Water Treatment Plant in Northwest Washington, D.C. The data will be transmitted using frequency hopping spread spectrum radios.

### Proposal

- Install a 30-foot pole and antenna at grade at the First High Service Reservoir, near the existing 10-foot tall reservoir building. This facility is gated and locked, and access to the antenna will be available only to authorized personnel.
- Install a 10-foot pole and antenna on an existing 10-foot tall reservoir building at the Second High Service Reservoir. This facility is gated and locked, and access to the antenna will be available only to authorized personnel.
- Install a 10-foot pole and antenna on each of two existing 10-foot tall reservoir buildings at the Third High Service Reservoir. This facility is gated and locked, and access to the antennas will be available only to authorized personnel.
- Install a stand-alone pole and antenna on the roof of the 70-foot tall District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority's abandoned 4th High Tower at the Third High Service Reservoir. This facility is gated and locked, and access to the antenna will be available only to authorized personnel.
- Install a 60-foot stand-alone pole and antenna at the Georgetown Reservoir. The antenna will be concealed within a flagpole at the side of the Georgetown Reservoir Castle. This facility is gated and locked, and access to the antenna will be available only to authorized personnel.
- Install a 10-foot tall free-standing stainless steel pole and antenna on the roof of the existing 90-foot tall administration building at the Dalecarlia Water Treatment Plant. This facility is gated and locked, and access to the antenna will be available only to authorized personnel.

### PROJECT ANALYSIS

The staff recommends that the proposal be approved. The size and location of the antennas are not out of character with their surroundings, and the proposal is consistent with the Commission's Antenna Guidelines.

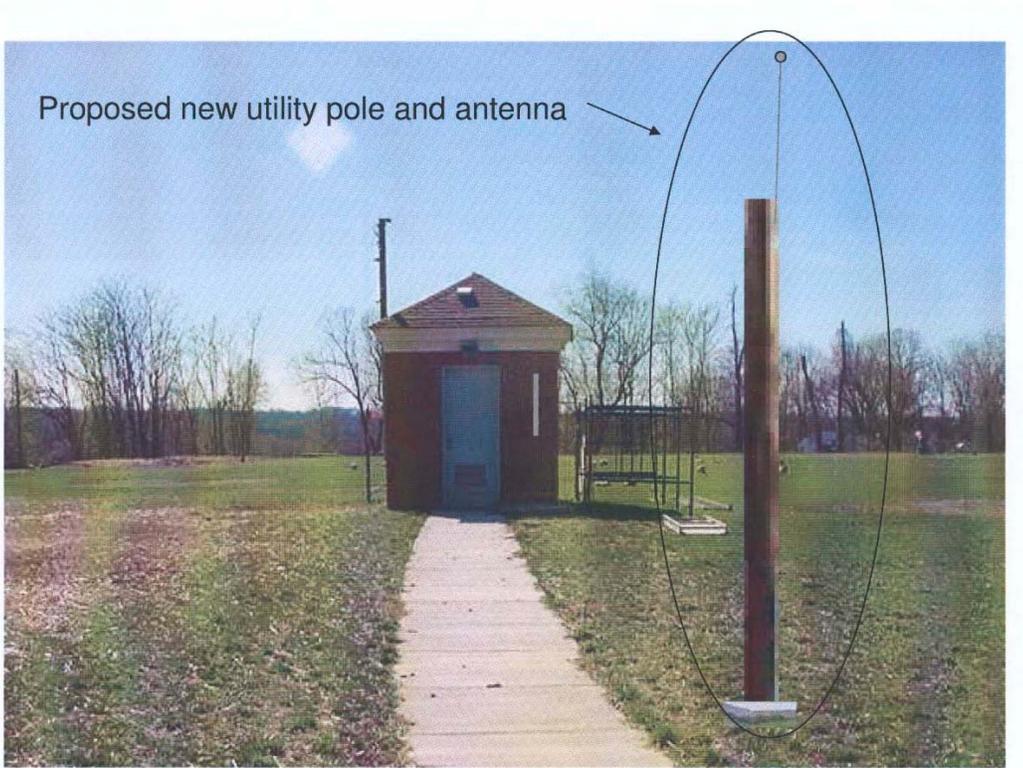
### Radiofrequency Radiation

Operation of these antennas is in compliance with radiofrequency exposure guidelines for Maximum Permissible Exposure; they are unlikely to cause exposure in excess of FCC guidelines. The proposed antennas are low power radiators and would not impact any surrounding communities or wildlife habitats.

CONFORMANCE

Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: Federal Elements

Staff has determined that the antenna installation would not have an effect on other federal facilities and will be consistent with the Federal Elements of the Comprehensive Plan.



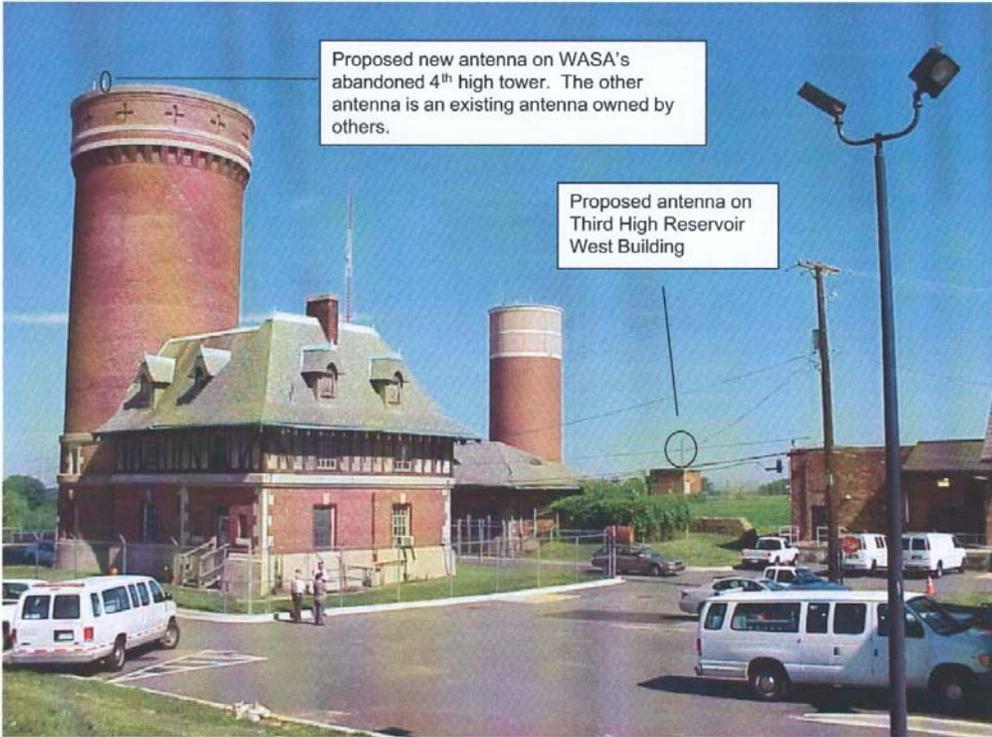
First High Service Reservoir  
View from Foxhall Road facing west



Second High Service Reservoir  
View from 44<sup>th</sup> Street facing west



View from the top of WASA's abandoned fourth high tower facing northeast.

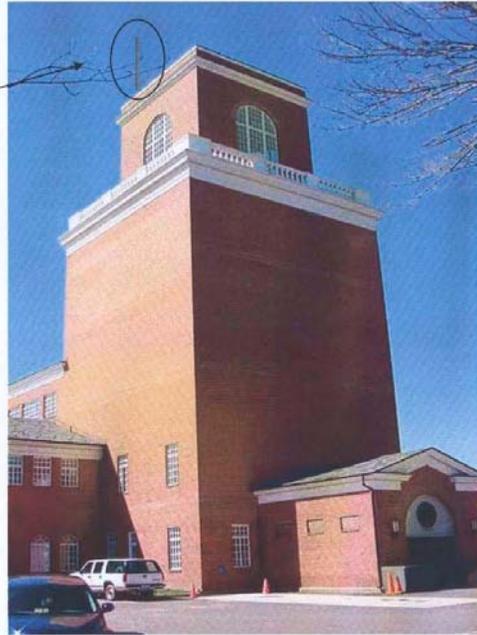


View from the ground south of WASA's abandoned fourth high tower and the Fort Reno Tower facing northwest.



View of the Georgetown Reservoir Castle from MacArthur Boulevard

Proposed  
Antenna on  
top of the  
Administration  
Building



Administration Building Tower at the Dalecarlia Water Treatment Plant

#### National Environmental Policy Act

Pursuant to the regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that the proposed project qualifies for a categorical exclusion from the requirement to prepare further environmental analysis. Staff review of the conclusion finds the determination supportable.

#### National Historic Preservation Act

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that the installation of the antennas would not affect any historic properties. The District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office has concurred with this determination. However, the Historic Preservation Office strongly discourages the installation of a spotlight at the base of the flagpole at the Georgetown Reservoir.

#### CONSULTATION

##### Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committee reviewed this project at its meeting on March 10, 2004, and forwarded the project to the Commission with the statement that the project has been coordinated with all agencies participating, except the District of Columbia Office of Planning and the National Park Service. The representative for DCOP withheld coordination pending resolution of Section 106 issues and the representative for NPS withheld coordination to determine if NPS has any unresolved issues with the project. The other participating agencies are: NCPC; the Department of Housing and Community Development; the District Department of

Transportation; the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority; and the General Services Administration. Subsequent to the meeting, the representatives for DCOP and NPS concurred in the coordination of this project.