

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY
EGG-SHAPED DIGESTERS FACILITY
5000 Overlook Drive, SW, Washington D.C.

Delegated Action of the Executive Director

April 28, 2005

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996, I approve the preliminary and final site and building plans for an egg-shaped digesters facility, DC Water and Sewer Authority, 5000 Overlook Drive, SW, Washington D.C., as shown on NCPC Map File No.84.40(38.00)41583.

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The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (WASA) has submitted preliminary and final site and building plans for an egg-shaped digesters facility at the Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant (Blue Plains). Blue Plains is located in the southernmost part of the District of Columbia, situated generally between the Anacostia Freeway and the Potomac River. Blue Plains is approximately two and one-half miles southeast of Reagan National Airport and just over five miles south of the U.S. Capital. The digester facility would be constructed in the south-central section of Blue Plains on a site that is already cleared. The facility includes eight egg-shaped digesters and four gas storage tanks (silos) as well as four smaller auxiliary buildings. The auxiliary buildings and structures include: a Digester Gas Building, a Digester Control Building, and two electrical control buildings. The egg-shaped digesters are 145 feet in height and would be sunk in the ground to a depth of 44 feet, resulting in a height of 101 feet above grade. The auxiliary buildings would be brick and metal panel structures.

The Commission, at its January 6, 2005 meeting, commented on a zoning referral that the proposed egg-shaped digester facility would not adversely affect the identified federal interests in the area and that it is not inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital. The proposal was reviewed by the Coordinating Committee at its April 13, 2005 meeting. As a District of Columbia agency project, outside of the central area of the District on non-federal property, the National Environmental Policy Act does not apply to the proposed construction.

The District of Columbia has reviewed the action and determined that it qualifies as an exempted action in accordance with the implementing rules of the District of Columbia Environmental Policy Act of 1989. Staff reviewed the action for extraordinary circumstances as sanctioned by NEPA but finds no significant issues that would alter the determination of exemption.

Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP
Executive Director