



Maryland
Department of
the Environment

Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor

Serena McIlwain, Secretary
Suzanne E. Dorsey, Deputy Secretary
Adam Ortiz, Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL / ELECTRONIC MAIL

FEB 18 2026

Gregory Hope, Interim Chief Legal Officer & EVP, Government & Legal Affairs
District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority
1385 Canal Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003

**Re: Potomac Interceptor, AI #72092
Notice of Referral to the Office of the Attorney General**

Dear Mr. Hope:

The Maryland Department of the Environment, Water and Science Administration, Compliance Program (Department) is writing to you in regards to the sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) that began on January 19, 2026, from the Potomac Interceptor, operated by the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water). The SSO occurred in the C&O Canal National Historic Park in Montgomery County, Maryland, and under the jurisdiction of a federally-issued wastewater discharge permit. By February 15, 2026, DC Water estimates that approximately 244 million gallons of untreated sewage had been released into the Potomac River. The release resulted in a downstream shellfish closure, health advisories in three Maryland counties, and impacts to wetlands in Maryland's jurisdiction. The Department appreciates the coordination between DC Water, the Department, and other entities over the last several weeks and looks forward to working together to ensure the full restoration of impacted areas.

The Department inspected the location of the incident multiple times in January and February 2026 and determined that DC Water installed bypass pumps upstream of the break in the Potomac Interceptor to route sewage through the C&O Canal and ultimately back into the pipeline. Sewage continues to flow through the C&O Canal while the pipeline awaits repairs.

Please be advised that after careful consideration, the Department has also decided to refer this matter to the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to support efforts to establish a plan and schedule to restore impacted surface waters, wetlands, and other natural resources within the jurisdiction of the state. This referral and engagement with our legal team will help ensure that plans to remediate impacted areas are consistent with, and directed toward, meeting applicable Maryland water quality requirements. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Arno Laud, Deputy Program Manager, Compliance Program at (410) 537-3510 or by email at mde.wsaenforcement@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Andrew Gosden, Program Manager
Compliance Program
Water and Science Administration

AKG:ldr

cc: Steve Maslowski, Environmental Protection Agency
Moussa Wone, DC Water