

**TESTIMONY OF DAN TANGHERLINI,  
DC CITY ADMINISTRATOR & DCWASA BOARD MEMBER  
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT  
REFORM SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL WORKFORCE, POSTAL  
SERVICE AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**DC WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY OVERSIGHT HEARING**  
April 15, 2008

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Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service and the District of Columbia. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak with you today about the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DCWASA). My name is Dan Tangherlini and I am the City Administrator for the District of Columbia. In this role, I am responsible for the daily operations of the DC agencies under Mayoral control, preparing the District's annual operating budget, and setting operational goals and performance measures to ensure that agencies are meeting the needs of the residents of the District of Columbia.

I am also privileged to be appointed by Mayor Adrian M. Fenty as a principal member of the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DCWASA) Board of Directors, and have been serving in that capacity for the past year. DCWASA plays a vital role in protecting the health and safety of District of Columbia residents and visitors by providing safe drinking water and wastewater treatment services as well as critical infrastructure needed for fire suppression and emergency response in the nation's capital. DCWASA operations, from operating the largest advanced wastewater treatment plant in the world, to the development and implementation of the EPA-mandated Long Term Control Plan, will also greatly impact the clean-up of the Anacostia River watershed and economic revitalization along the waterfront.

It is important to recognize the history of DCWASA and its relationship to the District of Columbia and the greater Washington Metropolitan Region. In doing so, it is important to note that DCWASA's assets are the property of the District of Columbia, and that the predecessor organization to DCWASA was created as an entity to serve the Federal City and its residents, as represented by the majority it holds on the DCWASA Board of Directors.

In my view, the three critical issues facing DCWASA are the same today as they were almost a year ago when I was initially nominated to the DCWASA Board: (1) undertaking a Long Term Control Plan, (2) upgrading the Blue Plains wastewater treatment plant to comply with newly issued EPA permit requirements and (3) investing in and improving the water and sewer infrastructure. The first two issues will be critical in improving the water quality of the Anacostia River and surrounding ecosystem, which we can all agree has been neglected for far too long. The third affects the quality and dependability of drinking water in the District and efficient use of our sewer system. Together, these three issues present a substantial challenge to DCWASA's finances and will greatly impact District and regional rate-payers.

While these are some of the District's top priorities, they are by no means the only issues currently facing DCWASA. We remain committed to ensuring that coordination efforts between DCWASA and the DC Fire and Emergency Services Department (FEMS) continues to progress with the Hydrant Inspection Program this spring, and technological improvements are made to improve the ability of first responders to access crucial infrastructure data on scene and in a timely fashion. Additionally, pipe and truck storage on the banks of the Anacostia River are not the signal DCWASA wants to send

about the value and importance of the river, and not the best way for the District to realize the highest return of its sizable investment in the ball park area. We are committed to working with DCWASA to move these functions to a more appropriate location.

Due to the fact that the District inherited its antiquated water and sewer infrastructure from the Federal government, it is appropriate that our Federal partners remain engaged with issues related to DCWASA. Further, I look forward to working with the Committee and Congress to find ways to financially support our efforts to address the critical improvements that have been discussed here today.

Finally, I recognize that issues related to the financial oversight at DCWASA are of interest to the Committee. Therefore, I would like to affirm that the District remains committed to working with my fellow DCWASA Board members, the region and Congress to reach an agreement on governance that will be amenable to all parties and ensure the continued strength and quality of DCWASA. Thank you very much for your time, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.