



POTOMAC
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NETWORK

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ALEXANDRIA RECEIVES STATE APPROVAL TO PROCEED WITH LONG OVERDUE STORMWATER AND SEWER SYSTEM UPGRADES

Plan Will Reduce Pollution by More Than 95%

Washington, D.C. July 3– Potomac Riverkeeper Network (PRKN) applauds the approval by Virginia’s Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) of Alexandria’s plan to reduce stormwater and sewer pollution flowing into the Potomac River. “When this plan is implemented, the raw sewage that has been flowing into the Potomac River for over a hundred years will largely be a thing of the past,” said Nancy Stoner, President of Potomac Riverkeeper Network. “This is good for the river, good for the citizens of Alexandria, and good for the city’s prospects of re-developing its waterfront,” she continued.

PRKN, through Potomac Riverkeeper Dean Naujoks and Phillip Musegaas, PRKN’s Vice President of Programs and Litigation, worked for three years to help obtain the passage of a state law in 2017 which required the city to bring its sewer outfalls into compliance with the Clean Water Act by 2025. Working closely with the Alexandria Renew Enterprises sewer authority and City of Alexandria environmental staff, PRKN identified the best practicable solution to achieve the mandated reductions of discharges of untreated sewage and polluted stormwater from the City’s combined sewer system into the Potomac River. The proposed Plan will reduce dumping of untreated sewage into the Potomac by 96%, dramatically improving water quality in the Potomac River and moving much closer to the goal of a “swimmable, fishable, and drinkable” river for all to enjoy.

When asked about the development, Naujoks said, “The new plan is far reaching and, because it is designed to correct decades of legacy pollution, there will be costs to Alexandria residents. However, it’s vitally important to remember that this long overdue infrastructure plan will virtually end the practice of raw sewage pouring into the Nation’s River every time it rains. And the public investment undertaken by the City will produce long term benefits – cleaner river, safer waters for the public to recreate in, and future economic and social benefits to Alexandria. As the City encourages waterfront development, so a clean Potomac River will create economic benefits to the city and a better quality of life to its residents.”

Stoner concluded, “PRKN supports the city’s final adopted plan to bring Old Town’s four sewer outfalls in line with Federal and state regulatory standards. The city and Alexandria Renew worked hard to develop a plan to address historic sewage pollution; for our part, will continue to support the city’s efforts to secure financial support from the Virginia legislature, to help offset the cost to ratepayers.”

About Potomac Riverkeeper Network

Potomac Riverkeeper Network is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization with three regional Waterkeeper branches: Potomac Riverkeeper, Upper Potomac Riverkeeper and Shenandoah Riverkeeper. Our mission is to protect the public's right to clean water in our rivers and streams. We stop pollution to promote safe drinking water, protect healthy habitats, and enhance public use and enjoyment.

For more information, visit our [website](#).

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