

# Blue Plains AWWTP and Clean Rivers Project

EPA Tour  
03 May 2023



Nicholas Passarelli, Vice President Wastewater Treatment



Who We Are

The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water)

## DC Water Overview

Provides

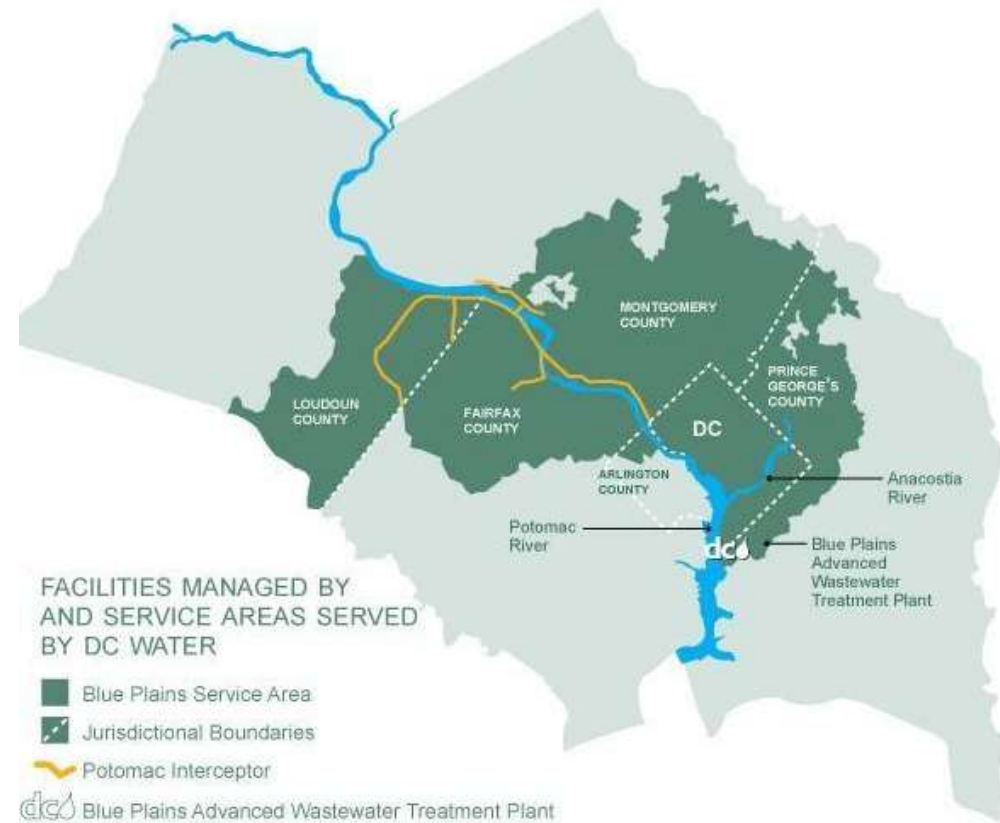
- Drinking water distribution for DC
- Sanitary wastewater conveyance and treatment
- Combined sewer conveyance and treatment

Treats wastewater for a population of 2.4 million

- District of Columbia
- Montgomery & Prince George's Counties, MD
- Fairfax & Loudoun Counties, VA

Operates the world's largest Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant

- Average daily capacity, 384 mgd
- Peak daily capacity, 780 mgd
- Serves a regional area of approximately 725 Sq Mi





# Beyond Stringent Permit Requirements

| Parameter                            | Discharge Limitations        |             | Performance 2022                                 |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|--|
|                                      | Avg. Monthly                 | Avg. Weekly |  |
| TSS                                  | 6.1 mg/L                     | No Limit    | 0.92   |
| CBOD <sub>5</sub>                    | 5.0 mg/L                     | 7.5 mg/L    | 1.25   |
| TP                                   | 0.17 mg/L                    | 0.34 mg/L   | 0.11   |
| NH <sub>3</sub> (summer)             | 4.1 mg/L                     | 6.1 mg/L    | 0.16 (Annual avg.)                               |
| NH <sub>3</sub> (winter 11/1 – 2/14) | 12.8 mg/L                    | 19.3 mg/L   |  |
| NH <sub>3</sub> (winter 2/15 – 4/30) | 10.3 mg/L                    | 15.4 mg/L   |  |
| DO (min daily)                       | 5 mg/L                       |             | 6.70 (min daily anytime)<br>9.4 (min daily avg.) |
| pH                                   | 6-8.5                        |             | pH <sub>(min)</sub> 6.2; pH <sub>(max)</sub> 6.8 |
| E. Coli                              | 126 cfu/100mL *              |             | 1.5  |
| Chlorine Residual                    | Non-detectable               |             | No Violation                                     |
| Total Nitrogen                       | 4,370,078 lbs/yr (3.74 mg/L) |             | 2,825,879 lbs/yr                                 |







Woodrow Wilson Bridge

Potomac River

City of Alexandria

North

# Blue Plains AWWTP

Denit Reactors

Filtration & Disinfection

Nitrification Sedimentation

Digesters

Solids Processing Bldg

Dual Purpose Sedimentation

Central Maintenance Facility

Nitrification Reactors

West Secondary Sedimentation

Wet Weather Treatment Facility

East Secondary Sedimentation

Secondary Reactors

West Primary Sedimentation

I-295

Raw W/W Pumping Station & Grit Chamber 1

Warehouse & Visitors Center

East Secondary Sedimentation

Grit Chamber Bldg 2  
Raw W/W Pumping Station 2

Naval Research Lab

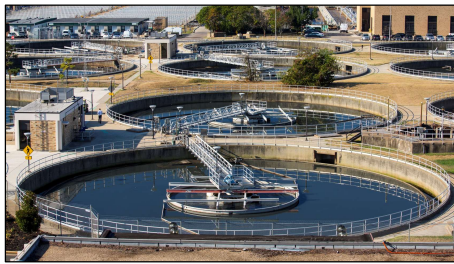
Central Operations Facility





# Process Performance Overview: *Liquids Treatment*

## Primary



## Secondary



## Nitrification & Denitrification



## Filtration & Disinfection



| Plant Influent |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| TSS            | 170 - 240 |
| cBOD           | 140 - 220 |
| TN             | 35 - 50   |
| TP             | 3.5 - 5   |

| Primary Effluent |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| TSS              | 50 - 100  |
| cBOD             | 80 - 130  |
| TN               | 30 - 40   |
| TP               | 1.5 - 2.5 |

| Secondary Effluent |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| TSS                | 15 - 40   |
| cBOD               | 5 - 30    |
| TN                 | 25 - 30   |
| TP                 | 0.5 - 1.0 |

| Nit-Denit Effluent |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| TSS                | 5 - 10    |
| cBOD               | 3 - 10    |
| TN                 | 2 - 5     |
| TP                 | 0.1 - 0.2 |

| Final Effluent** |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| TSS              | 0.92 <sup>DAAO</sup> |
| cBOD             | 1.25                 |
| TN               | 2.4                  |
| TP               | 0.11                 |

### Monthly Permit Limits on Final Effluent

|  |      |      |
|--|------|------|
| Total Suspended Solids                 | TSS  | 6.1  |
| Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand | cBOD | 5    |
| Total Nitrogen (annual load)           | TN   | ~4   |
| Total Phosphorous                      | TP   | 0.17 |

\*All values are in mg/L

\*\*Calendar Year 2022 Annual Average

## Slide 5

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**DAAO** [@Nicholas Passarelli] [@Ryu Suzuki] Minor detail. Values were previously for 2019.  
Conformed to 2022 based on slide 5 values.

Diran A. Adalian, 2023-05-03T14:37:35.143





# Process Performance Overview: Solids Treatment

## Thickening & Blending

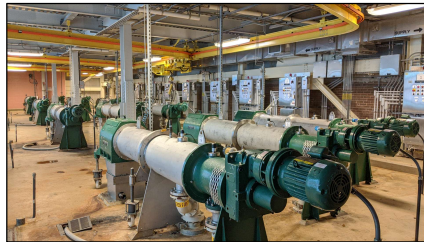
### Primary Sludge

dtpd 140 - 170

### Secondary Sludge

dtpd 140 - 170

## Fine Screens



## Pre-Dewatering



## Thermal Hydrolysis



### Blended, Screened Sludge

%TS 3.5 - 6.5

### Thickened Cake

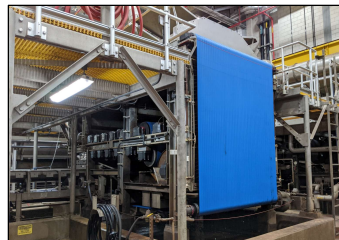
%TS 16 - 18

Steam

## Land Application



## Final Dewatering



## Anaerobic Digestion



## Combined Heat and Power



### Class A Biosolids

dtpd 120 - 160

wtpd 380 - 500

%TS 28 - 34

### Biogas

Scfm 2,500 - 3,500

### Electricity

Megawatts 6 - 9

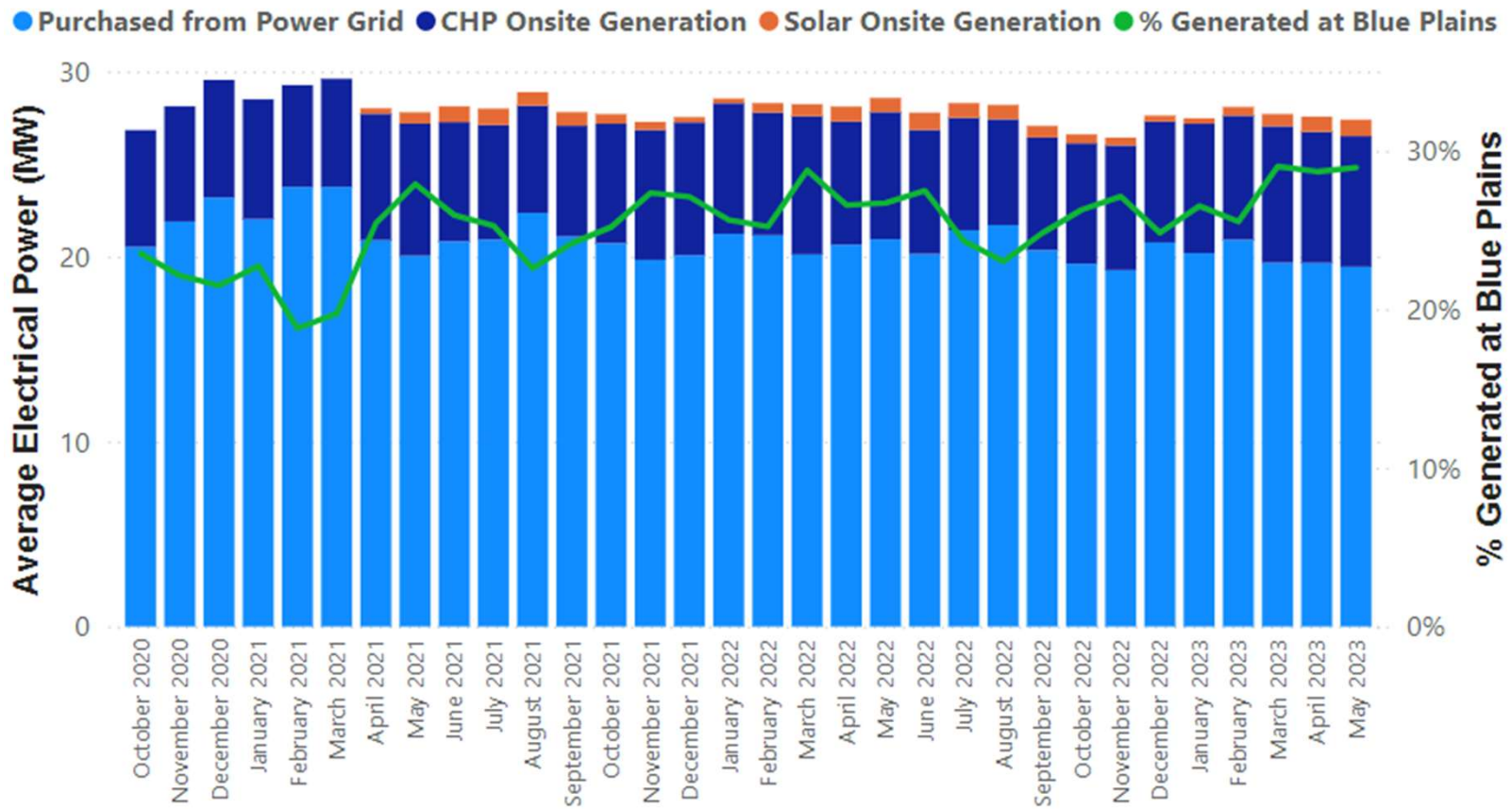
dtpd - dry tons per day  
wtpd - wet tons per day  
%TS - % total solids  
Scfm - standard cubic feet per minute



# Renewable Electricity Generation at Blue Plains

- Gas turbine commissioning began in June 2015
- About 25% of plant power demand is produced on site

Blue Plains Electrical Report





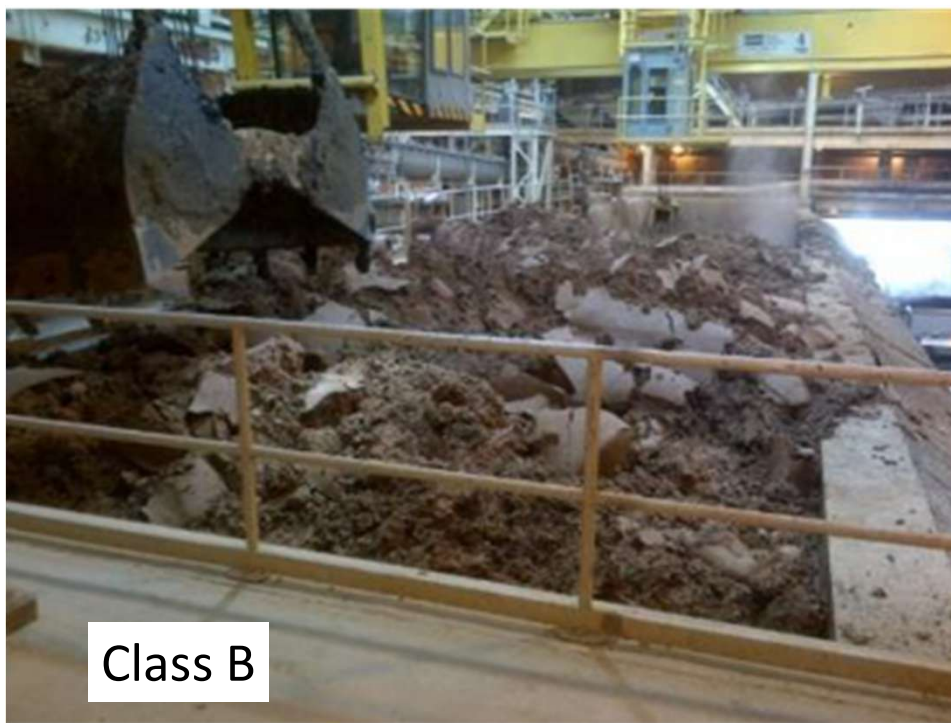


# Bloom Soil Amendment Product





# Class B vs Class A Exceptional Quality



There is a market for high quality cake at 31% solids ->



## Fresh Bloom:

- Biosolid straight from process
- Good for farming/industrial application
- Product slickiness DAA0 limits use in home gardening



## Cured Bloom (100% Bloom):

- Dried/windrowed material
- Granular, easy to use
- Higher nutrient content



## Blended Products:

- Wood Blend (OM augmentation)
- Sand Sawdust (texture + OM)



## Slide 10

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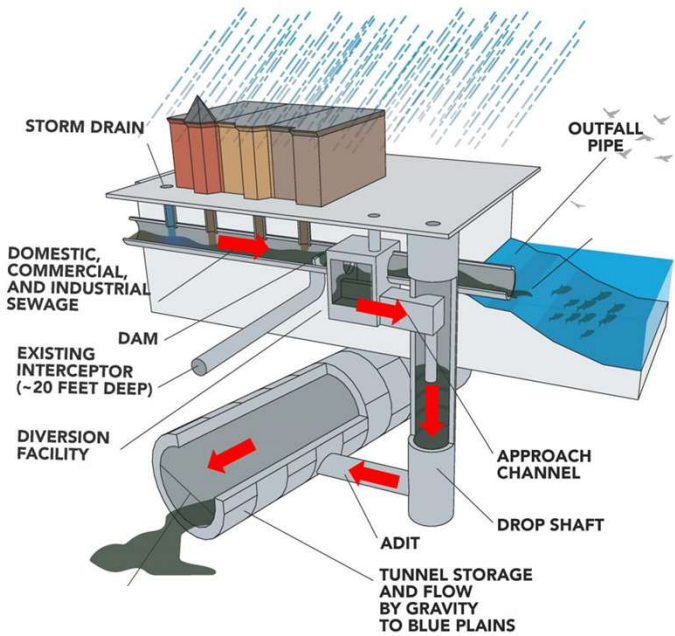
**DAAO** [@Chris Peot] [@Nicholas Passarelli] [@Ryu Suzuki] "slinkiness"?

Diran A. Adalian, 2023-05-03T14:45:05.866



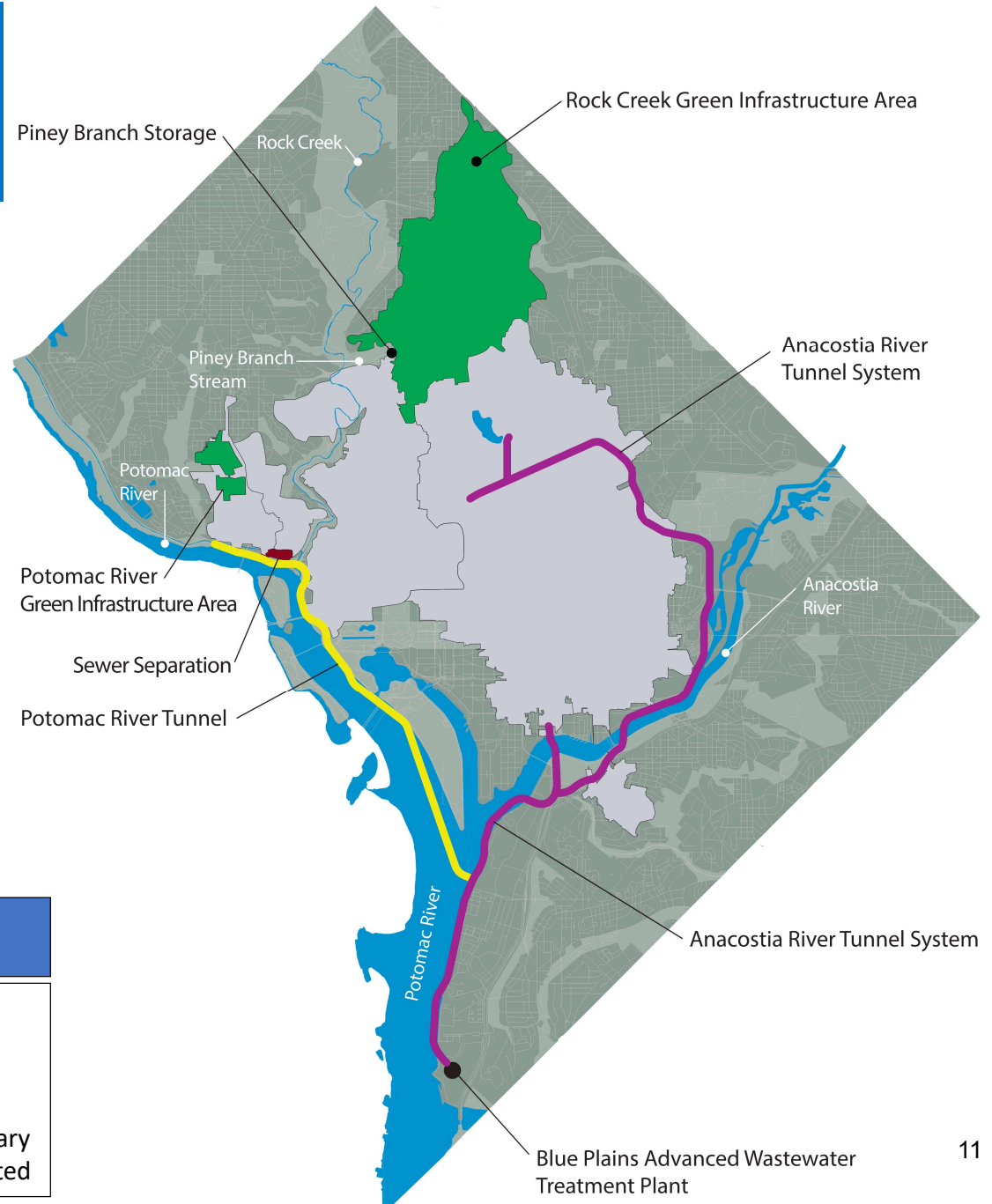


# DC Clean Rivers Project Overview



## DC CLEAN RIVERS PROJECT AND NITROGEN REMOVAL PROGRAMS

- 💧 DC Clean Rivers Project: \$2.99 Billion
- 💧 Nitrogen Removal: \$950 Million
- 💧 Total > \$ 3.4 Billion
- 💧 25 yr implementation (2005 – 2030)
- 💧 96% reduction in CSOs & flood relief in Northeast Boundary
- 💧 Approximately 1 million lbs/yr nitrogen reduction predicted

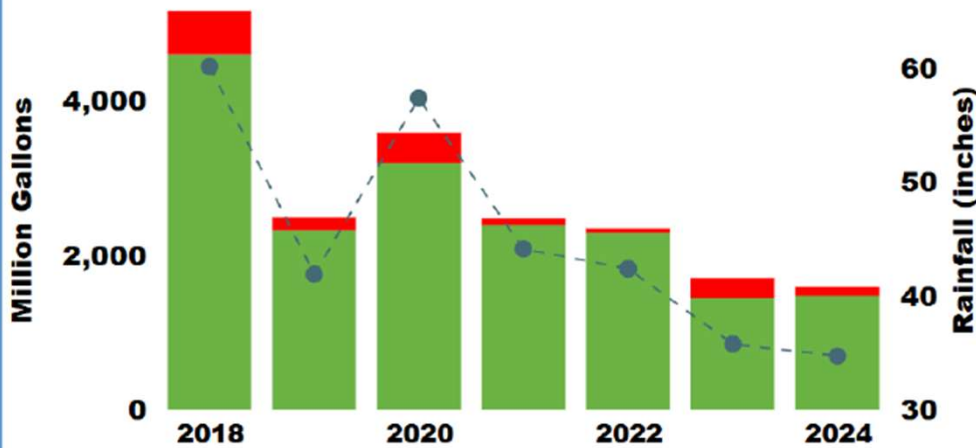




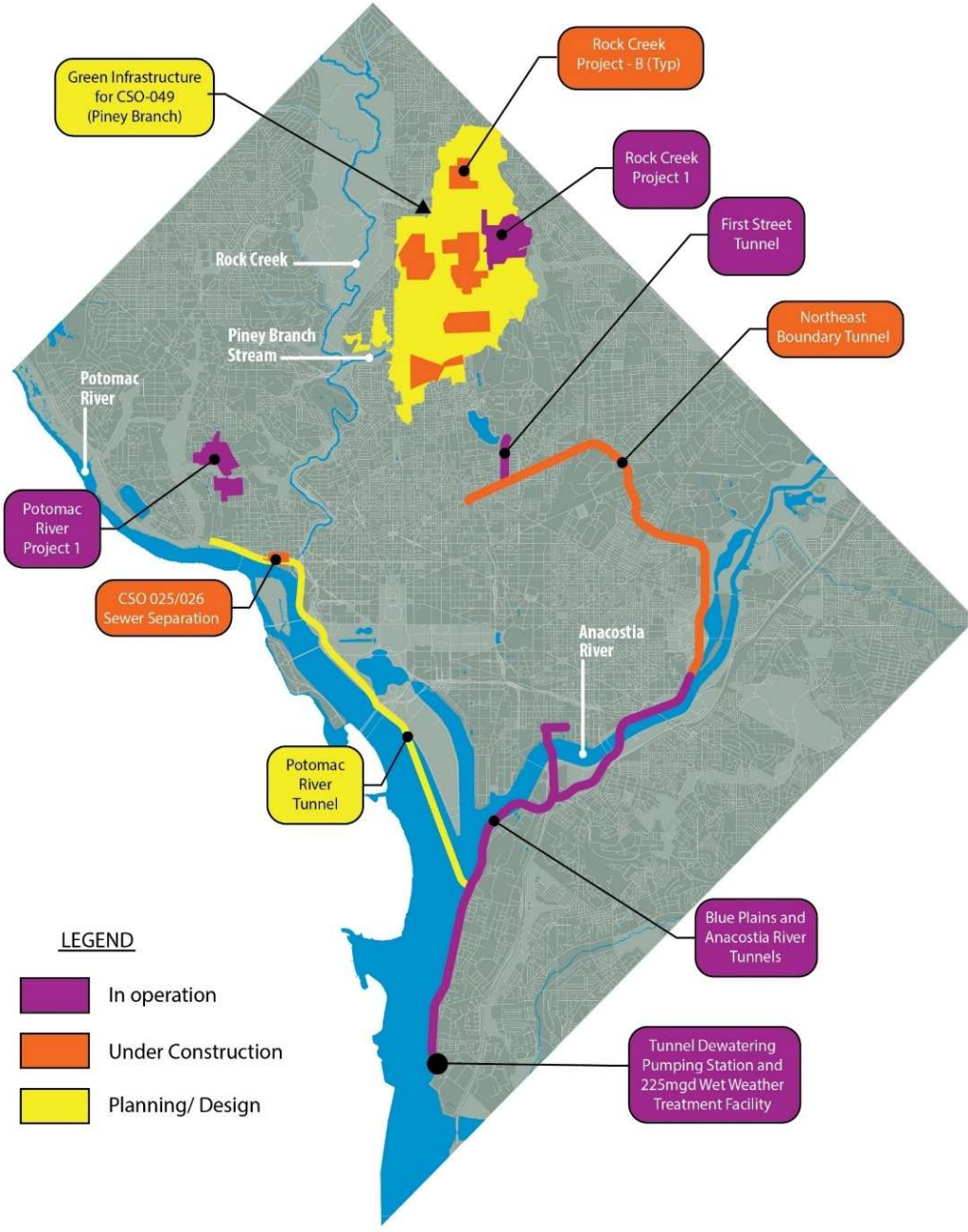
# Clean Rivers Project Status

## Tunnel Captured Volume (MG)

● Volume Captured by Tunnel ● Measured Overflow ● Rainfall, DCA Gauge (in)



- Over 17.7 billion gallons captured March 2018 – FY 24
- Over 11,000 tons of trash, debris, and other solids captured
- Tunnel capture rate since commissioning ~ 92%

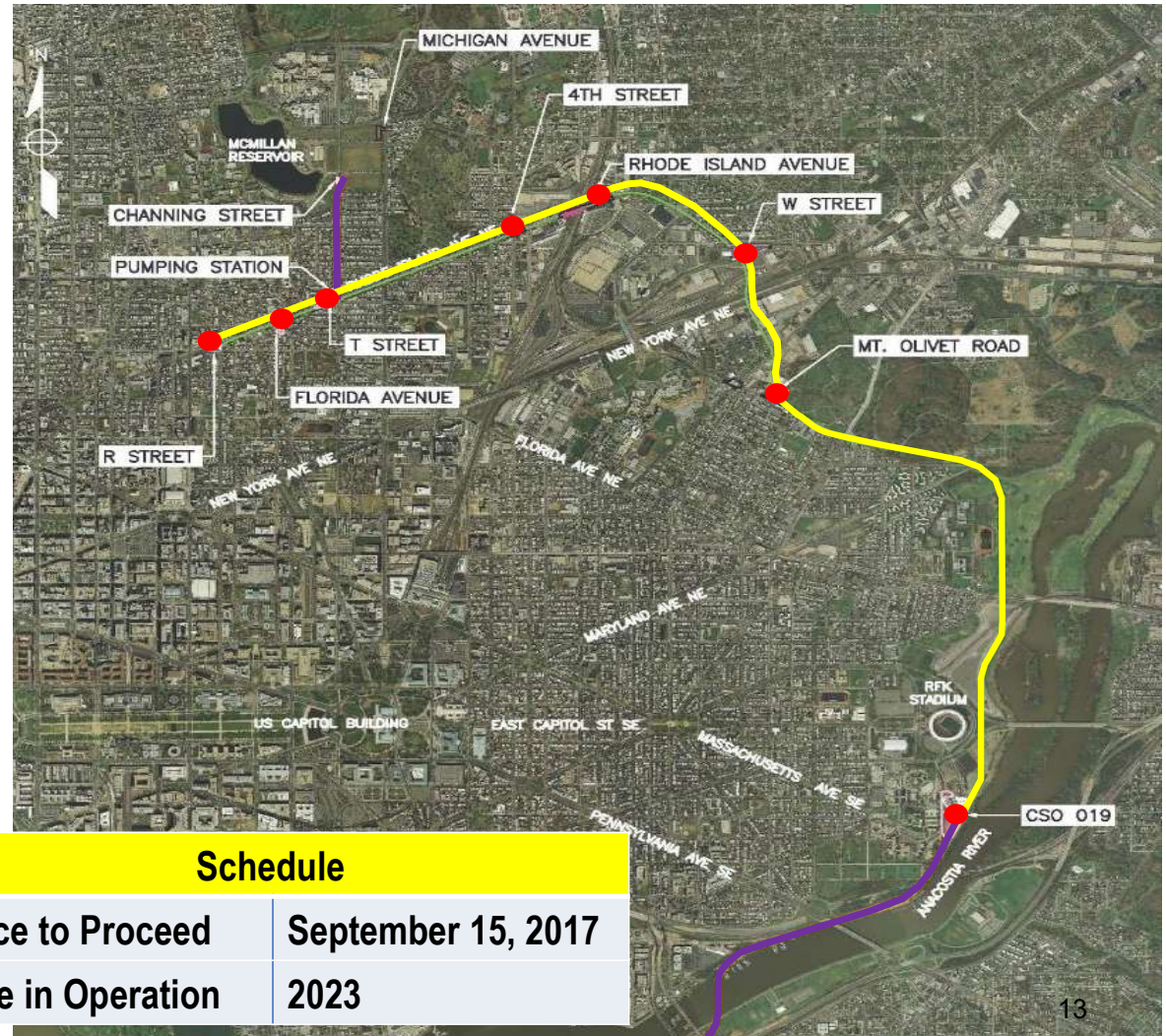






# Projects in Construction Spotlight: Northeast Boundary Tunnel (Under Construction)

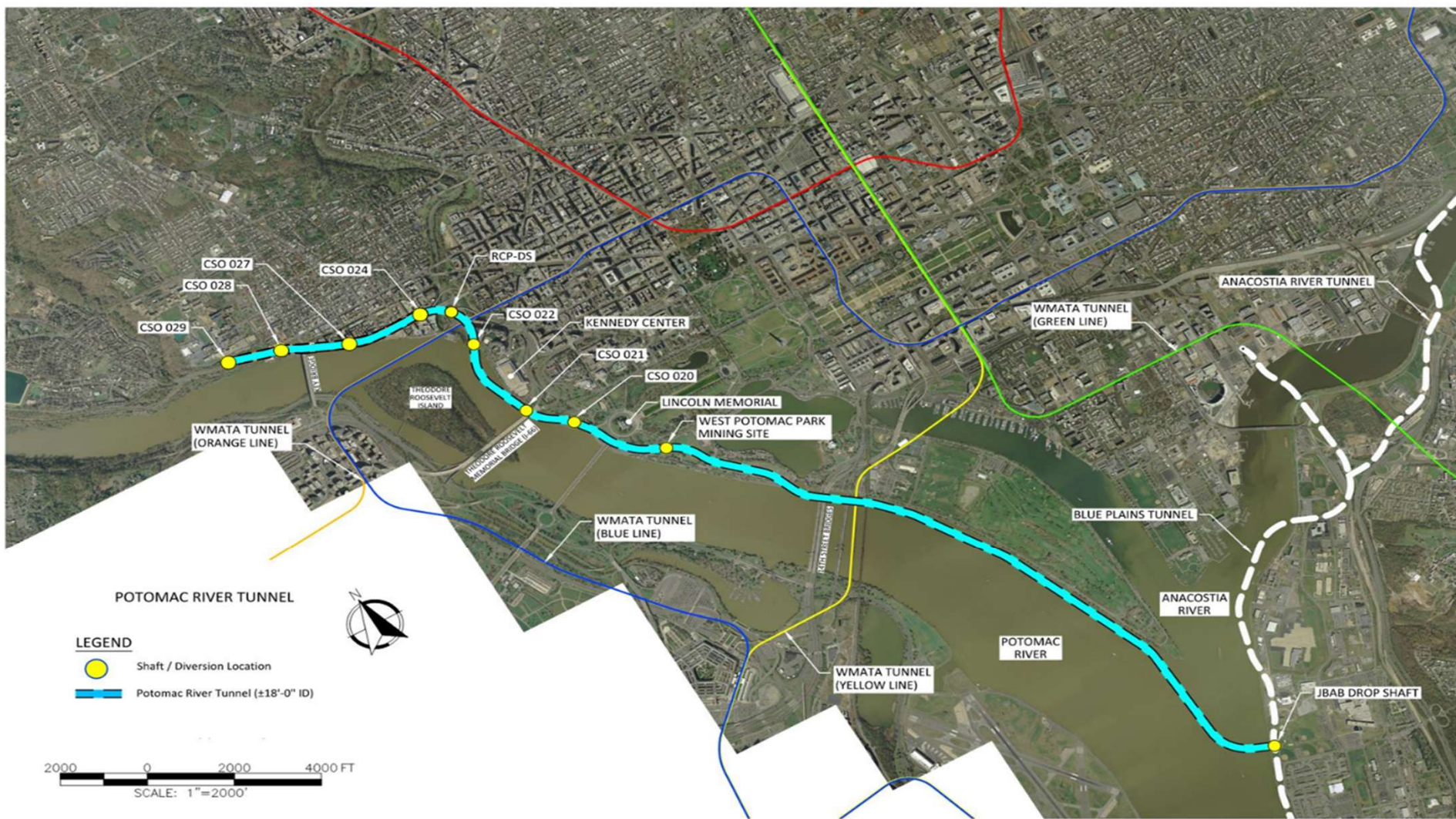
- 💧 23-foot diameter tunnel
- 💧 60 to 140 feet deep
- 💧 27,000 feet long
- 💧 7 shafts
- 💧 5 diversion chambers
- 💧 Construction value: \$580M







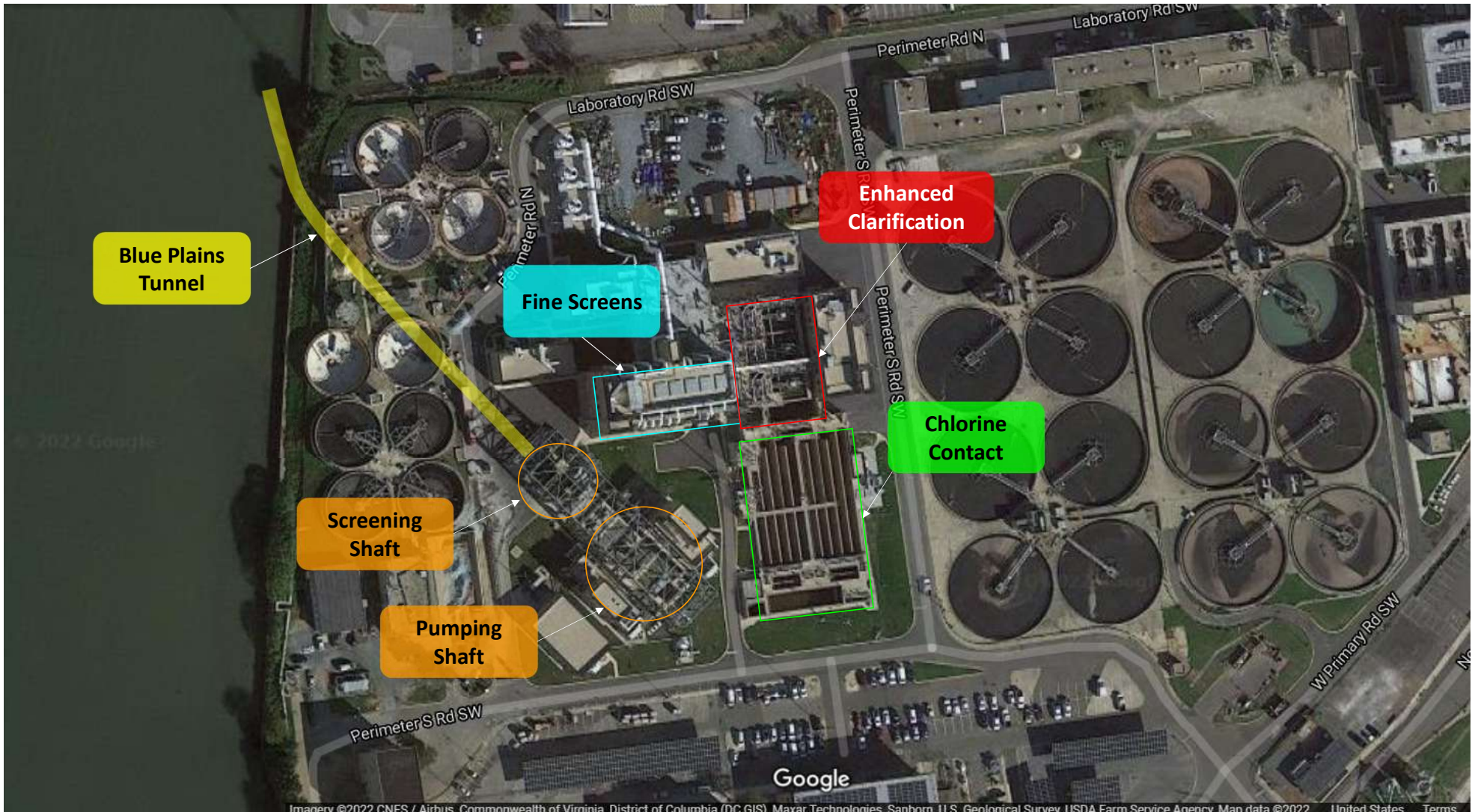
# Potomac River Tunnel





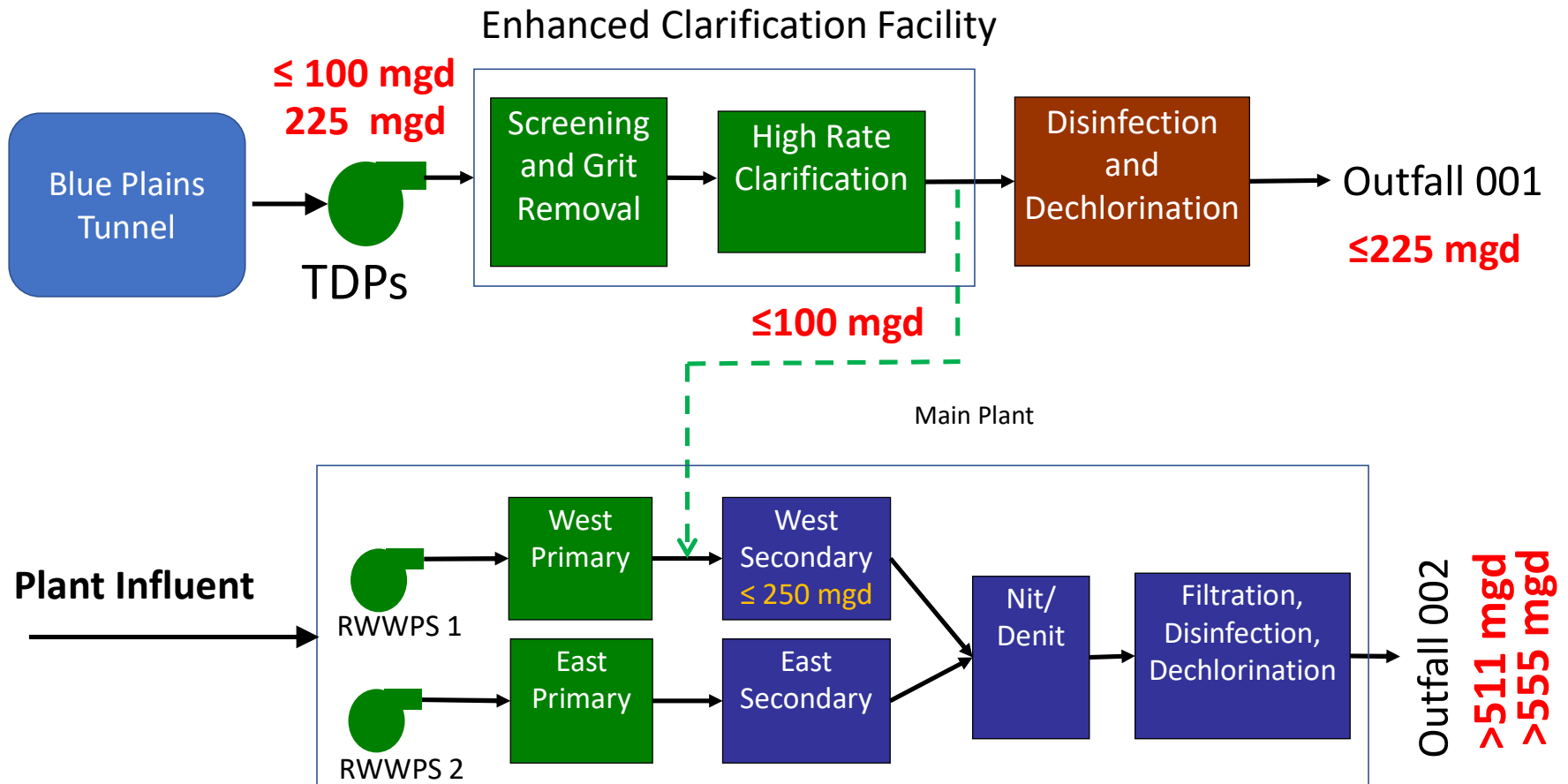


# Wet Weather Treatment Facility





# TDPS and ECF Flow Schematic







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**Questions?**