POTOMAC RIVER CROSSING AT GREAT FALLS

A part of DC Water's Potomac Interceptor Program

dc water is life®

CONTACT INFO

Potomac River Crossing
dcwater.com/potomacinterceptor
Potomacinterceptor@dcwater.com
202-787-4096

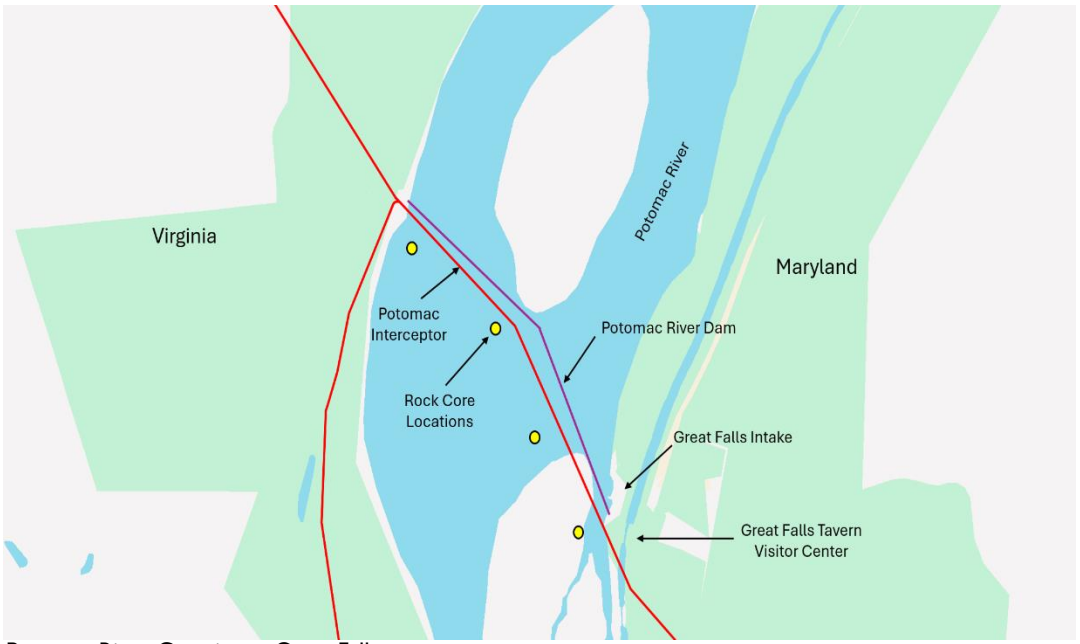
DC Water 24-Hour Emergency Center
202-612-3400

POTOMAC RIVER CROSSING AT GREAT FALLS is a 3000- foot segment of DC Water's Potomac Interceptor, a sanitary sewer system connecting Virginia, Maryland, and the District. The crossing is a 78-inch diameter sewer line that spans the river and is an important piece of the infrastructure which carries over 60 million gallons of wastewater daily from Dulles Airport to the Potomac Pumping Station in Washington, DC.

From January 27th through January 31st, DC Water will be conducting geological investigations in the Potomac River to determine the most effective strategy and design alternatives for the replacement and rehabilitation of the Potomac Interceptor.

DC Water will conduct rock core samples just below the Washington Aqueduct dam in Great Falls. This will provide a better understanding of the geology in the area. The investigation requires the transport of both workers and a drilling rig by helicopter to drill up to 50 feet in depth at four locations within the Potomac River (see map below).

More information on rock cores and what you will be seeing during the week is found on the back.



Potomac River Crossing at Great Falls

POTOMAC RIVER CROSSING INVESTIGATION

SCHEDULE

- January 27-31, 2025
- Dawn to Dusk

DID YOU KNOW?

There are three types of rock formations that will be drilled during this investigation.

- Metagraywacke
- Quartz-Schist
- Biotite-Schist

METAGREYWACKE

- One of five distinct types of rock found in Great Falls
- Visible flat grains that lie like sheets on top of each other
- Formed 750 million years ago

QUARTZ-SCHIST

- Formed from clays and muds
- Visible flat grains that lie like sheets on top of each other
- Typically, grey in color with bands of lighter and darker grey

BIOTITE-SCHIST

- Formed from rocks like shale and mudstone
- Usually brown or black in color
- Oldest Schist formed 1.75 billion years ago

Scan the code for more information on the Potomac Interceptor →

WHAT IS A ROCK CORE?

ROCK CORE- A cylindrical sample of solid rock that is extracted from deep within the earth using a specialized drill bit. Rock cores allow geologists to study the composition, structure, and other properties of rock layers at different depths beneath the surface. Below is an example of a 2.5-inch rock core.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE

Helicopters

Two different helicopters will be used during our investigation. One will be used to transport workers, and the other, much larger helicopter, will bring the drill rig to the Potomac River daily throughout the weeklong investigation.

Drill Rig

This machine will be used in the investigation to drill up to 50 feet into rock to extract a rock core for geologists to study. After the cores are taken, the holes will be filled with grout. The drill rig will be removed from the river at the end of each day and return to a new location throughout the week.

POTOMAC INTERCEPTOR HISTORY AND FACTS

1960- The 86th U.S. Congress authorized Public Law 86-515 for the funding and construction of the Potomac Interceptor on June 12, 1960.

1964- The Potomac Interceptor, tying northern Fairfax County and parts of Loudoun County, and Montgomery County, to DC Water's Blue Plains Treatment Plant, is christened with its first sewage flows.

The Potomac Interceptor serves Fairfax & Loudoun Counties, Towns of Vienna & Herndon, Dulles Airport, and Montgomery County.

54+
Potomac Interceptor length in miles

11
Tunnel sections

2
River Tunnel Crossings

36"-96"
Diameter in inches of pipe size on Potomac Interceptor