



TABLE OF CONTENTS

WHITEPAPER: Restoring the Potomac - Mobilizing a Certified Green Infrastructure Workforce for Districtwide Spill Recovery 1

1. Executive Summary 1
2. Understanding the Scale of the Potomac Spill..... 1
3. CSW’s Proven Capability in Environmental Workforce Development..... 1
4. A Coordinated District Response Requires a Skilled, Prepared Workforce 2
5. Community Communication & Resident Engagement 2
6. Rapid Workforce Mobilization & Deployment 3
7. Storm Water Pollution Prevention (SWPPP) Training 3
8. Training Residents and Workers on Safe Waste Cleanup Procedures 4
9. Strategic Value to DHS, DOEE, and DC Water..... 4
10. Conclusion 4



WHITEPAPER: RESTORING THE POTOMAC - MOBILIZING A CERTIFIED GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE WORKFORCE FOR DISTRICTWIDE SPILL RECOVERY

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The recent Potomac River sewage spill represents one of the most significant environmental disruptions the region has faced in decades. With tens of millions of gallons of raw sewage released daily over an extended period, and a total estimated discharge exceeding 1.2 billion gallons, the ecological, public health, and community impacts will last well beyond the immediate containment phase. Early reporting indicates that river activities may be disrupted for the remainder of the year.

This white paper outlines how CSW can support the District's response through rapid workforce mobilization, community communication, and the deployment of certified Green Infrastructure (GI) professionals. CSW's proven performance with the DC Water/University of the District of Columbia's Green Infrastructure Certification Program, along with its coordination of Storm Water Pollution Prevention (SWPPP) training with the District Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE), demonstrates readiness to assist with both short-term mitigation and long-term recovery.

2. UNDERSTANDING THE SCALE OF THE POTOMAC SPILL

The spill involved the release of tens of millions of gallons of raw sewage per day over multiple weeks. Comparable watershed contamination events indicate a long road to recovery:

- **Ecological Recovery:** 12–24 months are often required for full recovery.
- **Sediment Contamination:** Often persists for 18 months or longer.
- **Recreational Impact:** Restrictions frequently last an entire season.

The scale and duration of this spill require a coordinated, sustained response that integrates workforce capacity, community communication, and strict environmental compliance.

3. CSW'S PROVEN CAPABILITY IN ENVIRONMENTAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Since 2016, CSW has delivered full-spectrum program administration for the DC Water/UDC Green Infrastructure Certification Program and DOEE's Returning Citizen Green Infrastructure Training Programs. CSW's responsibilities include:

- Community outreach and recruitment
- Screening, interviewing, and onboarding
- Certification exam preparation
- Field training and hands on instruction
- Job placement and employer engagement

Documented Performance Outcomes:

- **Highest National Pass Rate:** Achieved a 58% pass rate on the National Green Infrastructure Certification Program (NGICP) exam among 13 pilot cities.
- **High Job Placement:** 6 of 7 certified graduates were placed into green careers within six (6) months.
- **Scalability:** Demonstrated rapid adaptation to expanded scopes, including assuming full stipend and compliance administration.

CSW has built a workforce pipeline that is not only technically skilled but deeply connected to the District's environmental, civic, and community landscape.

4. A COORDINATED DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRES A SKILLED, PREPARED WORKFORCE

The District's response must be a coordinated effort between DOEE and DC Water, supported by a trained, environmentally literate workforce. The DC Water/UDC Green Infrastructure Training Program, administered by CSW, has evolved into a regional, national, and global model for environmental workforce development.

The program:

- Engages District residents
- Partners with leading environmental agencies (UDC, DC Water, DOEE)
- Builds community-level environmental literacy
- Creates pathways into sustainable careers
- Supports the District's long-term environmental resilience

This foundation makes CSW uniquely positioned to support the Potomac spill response.

5. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION & RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT

CSW's training model is not solely about employment, it is about building community resiliency, awareness, environmental literacy, and generational engagement.

CSW collaborates with community and nonprofit partners including:

- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
- Chesapeake Bay Trust
- Friends of Oxon Run Park
- Green Spaces for DC
- Rock Creek Conservancy
- RiverSmart Programs (installations and contractor training)
- Anacostia Parks and Community Collaborative

- VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster)
- Chesapeake Conservation Landscape Council
- Local and regional organizations, civic associations and neighborhood groups.

These partnerships create pipelines of residents for training and ensure environmental information flows back into communities.

CSW's Certified GI Professionals Can Support:

- Door-to-door outreach
- Public safety and multilingual communication
- Community briefings and workshops
- Distribution of advisories and updates

This multifaceted approach strengthens community trust and accelerates mobilization.

6. RAPID WORKFORCE MOBILIZATION & DEPLOYMENT

CSW is prepared to accelerate the certification and deployment of District residents to support spill-related field operations. This workforce is essential for ensuring the district has a scalable team capable of supporting both emergency response and long-term recovery.

Deployment Capabilities:

- **Field Assessments:** Immediate mobilization for erosion and sediment control and site stabilization.
- **Infrastructure Management:** Stormwater system inspection, debris management, and maintenance of existing stormwater systems to prevent additional pollution.
- **Water Quality Monitoring:** Conducting monitoring under agency supervision.
- **Documentation:** Infrastructure inspection and rigorous reporting.

7. STORM WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION (SWPPP) TRAINING

CSW has successfully delivered SWPPP training with DOEE, equipping residents, contractors, and agency partners with the skills needed to prevent stormwater contamination and comply with regulatory standards.

SWPPP training includes:

- Pollution prevention practices
- Proper handling and storage of hazardous materials
- Erosion and sediment control
- Illicit discharge recognition
- Spill response and reporting protocols

This training is essential during spill recovery to prevent secondary contamination.

8. TRAINING RESIDENTS AND WORKERS ON SAFE WASTE CLEANUP PROCEDURES

CSW can train residents and field workers on safe, compliant cleanup practices, including:

- Proper PPE use
- Handling sewage-contaminated materials
- Waste segregation and disposal
- Preventing cross-contamination
- Clearing storm drains (under agency supervision)
- Stabilizing eroded areas
- Protecting vulnerable residents and pets

This ensures cleanup efforts do not unintentionally worsen contamination.

9. STRATEGIC VALUE TO DHS, DOEE, AND DC WATER

CSW offers a rare combination of technical expertise and community trust that is essential for a spill event of this magnitude.

- **Turnkey Solution:** A proven certification pipeline with hands-on training.
- **Community Trust:** A communication team with deep community partnerships and engagement networks.
- **Administrative Maturity:** Documented experience delivering SWPPP training and managing compliance.
- **Resiliency Focus:** Experience working with DOEE and community organizations to develop grant submissions addressing local community resiliency networks.

10. CONCLUSION

The Potomac River spill will require a sustained, coordinated response, lasting well beyond the initial containment period. CSW stands ready to support the district through:



- Certified workforce deployment
- Accelerated resident training
- Storm Water Pollution Prevention Education
- Community communication
- Long-term environmental recovery support
- Development of local resilience hubs

The Potomac spill is one of many environmental challenges the district will face. This event underscores the need for an ongoing, sustainable environmental workforce and resilience strategy embedded in the district's long-term infrastructure and community development pathways.