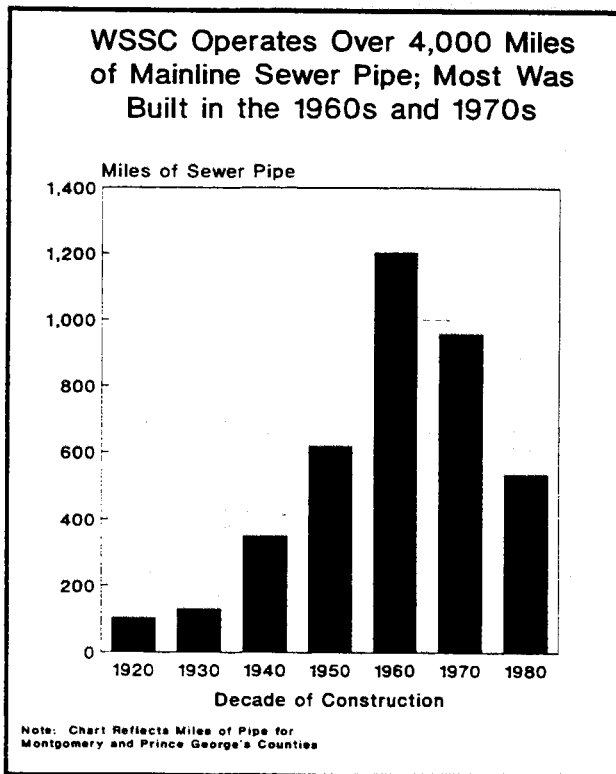


* The WSSC operates over 4,000 miles of mainline sewer pipe and 50 wastewater pumping stations in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. The gravity sewers within the wastewater collection system range in size from six inches to 102 inches in diameter. The WSSC allocates millions of dollars per year toward the maintenance and reconstruction of the wastewater transmission system, of which a large portion was constructed over the last 40 years. About 1,500 miles of mainline sewer pipe have been constructed since the approval of the 1969 General Plan.



* In Montgomery County the WSSC uses land application and composting to treat sludge. The WSSC converts a portion of the treated sludge, through composting, into ComPRO, which is sold commercially as a soil conditioner. Over one billion pounds of sludge have been composted since operations began in 1978. ComPRO is produced at the Montgomery County Regional Composting Facility (MCRCF) in Fairland, operated by WSSC. This process reduces the need to dispose of sludge through landfilling, incinera-

tion, land injection (for agriculture), and ocean dumping, which was prohibited in 1988.

ComPRO is utilized on the grounds of the White House, Mount Vernon, and the National Arboretum. The MCRCF has received a number of national and regional EPA awards. Overall, the WSSC is currently responsible for the disposal of 130 dry tons per day of sludge from Blue Plains and will produce an estimated 200 dry tons per day by 2030.

* The sludge from the Seneca and Damascus WWTP's is dewatered and available for application on farmland. On the average, the two plants produce 2.44 dry tons per day. Applying sludge to farmland improves crop production because it contains nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous and improves moisture retention. Application is regulated by the Maryland Department of the Environment and sanctioned by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

14. NOISE

As population and traffic have increased in Montgomery County over the last 20 years, noise levels also have risen. Several efforts to reduce noise impacts have been implemented at the local level.

* The County noise ordinance, established in 1975, states that every person is entitled to ambient noise levels that are not detrimental to life, health, and enjoyment of property. This ordinance established maximum permissible sound levels allowed on nearby properties from any operation, activity, or source.

* M-NCPPC staff guidelines which established guidance on transportation noise and land use compatibility, and priorities for use of noise mitigation measures have been in use since 1983. Nearly all of the landscaped earthen berms in the County are the result of this program. In addition, approximately 15 miles of

noise barriers have been constructed along interstate highways in the County.

Federal regulations prohibit local jurisdictions from controlling motor vehicle noise at the source. Land use planning, which designates land uses that are less affected by noise is used to reduce the cumulative impacts of vehicle noise on people. Since 1980 transportation noise has been considered in making land use decisions in master plans and during the review of development plans.

* Noise impacts from other transportation noise sources such as the Montgomery County Airpark, rotorcraft operations and Metrorail have been partially reduced in some areas by the implementation of noise mitigation measures and noise compatible land uses in affected areas.

* Development review guidelines have been developed for maximum noise levels around the County. The levels range from 65 decibels Ldn (the level of normal speech) in urbanized areas to 45 decibels Ldn in less developed areas. Ldn is the Day-Night sound level that represents the average sound level for a 24-hour period with a 10 dBA weighting for nighttime noise to account for increased sensitivity at night. The guidelines are used to determine which newly developing areas might need noise mitigation. One proven mitigation technique is to locate one row of buildings so that it acts as a noise barrier for the rest of the subdivision. In addition, the Department of Environmental Protection enforces a noise ordinance to regulate noise generated on private property.

15. SOLID WASTE

Montgomery County handles and regulates the collection and disposal of solid waste. As do many other jurisdictions, this County generates more trash than can be handled in its landfills. The alternatives to landfills are also problematic. Simply throwing away less ("source reduction") conflicts with a lifestyle predicated upon conven-

ience. Current economic realities and policies favor the use of products made from raw material over recycled material. Incineration has met with stiff local opposition based on a variety of concerns such as environmental and community impacts, and cost. Recycling is increasingly being relied upon to reduce the quantity of solid waste that needs to be disposed.

* Over a ton of solid waste was generated for every man, woman, and child in Montgomery County in fiscal year 1991. The estimated 757,000 tons generated represents an average annual increase of 7.2 percent since 1985, when 528,000 tons were generated. This 1991 figure represents a decrease of 18,000 tons from the previous year and is attributed to decreased economic activity. The most recent waste stream projections for the year 2005 indicate that between 850,00 and 950,000 tons of trash will have to be managed each year. These forecasts are based on expected increases in population and commercial activity, as well as increases in the amount of waste each County resident and worker generates.

* The County is making progress towards achieving its 1995 goal to recycle 35 percent of its waste. In its second year of operation, between 14 and 17 percent of the waste stream was recycled through a County-wide program of curbside pick-up in low-to-moderate density residential areas, provision of drop-off centers, and recycling of waste by private firms. The County has set a recycling goal of 40 percent by the turn of the century. To help meet that goal, the County will require that all yard waste be recycled, and will expand the mandatory program to include apartment buildings and commercial areas.

* The County has invested in state-of-the-art facilities to convert waste into useful products. The Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), located at Shady Grove, separates, cleans, and packages 200 tons of commingled glass, aluminum, plastic, and bimetal containers and 280 tons of newspapers each day. At the Dickerson Com-