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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Abingdon Water Treatment Plant to Temporarily Switch Water Source to Susquehanna River

BEL AIR, Md., (April 8, 2016) - The Water & Sewer Division of the Harford County Department of Public Works will temporarily switch water sources at its Abingdon Water Treatment Plant from the Loch Raven Reservoir to the Susquehanna River. The Susquehanna River already supplies water to treatment plants in other areas of Harford County. The temporary switch may begin as early as Tuesday, April 12, and is expected to last approximately two to three months.

Once the switch begins, customers may notice a slight change in the taste of their drinking water due to the natural differences in water from one source to another. The water will continue to meet all federal and state drinking water safety standards, and there will be no disruption in service. The switch is necessary to accommodate Baltimore City's testing of new equipment at the Deer Creek Pumping Station.

Baltimore City is testing new pumps, drives and controls that were installed as part of an upgrade to the Deer Creek station, which is located north of the city of Aberdeen. The exact schedule for testing is unknown because Baltimore City is coordinating with multiple contractors and may need to resolve field conditions as they arise; therefore, it is highly likely that there will be delays throughout the testing phase. Once testing is complete, the water source for the Abingdon Water Treatment Plant will gradually transition back to Loch Raven Reservoir.

The Abingdon Water Treatment Plant treats approximately 70 percent of the total county water supply, with the remainder handled by other treatment plants using water supplied by

the Perryman Well Field and the Susquehanna River at Havre de Grace. This is the sixth time that Susquehanna River water has been treated at the Abingdon plant. Susquehanna River water was also used at the plant when it first opened in 1994; and again in 1999, 2002 and 2007 because of drought conditions, and in 2013 for prior testing at the Deer Creek Pumping Station.

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