

A tale of two treatment plants: MWRA/Deer Island vs. DC Water/Blue Plains



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Basic Plant Statistics			
Parameter	MWRA	DC Water	
Plant	Deer Island WWTP	Blue Plains AWWTP	
Service Area	Metropolitan Boston	Metropolitan DC	
Population Served	2.3 million	2+ million	
Plant size	150 Acres	153 Acres	
Design Capacity - Avg Daily - Maximum Capacity	- 361 MGD - 1,270 MGD	- 370 MGD - 1,076 MGD	
WW Treatment	Pure Oxygen Activated Sludge – Secondary Disinfection/Dechlorination	Air Activated Sludge + Advanced Treatment: Nitrification/Denitrification + filtering (phos) Disinfection/Dechlorination	
Effluent Discharge	Mass. Bay – Deep ocean discharge	Potomac River – Impaired waterway	
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Basic Plant Statistics (continued)			
Parameter	MWRA	DC Water	
Sludge Treatment	Anaerobic Digestion – then thermal drying – Class A Biosolids – since 1991)	Limed Stabilized (Class B biosolids thru 2014), Cambi Slg Pre-treatment + Anaerobic Digestion & thickening (Class A biosolids 2014)	
Green Energy	Digas utilization since 1968, plus Hydro, Wind & Solar (29%)	Digas utilization started in 2014. (30% of demand)	
Digestion Performance	250 dtpd in, 100 dtpd out 62% VS Destruction	340 dtpd in, 130 dtpd out 60 % VS Destruction	
Prim Slg vs. Biological Slg	70:30	50:50	
Digas Utilization	Bottom Cycle – Boilers then Steam Generators - 50 klbs/hr steam required - 3.4 MW electricity	Top Cycle – Gas Turbines with Duct Burners - 47.5 klbs/hr steam required - 10-13 MW electricity	
Plant Energy Demand	16.8 MW 4.9 MW or 29% by renewables	37 MW hope for 30%	













