

Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia
Water Science Center
Seminar Series

Monday, September 22, 2014, 12:00 p.m.

The U.S. Geological Survey in the 21st Century

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The U.S. Geological Survey, established in 1879, is one of the oldest science bureaus in the federal government. For most of its history, it was organized around the disciplines of geology, hydrology, and topographic mapping. Significant changes in the Survey's disciplinary approach began in the 1990's when it implemented a major national water quality assessment program, added a new discipline in the form of the Biological Resources Division, and downsized its efforts in a number of classical areas of geologic investigation. Over the last 20 years USGS science programs have evolved to meet the needs of

modern society for interdisciplinary earth and biological science. In recent years, the USGS reorganized into a number of interdisciplinary mission areas that cover climate and land use change, natural hazards, ecosystems, energy and minerals, environmental health, and water.



The Mid-Atlantic Region is a fertile area for such interdisciplinary investigations, with important ecosystems and valuable natural resources in the Chesapeake and Delaware Bay watersheds and along the Atlantic coastline. Regulators, resource managers, and planners in the Mid-Atlantic Region and throughout the Nation face many challenges caused by urbanization and population growth, increasing water demands, land-use change, climate change, and sea-level rise. The USGS in the 21st Century is striving to generate reliable and objective environmental data and interdisciplinary scientific information to address these challenges.

This presentation will also be available remotely via Webex: <https://usgs.webex.com/>

For directions to the USGS MD-DE-DC WSC: <http://md.water.usgs.gov/directions/baltimore.html>.