



## **Alexandria Welcomes Its Healthier Waterways Heroine**

**Alexandria, Va. (July 14, 2022)** – Alexandria Renew Enterprises (AlexRenew), the independent public wastewater authority serving Alexandria and parts of Fairfax County, dedicated a massive tunnel boring machine (TBM) today at their wastewater plant in Alexandria's Southwest Quadrant.

The subterranean star, named "Hazel," is a state-of-the-art, 380-ton underground powerhouse that was custom-built to construct a new tunnel under Alexandria to stop combined sewage from polluting its waterways. Hazel carries the namesake of Hazel Johnson, one of America's leading women pioneers for environmental justice.

"Today is a monumental day for Alexandria and our waterways," said Karen Pallansch, AlexRenew's General Manager. "It's a huge step forward in our commitment to deliver healthier waterways by 2025."

The arrival and dedication of the TBM is a major milestone for RiverRenew, the largest infrastructure project in Alexandria's history, and a critical part of meeting a state-mandated deadline of July 1, 2025. Once completed, RiverRenew will prevent over 120 million gallons of combined sewage from polluting the Potomac River, Hunting Creek, and Hooffs Run each year.

Hazel will dig and construct the two-mile-long Waterfront Tunnel more than 100 feet below ground to capture, store, and transport combined sewage to AlexRenew, where it will be purified and returned to the Potomac River.

"There's nothing more important than keeping our communities clean, safe, and healthy. AlexRenew is proud to promote such influential environmental stewardship in our region, and we couldn't accomplish any of this without the staunch and tireless support from our public and private partners," Pallansch concluded.

Follow construction progress via [riverrenew.com](https://riverrenew.com), or contact RiverRenew's Communications Manager, Sonya Farrell, at [sonya.farrell@alexrenew.com](mailto:sonya.farrell@alexrenew.com) to learn more.

### **About AlexRenew:**

*Led by a five-member citizen board, Alexandria Renew Enterprises (AlexRenew) is a special purpose authority that has been serving the City of Alexandria and parts of Fairfax County for nearly 70 years. AlexRenew purifies 13 billion gallons of wastewater annually, from more than 300,000 people, at its wastewater treatment plant, located in Alexandria's southwest quadrant.*