

## *A Message from the Bernards Township Sewerage Authority*

The Authority members would like to advise our users of all the upgrades and new construction being accomplished. The following projects have been completed or are under construction:

1. **Administration Building Construction** -The new 2,000 S.F. building has been completed and has been LEED certified. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) provides “green” guidelines that will make the building more energy efficient and provide a healthier environment to work.
2. **Pump Stations** – Pump stations are critical elements in our collection system. The Valley Road Pump Station project was completed in 2010. The Madisonville Road and East Oak Pump Stations will be completed in 2011. In 2011 through 2014, Fieldstone Drive, Stonehouse Road, South Maple Avenue and Crown Court pump stations will be replaced.
3. **New Belt Filter Press** – A new \$1.3 million belt press to supplement the 20 year old belt press at the sewage plant was ordered and will be completed in 2011. This press squeezes out the water from the solids remaining from the treatment process, and the resulting sludge is disposed off site.
4. **Collection System** – Every year the Authority contracts to repair various manholes and sewer pipes in need of improvement.
5. **Solar Field Initiative** – The Authority will complete construction of a 1.1 Megawatt solar photovoltaic system (4,700 solar panels) in 2011 that will provide the Authority energy generation savings and solar energy credit revenue. The Authority anticipates saving \$150,000 a year in electrical costs in addition to \$1.5 million in revenues generated from the sale of Solar Renewable Energy Certificates.
6. **Climber Screen** – The treatment plant’s bar climber screen will be replaced in 2011. This mechanical equipment provides the initial screening of raw sewage entering the plant. Debris is separated from the influent by the climber screen to a dumpster and disposed of off site.
7. **Raw Sewage Pumps** – The treatment plant’s raw sewage pumps will be replaced in 2011. These pumps transfer the flow to the oxidation ditches.

**All of this work will be accomplished within the annual budget and without incurring any debt or raising the annual user fee. The solar project will be funded out of our reserve fund.**

❖ Inflow and Infiltration problems are still very prevalent. Our plant is rated at 2.5 million gallons per day; however during a heavy rain event we will exceed 5 million gallons per day. The Authority is continually video taping our sewer pipes to find the sources of inflow and infiltration. A common source is homeowner sump pumps illegally tied into the sanitary sewer system. A single illegally connected sump pump discharges about 24,000 gallons per day of clean water to the sewer system. This added clean water into our piping network results in decreased operating efficiency of our treatment plant and added electrical and chemical costs. Illegal connections are being aggressively addressed by the authority with potential penalties and fines assessed to property owners. We would be happy to work with you to eliminate this source of infiltration. If you are interested on more information regarding the Bernards Township Sewerage Authority, please feel free to contact any one of us or go on-line to [www.bernards.org](http://www.bernards.org), Boards & Commissions, Sewerage Authority. We are here to serve you.

*Sincerely,*

*The Bernards Township Sewerage Authority*

*Scott Spitzer ▪ John Carpenter ▪ Carolyn Gaziano ▪ John Malay ▪ Mary Paulini*