

A Message from the Bernards Township Sewerage Authority

- ❖ The Authority is very pleased to announce that we have reduced our user fee again, the second year in a row by **\$20.00**. The new user fee for 2010 will be \$320.00 and a reduced fee of \$200 for seniors in need as registered by the Tax Collector.

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

1. **SCADA System** – This “Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition” project is a computerized system in which all of the treatment plants functions and our 11 pump stations functions are monitored. This project was completed in 2009.
2. **Administration Building Construction** -The new 2,000 S.F. building has been completed and is awaiting a LEED certification. 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.
3. **Electrical Upgrades** – In 2009 we installed a new main transformer and new plant generator to supplement the 20+ year old existing generator and transformer.
4. **Pump Stations** – Pump stations are critical elements in our collection system. In 2006, the Jamestown Road station was added, in 2007 the Rebel Hill pump station was replaced, and in 2008 we replaced the Juniper Way station. The Valley Road and Madisonville Road pump stations were both under construction in 2009. In 2010 through 2014, East Oak Street, Fieldstone Drive, Stonehouse Road, South Maple Avenue and Crown Court pump stations will be replaced.
5. **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 installed in 2010. This press squeezes out the water from the remaining solids which is called sludge. We transport this final sludge product off site.
6. **Collection System** – Every year the Authority contracts to repair various manholes and sewer pipes in need of improvement.
7. **Solar Field Initiative** – The Authority will be going out to bid in early 2010 to purchase an 800 kW solar photovoltaic system (4,000 solar panels) that will provide the Authority energy generation savings and solar energy credit payments totaling \$530,000 per year that will pay for all of our electricity costs plus an additional \$130,000 per year.

All of this work will be accomplished within the annual budget and without incurring any debt while still reducing 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, Boards & Commissions, Sewerage Authority. We are here to serve you.

Sincerely,

The Bernards Township Sewerage Authority

Diana Boquist ▪ John Carpenter ▪ Carolyn Gaziano ▪ John Malay ▪ Mary Paulini