

Cambridge Area Joint Authority Announces Improvement Project

The Cambridge Area Joint Authority (CAJA) has announced plans for significant improvements to its wastewater treatment and sanitary sewer systems. The improvements have been mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) and are included in a Consent Order and Agreement (CO&A) entered into by CAJA, PA DEP and the Borough of Cambridge Springs in December 2005. The project will result in elimination of sanitary sewer overflows to French Creek during wet weather.

The CO&A requires that all work be completed by March 2009. Construction is expected to begin in November 2007 to meet the CO&A schedule.

The project will include the following major elements:

- Construction of a new wastewater treatment facility on property west of the existing Grant Street treatment works. The treatment works will have capacity to accommodate future sewage loads projected within the next 20 years. The 35 acres CAJA will acquire for the project will provide opportunity for future expansions as well.
- Upgrades to the existing Grant Street treatment facilities to serve as a solids handling and dewatering site. New headworks and influent pumping units will also be constructed at this location.
- Upgrades to the existing Grant Street pumping station to provide increased capacity to accommodate wet weather flows and a standby generator for operation in the event of a power outage.
- Repairs to portions of the sanitary sewer system including manhole rehabilitation and pipe replacement.

The total cost of the improvements is estimated to be about \$9.3 million. CAJA plans to finance the cost through a PennVest loan and grant package. A short term line of credit with PNC Bank has been established to fund the project support costs until the long term financing is in place.

The project cost will have a significant impact on user rates for CAJA's customers. At completion the sewer billing rate is projected to be \$13.66 per 1,000 gallons of water consumed, which will represent a 120 percent increase over the existing rate of \$6.21 per 1,000 gallons. CAJA plans to phase the rate adjustments on the following schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sewer Billing Rate \$/1,000 Gallons</u>	<u>Average Monthly Sewer Bill For Customer Using 50,000 Gallons Per Year</u>
January 2007	7.45	31.04
July 2007	8.69	36.21
January 2008	9.94	41.42
July 2008	11.18	46.58
January 2009	12.42	51.75
July 2009	13.66	56.92

The rate adjustments will be based on the actual costs of the project, and may vary from the estimates shown above.

CAJA has scheduled a couple public hearings to explain the project in detail and provide opportunity for public input. The meetings will be held at the Cambridge Springs Borough building at 161 Carringer Street on November 21, 2006 at 7:00 PM and November 28, 2006 at 2:00 PM. In addition, the public is invited to attend CAJA's regular monthly meetings which are held the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. CAJA appreciates the patience and cooperation of all its customers as it undertakes these significant, mandated improvements.