



Press Release

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The North Huntingdon Township Municipal Authority (NHTMA) took action at its regular meeting on May 5, 2010 to adopt a \$7.6 million annual budget, as well as update its \$2.2 million capital improvement plan designed to continue repairing its aging infrastructure. The Authority's 2011 fiscal year began on May 1, 2010.

Operating expenses are projected to increase by 13%, attributed in large part to a 22% rate increase imposed by the Western Westmoreland Municipal Authority (WWMA), which treats sewage for approximately one-half of North Huntingdon's customers.

As a result of the WWMA increase, and an increase in general operating expenses and need for capital improvements, monthly rates for NHTMA residential customers will increase by \$2.85 per month beginning with service for May, 2010, to a total of \$42.05 per month. This increase will result in a resident paying an additional \$34.20 per year for sewage service, or a total of \$1.38 per day. Commercial customers will see a similar increase of \$2.85 per month for each 4,200 gallons of water used. A portion of the rate increase, or \$1.00 per month, will be slated for capital projects.

The Capital Improvement Plan maps out the Authority's capital expenses through Fiscal Year 2015. Projects anticipated in Fiscal Year 2011 total \$2.2 million and include replacing lines in Country Hills, replacing media on the rotating bio discs at the Yough plant, repairs at several pump stations, and miscellaneous line repairs throughout the system.

Residential customers will see the effect of the rate increase beginning with the bills that are sent out in May covering service for the three previous months. The June prepayment stub will reflect the new rates. Customers who have paid for a year in advance in order to receive the 5% yearly discount should contact NHTMA. Customers in this situation will receive the discount on the additional charges when they are paid in full.

NHTMA also increased its tapping fee charge from \$3,000 to \$3,070, effective July 1, 2010. The tapping fee is calculated based on a formula prescribed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and permits an authority to recover allowable costs that have been spent on capital expenditures. The Authority's consulting engineer reviews the tapping fee each year as part of the budget process to ensure that new customers tapping into the system are paying their fair share of prior system costs.

NHTMA provides sanitary sewer service to approximately 11,600 residential and commercial customers. With 23 full-time employees, the Authority maintains over 255 miles of sewer lines, 13 pumping stations, and one 3.31 mgd treatment plant.