



# PETERS TOWNSHIP SANITARY AUTHORITY

## NEWSLETTER

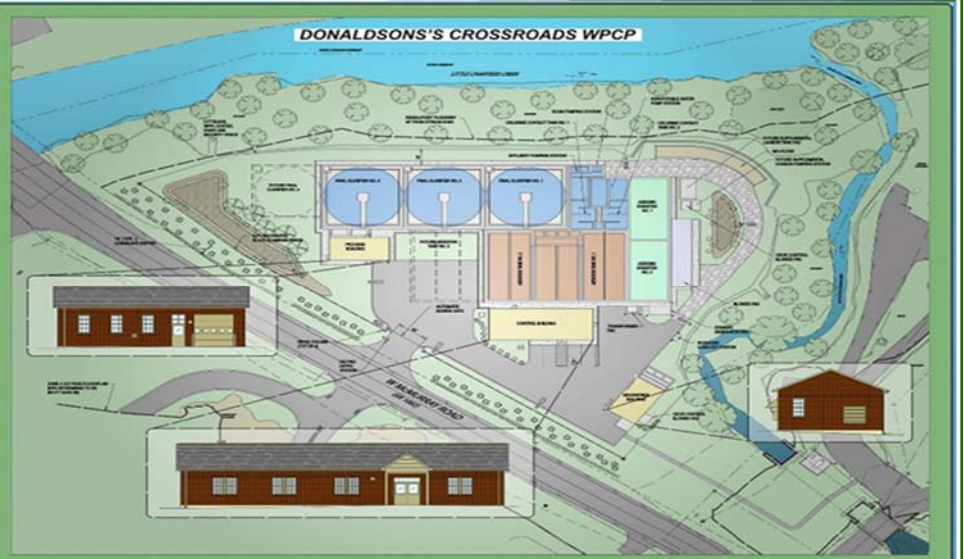
[www.ptsaonline.org](http://www.ptsaonline.org)

NOVEMBER 2015

ISSUE 8

### Sewer Rate Adjustment

A Rate Increase is Required to Support the Donaldson Crossroads Water Pollution Control Plant and Interceptors Projects



The Authority is moving forward with the replacement of the Donaldson's Crossroads Water Pollution Control Plant (DC WPCP), and its interceptors. This project has been in the planning, design and permitting stages since 2004. The DC WPCP, located at 166 Oakwood Road, serves the southwestern portion of Peters Township, including most of the Route 19 commercial corridor, and providing service to approximately 2,600 equivalent households. The facility was originally constructed in 1962 and portions will be 56 years old when decommissioned in 2018. Approximately 9,200 lineal feet of Interceptor sewer of similar age will also be upgraded. The new plant will be constructed on the vacant parcel at 402 W. McMurray Road.

#### Plant & Interceptor Project Costs

Plant Construction (w/ contingency)	\$17,000,000
Interceptor Construction	\$2,300,000
Engineering	\$2,723,000
Financing, Legal, Admin	\$822,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$22,845,000</b>
Project Financing	
Pennvest Loan <sup>1</sup>	\$11,000,000
Sewer Revenue Bonds	6,100,000
LSA Grants Awarded	\$585,000
LSA Grant Pending	\$1,000,000
Authority's Capital Reserves	4,160,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$22,845,000</b>

<sup>1</sup>Partially funded by Federal Funds

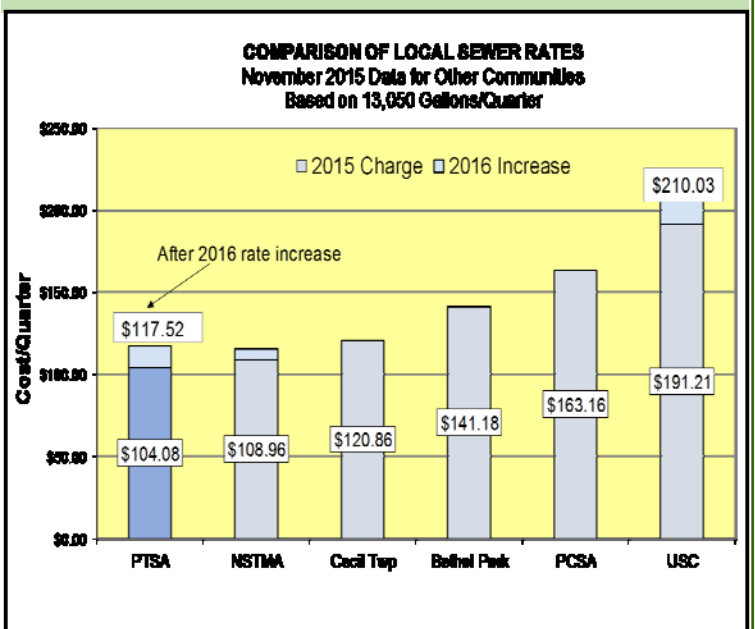
#### New Treatment Plant Features

- Treatment capacity will be increased by 45%, enabling service to 1,000 plus additional households/businesses
- Buildings that house equipment, maintenance areas, and laboratory have a residential appearance
- Odor control and treatment facilities provided
- Equipped with high efficiency process air blowers to reduce power expense by 15%
- Able to operate up to and beyond the 100-year flood (whereas existing plant floods at 25-year flood)
- Construction begins January 2016, and operational by January 2018

**Project Financing:** The Authority was successful in obtaining a state-subsidized, low-interest Pennvest loan. This loan's below market interest rate has a grant equivalent of \$1.8 million. There were two Local Share Account Grants obtained, and a current grant application still pending. To further minimize costs, Peters Township Council agreed to guarantee the sewer revenue bonds enabling us to obtain lower interest rates on the bonds, saving our customers more than \$650,000 in interest charges. The new loan and bond issue debt service combined will be \$1.1 million annually. Fortunately, the Authority delayed the project until it retired its existing treatment plant debt, thereby, approximately 40% of the new debt service is already built into our sewer rates.

The 2016 rate increase will increase the average residential customer's bill from the current \$104.08/quarter to \$117.52/quarter. A comparison of the adjacent communities' sewer rates is provided at right. The Authority last adjusted its rates in 2013.

**Rate Increase:** In order to minimize the impacts of the required sewer rate increase on our customers, the increase will be spread over several years with a 13% increase effective January 1, 2016, followed by a 10 to 12% increase in 2018.



**2016 SEWER RATES:** The residential customer's sewer bill consists of a \$34.00 fixed service charge/quarter regardless of the volume of water used, plus a \$6.40/per gallon charge based on the volume of water used. For the average residential customer the gallonage charge is 70% of the total bill, thereby, reducing the volume of household water used will help reduce your sewer bill.

**Water Conservation Tips:** Water is a precious natural resource that we too often take for granted, and we encourage its conservation. Water conservation, besides immediately reducing your water utility bill and part of your sewer bill, can also help avoid the capital cost of future treatment plant expansions.

- Check toilets to verify the tank is not leaking. Barely perceptible leaks can waste thousands of gallons each month. (Dye tablets are available at the Authority's business office at no charge for use in checking toilet flapper leaks)
- Install water-saving fixtures such as showerheads, toilets, and EnergyStar washing machines/dishwashers which use substantially less water as well as energy than older models, providing rapid payback.
- If you use large volumes of water for lawn watering, the Authority permits the use of "deduct meters" or Irrigation meters to monitor the volume of water that does not go down the sewer drain, and thereby the volume is deducted from the water consumption charge for sewer use billing. There are costs associated with the deduct meters, including the purchase and installation of the meters by your contractor, as well as fees charged by the Authority. Visit the Authority's website for more information on deduct meters.



**SEWAGE BILLING REMINDERS**

- The Authority does not bill or collect for Peters Township Sanitation (garbage-trash). The quarterly bill is \$51/\$46 and is administered through Jordan Tax Service located at 102 Rahway Road, McMurray PA.
- Jordan Tax Service NO LONGER collects payments for the Sewage Billing. Please do not use their drop off box or mail payments to them. The Authority's drop off box is located at 111 Bell Drive McMurray, PA 15317.
- If using on line banking for Sewage Bill Pay, please make sure the vendor information is Peters Township Sanitary Authority, 111 Bell Drive, McMurray, Pa 15317, and has your seven digit account number with NO decimals, to ensure proper allocation.
- If your sewer payment is automatically deducted from your checking account, on the bottom of your bill it will indicate "**ACH payment will be drafted on due date**".



**Visit the Authority's website at [ptsaonline.org](http://ptsaonline.org)**

Current Projects, Board Meeting Minutes, Budget Reports, Audits, Wasteload Reports, Authority's forms and applications, building sewer specifications, billing policies, and much more.

The Customer Portal is now available and can be accessed through the website for sewage account information and online credit card/e-check payments.

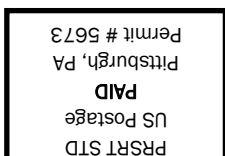
Planning on selling your home? Please submit your application for a Dye Test to the Authority as soon as the property is listed. This allows ample time for scheduling the test and to repair any defects, if necessary. Dye Tests are valid for one year from the date of testing and any defects identified must be corrected, even if the property does not sell. The Authority is the exclusive entity to perform the Dye Test and the application is available on our website.

**BOARD MEMBERS**

David G. Blazek, Chairman                      Eric S. Grimm, Vice Chairman                      Terrence G. Byrne, Secretary  
 Rebecca W. Kaminsky, Treasurer                      Michael P. Crall, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer

**BOARD MEETINGS**

Held at the Lower Level of Administrative Building, 111 Bell Drive, McMurray, PA  
 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Additional Meeting 4th Tuesday if needed.



PETERS TOWNSHIP SANITARY AUTHORITY  
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