



UMHJSA Newsletter

FALL/WINTER, 2013

This newsletter is published by the Authority to keep its service area customers up-to-date on current and new projects and activities.

Our Board Members are:

Kent Nelson, Chairman
George W. Lewis, Vice Chairman
John F. Dunleavy, Secretary
Eric C. Lindhult, Treasurer
Steven Covalleski, Ass't Secretary
Alex Kalnajs, Ass't Treasurer

A Reminder Note: Our Administration Office hours are 7:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. Payments may be put in the mail slot at other times---no cash, please---checks or money orders only!!

**Phosphorus Removal –
It's An Expensive Unfunded Mandate.**

The UMHJSA's current discharge permit issued by US EPA and PA DEP requires the Authority to remove phosphorus compounds, called phosphates, from the wastewater prior to discharge to Pennypack Creek beginning January 1, 2014. This has been and will continue to be an expensive unfunded mandate for the Authority and ratepayers to follow. Since October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2013, UMHJSA has spent \$625,000 on the investigation, design and permitting of the phosphorus removal project. The cost to finish the new phosphorus removal facilities and the first year cost of chemicals to remove the phosphates is about another \$625,000. There

is also the perpetual cost of operating, maintaining and buying chemicals of about \$350,000 per year. It's expensive!

If US EPA and PA DEP make our phosphorus discharge limit more stringent annual costs will escalate. The source of phosphorus compounds in the wastewater is the meats, fruits, vegetables, soft drinks and potable water we eat and drink. We need to remove it by adding chemicals to the wastewater treatment processes to be compliant with the national and state laws. Unfortunately the cost of our normal business operations to protect the environment is placed on all UMHJSA's customers via sewer rates and the increases to these rates. Without treatment, phosphates can cause algae to rapidly grow and can deplete the dissolved oxygen in the Pennypack Creek which can result in fish kills that nobody wants.

CONSERVE WATER – SAVE ON SEWER BILL-To prepare for the frigid weather that's around the corner, it's a good idea to keep a constant check on unheated areas around you home that contain plumbing lines and fixtures. A prolonged cold spell can freeze pipes and fixtures creating a water leak disaster when it thaws. If this water becomes sewage and is treated at our plant, you pay the sewer bill for this treatment. In fact, you pay double because you will also pay the water company for the leaking water. Be sure to fix dripping faucets and leaking toilet tank flapper valves. A small drip or slow leak will consume gallons of water on a daily basis.

UMHJSA Fast Facts

The Upper Moreland-Hatboro Joint Sewer Authority provides collection, conveyance and treatment of wastewater from its customers in Hatboro Borough and Upper Moreland Township, and services portions of Bryn Athyn Borough, Horsham Township, Upper Dublin Township and Warminster Township.

Some interesting facts about the Authority:

Operations – 24/7 – 52 weeks per year
Plant Capacity – 9.08 million gal. per day
Treatment – 2 billion gallons per year
Sludge – 5,200 wet tons per year
Connections – 10,400
Operating Pump Stations – 4
Collection system – 125 miles of pipe
Plant Replacement Value – \$97 million
Collection sys. Rep. Value – \$99 million

Sewer Backing Up? If your sewer is backing up, call us before you call a plumber. We'll determine where the problem is, and advise you what needs to be done for free. We're the Authority--call us at 215-659-1462.

Sump Pumps -- We remind you again that it is illegal to connect a sump pump to the sanitary sewer system. This creates a burden on the sewer plant during high flow periods and could translate to a raise in rates in the future. If this is you present set up, please change the piping to pump outside to the curb or driveway.

Cleanouts -- Please check your lateral (sewer pipe) for open cleanouts. This is a source of unwanted storm water entering the collection system during heavy rain periods. Debris can fall into your cleanout causing blockages in your lateral and possibly the main sewer pipe in the street. If you need a cap, we will help you get one installed. Just give us a call (215-659-1462).

Remember—water is a finite resource. We have all we will ever get. Conserve and use it wisely!

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