

## INTRODUCTION

This newsletter is designed to introduce you to the project and will be followed-up with additional communication during the project. We ask all affected customers to review this information and stay informed throughout the planning and design process and project construction.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The Hegins and Hubley Township Supervisors and the Hegins-Hubley Authority (HHA) are undertaking a major improvement project to plan, design and install sanitary sewage facilities throughout the Townships. These areas are currently served by on-lot septic systems, many of which are experiencing some type of malfunction. The new collection system will convey all sewage from these areas to a proposed wastewater treatment facility.

## PROJECT FUNDING

The planning portion of the project is being funded through Township funds and an Act 537 Sewage Facilities Planning Grant. Upon completion of the Act 537 Plan Update the Township is eligible for reimbursement of 50% of the total cost of the Plan. Funding for design and construction has not been applied for or received. The Act 537 Plan indicates that PENNVEST will finance the project.

## PROJECT STATUS

There will be three phases to complete the implementation of a public sewage system in the Township; Planning, Design and Construction. We are currently in the

planning phase of the project. We anticipate to submit the Act 537 Plan to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection in January 2012. It will be several months until the Act 537 Plan is reviewed and approved by the PADEP. Phase 2 of the project, design, will commence immediately following planning approval. Design is estimated to take approximately 1 year, due to time to acquire aerial mapping, develop plans and obtain necessary permits. Phase 3, construction, will also take approximately 1 year. Therefore it is reasonable to anticipate a complete operating sewage system in 2014.<sup>5</sup>

## CONNECTION FEE & LATERAL HOOK-UP

At this time, the connection fee is \$1500 per EDU. This fee will be confirmed when the project financing is finalized prior to construction for the project.

In addition to the connection fee, each homeowner will be responsible for construction of their sewer lateral from their property line to their home. The project will provide all mainlines and lateral stubs to each residents' property line.

We will keep the community informed on the project funding in order to allow time for residents to prepare for sewage related fees.

The Townships have been researching available funding sources for each individual homeowner to assist with the cost of the connection fee and the lateral installation. We will provide information on each of these potential sources of funding in this and future newsletters.

Rural Housing Repair and Rehabilitation Loans are loans funded directly by the Government. These loans are available to very low-income rural residents who own and occupy a dwelling in need of repairs.

Funds are available for repairs to improve or modernize a home, or to remove health and safety hazards. This loan is a 1% loan that may be repaid over a 20-year period. Grants are also available to dwelling owner/occupant who is 62 years of age or older and cannot repay a loan. More information can be found at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/sfh/brief/repairloan.htm>

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*How much will it cost me to hook up to the new system once it is installed?*

There will be a one-time connection fee of \$1500. The homeowner will also be responsible to install the new lateral from their existing property line to their dwelling. For some dwellings this may only be a few feet and for others it may be a bit longer. No dwelling will have to run a lateral for any more than 150 feet maximum. The Township will do its best to keep the connection fee as low as possible.

*How Was the Location of the Treatment Chosen?*

In the last several months, the Engineers along with the Supervisors and HHA members evaluated eight different locations. At the September 14, 2011, supervisors from both Townships chose the Krammes property for the treatment plant site.

This property has many advantages such as access and electric power availability, receiving stream characteristics, available acreage and the lack of adjacent residences.

***When will I have to pay the connection fee and connect to the new system?***

When construction of the new system is nearing completion, HHA will notify residents of a date in which connection fees are due and when connection to the new system would be required. The HHA will make sure to give enough notice to the residents so they may schedule contractors to install the laterals for their properties. The time projected for residents to connect to the system is 2014.5

***What am I allowed to connect to the new sewer lateral?***

ONLY sanitary sewage is allowed to be connected to the system. Sources of flow which are not allowed to the new system will be items such as basement floor drains, downspouts, sump pumps, foundation drains, or yard drains.

***Will I have basement service?***

The project was designed to provide FIRST FLOOR service to each home. You may be able to receive basement service if the topography and proposed depth of the mainline allows for such connection. HHA will not lower the mainline to accommodate basement service due to the increase in construction costs.

***If I have an apartment building with multiple units in it, am I required to pay a hookup fee for each unit?***

Each apartment is considered one equivalent dwelling unit; therefore, a connection fee will be required for each.

***Who must connect to the sewer system?***

Hegins and Hubley Townships will be adopting an ordinance that requires all houses within the service area to connect to the sewer system. If you are not within the service and if your system is failing, or is not permitted or approved, then you must install an approved system or connect to the public system. Oftentimes it is less expensive to hook up the public sewer system.

HHA will look at cases like this on an individual basis to determine if it is economically feasible for you to connect to the public system.

***My septic system works fine, why do I need to connect to the sewer system?***

Although your septic system may appear to be working fine, there is always the possibility of a "silent" failure that results in groundwater contamination, without showing any external signs of system malfunction. Additionally, not all-existing systems have been approved and permitted by PADEP.

***Who should I contact if I have any other questions?***

Alfred Benesch and Company will be able to answer any questions you may have. Please see one of these representatives with questions.

**ACT 537  
SEWAGE FACILITIES  
PLAN UPDATE**

**GENERAL INFORMATION  
&  
FREQUENTLY ASKED  
QUESTIONS**

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