

BasinBriefs



A Periodic Update of Wet Weather News and Progress throughout the Eastern, Northern and Southern Basins of Allegheny County

December 2004

Welcome to the first edition of BasinBriefs, a periodic one-page newsletter containing concise updates important to basin group members. It is 3 Rivers Wet Weather's goal to keep basin group members abreast of the most current developments in wet weather so municipalities and the region as a whole can continue to move toward a long-term sustainable solution to the wet weather problem.

Flow Monitoring Work Group Established

In September, 3RWV created the Flow Monitoring Work Group comprising 30 basin engineers, and regulatory agency, PWSA and ALCOSAN representatives. The group, open to all ALCOSAN community engineers, has met monthly to develop a regional flow monitoring plan to most cost-effectively meet the requirements in the recent administrative consent orders (ACOs).

Recently, the Work Group sent a letter to engineers with details for submitting existing, useable flow monitoring data by Dec. 22 to Herb Higginbotham, of Michael Baker, hhigginbotham@mbakercorp.com

This data may help to reduce the flow monitoring effort needed to meet the objectives of the orders. A draft plan will be submitted to ALCOSAN for review in June 2005 as required by the ACOs.

Sewer Rate Survey Report Available

Recently, 3 Rivers Wet Weather completed a sewer rate survey requested by local municipal officials as a tool to better analyze their own current and proposed sewer rates. The sewer rates of 79 of the 83 ALCOSAN

The Sewer Rate Survey compares the sewer rates for an average customer who uses 15,000 gallons of water in a quarterly billing cycle.

municipalities (95%) are contained in the report. The average quarterly charge for 15,000 gallons for the ALCOSAN service area is \$74.33.

Rates are also broken down by basin. In the eastern basin, the average quarterly rate is \$66.81, in the northern basin, \$68.67, and in the southern basin \$84.33. For a complete copy of the 21-page report, including sewer rates by community and comparison graphs, visit our web site. [Click here for the Sewer Rate Survey Report.](#)

Upcoming Basin Group Meetings

Northern: January 26, 2005 6:30 p.m.

Southern: January 27, 2005 6:30 p.m.

Eastern: January 31, 2005 7:00 p.m.

Sanitary Sewer Overflow Response Plan

Upon the request of municipal managers, a sanitary sewer overflow response plan template was drafted to promote consistency among plans and procedures in neighboring communities.

A volunteer committee of managers and engineers, using a model plan from the American Public Works Association, developed an eight-page response plan template that meets the minimum requirements of the administrative consent orders. The draft plan, distributed to managers in October, defines appropriate actions that must be taken in the event of a sanitary sewer overflow caused by problems in the municipal sewer collection system.

Municipalities are strongly urged to have their municipal solicitor review and tailor the plan to their specific community's needs. Response plans must be in place by May 2005.

To obtain a copy of the template, [click here: Sanitary Sewer Overflow Response Plan.](#)

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Produced by: 3 Rivers Wet Weather
3901 Penn Avenue
Building #3
Pittsburgh, PA 15224
www.3riverswetweather.org

Feedback or suggestions for news topics? Please contact Tracy Schubert at tschubert@achd.net or 412-578-8197.