THE AUTHORITY:
The Municipal Authority of the Township of South Fayette is a non-profit utility providing wastewater collection and conveyance services for our customers. Accordingly, your rates and charges are a direct result of the costs we incur to provide YOU service. The "wastewater portion of your bill from Pennsylvania American Water Company reflects your proportionate cost for this service.

THE PROBLEM:
The additional storm water, which can result in system overflows can:
- Lift manhole lids, allowing for sewage to overflow into streets, walkways and yards.
- Activate overflow pipes that discharge sewage into storm sewers and streams thereby violating Federal (EPA) and State (PaDEP) and County (ACHD) regulations.
- Cause basement flooding from back-up of the sanitary sewer lateral. This flooding can cause extensive property damage and presents an unnecessary health hazard.

SOLUTIONS:
- Reconstruct parts of the system by installing larger and/or additional sewer lines and increasing the capacity of pump stations.
- Construct holding tanks to temporarily store the excess flow which is then gradually released back into the system.
- Pursuing options such as these, thus creating an oversized sewer system, would substantially increase your sewer bill. They are not considered to be the best initial alternatives to be undertaken.

REDUCE THE SOURCES OF I/I: (SFMA’s preferred approach)
- To date, SFMA televised nearly 70% of the 120 miles of sewer mains attempting to locate system defects that could allow I/I to enter the system.
- SFMA representatives have just completed a system wide property inspection program (as mandated by our ACO) in search of obvious inflow sources such as downspouts, area drains, etc.
- By May 2007, SFMA personnel must complete inspection of over 2,400 manholes throughout the system.
- As defects are identified as a result of the above activities, repairs are being made by relining the pipe, grouting the pipe joints, and when necessary, excavating and replacing the pipe. Likewise, manholes are being repaired as required.

CUSTOMER: (HOW DOES THIS IMPACT YOU?)
- If SFMA has notified you of a defect for downspouts, low vents, area drains, etc. identified during the recent inspection program, please make the repairs in a timely manner.
- Effective June 1, 2007, SFMA will mandate that sanitary sewer laterals leading from buildings to the sewer main be televised as part of any property transfer. This work will generally be done by SFMA personnel in addition to the current dye test program required at the time of sale. Defects and leaks identified during this process will require the property owner to either replace or rel ine the privately owned portion of the lateral as a condition of sale. SFMA will be responsible for replacing or relining pipe that is deemed to be in the public portion of the system.
COOPERATION:

There must be a joint effort by the customers and SFMA to remove sources of I&I from entering the Sanitary Sewer System.

♦ The cost you pay for wastewater services is primarily based upon your water usage rather than the amount of wastewater that you contribute to the system. However, SFMA’s agreement with ALCOSAN limits the amount of wastewater that can be conveyed to them without incurring a surcharge. This surcharge amount has been as much as $395,000 in a single calendar year. Therefore, everyone’s bill is impacted in order to cover these costs.

♦ A single leak of 2 gallons per minute can result in a $260 surcharge per month that must be escrowed by the Authority to be used for system repairs that are intended to reduce flow.

♦ If you know or think you may be contributing to the problem, let’s FIX IT. Visit our web site at www.authority.south-fayette.pa.us for more information or contact our office at 412-221-1665.

If 30% of SFMA’s customers are contributing I&I, that equates to 1,695 properties. At just two gallons per minute per property, that amounts to excess flows of more than 4.9 million gallons per day, or 3X the normal “dry day” flows. In reality, the peak flow in the SFMA system has been recorded during severe storm events to be as much as 6X the normal flow.

LET’S ALL DO OUR PART. AS A COMMUNITY WE CAN PROTECT PROPERTY, PREVENT HEALTH HAZARDS, AND MAINTAIN REASONABLE WASTEWATER BILLS!!!

Our thanks to Highland Sewer & Water Authority for base brochure design.