



## Press Release

May 7, 2009                      For Immediate Release  
Media Contact:                 Kate Petrosky, 724-863-2860

The North Huntingdon Township Municipal Authority (NHTMA) took action at its regular meeting on May 6, 2009 to adopt a \$7.3 million annual budget, as well as update its \$2.9 million capital improvement plan designed to continue repairing its aging infrastructure. The Authority's 2010 fiscal year began on May 1, 2009.

Operating expenses are projected to increase by 3.3%, attributed in part to routine wage and benefit increases, and general system expenses. Revenues are also projected to increase by 3%.

Monthly rates for NHTMA residential customers will increase by \$1.00 per month beginning with service for May, 2009, to a total of \$39.20 per month. This increase will result in a resident paying an additional \$12.00 per year for sewage service, or a total of \$1.26 per day. Commercial customers will see a similar increase of \$1.00 per month for each 4,200 gallons of water used. This \$1 increase will be used to fund the Authority's \$2.9 million, five-year Capital Improvement Plan.

The Capital Improvement Plan maps out the Authority's capital expenses through Fiscal Year 2014. Projects anticipated in Fiscal Year 2010 total \$1.1 million and include replacing lines in Country Hills, a portion of Guffy Road, Lower Five Pines, and a portion of Colonial Manor Road, replacing media on the rotating bio discs, replacing chlorine gas with sodium hypochlorite for disinfection, and repairing the heat exchanger at the Yough Plant, installing a supervisory control and data acquisition system (SCADA) at the Yough Plant and all pump stations, complying with an ALCOSAN Consent Order and Agreement in the Cavittsville area, and repairing sections of the Brush Creek collection system.

May 7, 2009

Page 2

Residential customers will see the effect of the rate increase beginning with the bills that are sent out in May covering service for the three previous months. The June prepayment stub will reflect the new rates. Customers who have paid for a year in advance in order to receive the 5% yearly discount should contact NHTMA. Customers in this situation will receive the discount on the additional charges when they are paid in full.

NHTMA also increased its tapping fee charge from \$2,700 to \$3,000, effective July 7, 2009. The tapping fee is calculated based on a formula prescribed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and permits an authority to recover allowable costs that have been spent on capital expenditures. The Authority's consulting engineer reviews the tapping fee each year as part of the budget process to ensure that new customers tapping into the system are paying their fair share of prior system costs.

NHTMA provides sanitary sewer service to approximately 11,500 residential and commercial customers. With 24 full-time employees, the Authority maintains over 255 miles of sewer lines, 13 pumping stations, and one 3.31 mgd treatment plant.