



OPERATION Ripple Effect™

SIMPLE STEPS: BIG BENEFITS FOR THE MOHAWK RIVER

PROJECT BULLETIN

Normally, our sanitary sewer system has enough capacity to operate properly. But, when we get heavy rains or sudden snow melts, stormwater overwhelms the system and causes overflows into the Mohawk River. That stormwater runoff enters the sanitary sewer system from multiple sources, including deteriorated and damaged public sanitary sewers and private property connections, such as roof leaders and sump pumps.

Operation Ripple Effect is a program of the Oneida County Sewer District that asks residents, businesses, and municipalities to do their part to reduce overflows. Together, we can help keep the Mohawk River clean.

PLANNING HELPS REDUCE IMPACT ON ONEIDA COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT RATEPAYERS

RATES TO FUND INITIAL UPGRADES AT THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLANT

Over the past 11 years, Oneida County Sewer District (OCSD) representatives, engineers, and member municipalities have worked diligently to identify and implement a cost-efficient strategy to rehabilitate our aging sanitary sewer system.

Extensive televising of the sewer pipe system and assessments of the pumps and treatment facilities has shown that fixing the system would be a major undertaking, costing more than \$330 million at its conclusion.

Given the level of work completed to date and additional work needed, customers will soon begin to see yearly OCSD rate increases. However, County and OCSD leadership announced that OCSD will tap a reserve fund to help ease the impact of the rate increase on District customers. The reserve is the result of a prudent saving practice that ensures the OCSD is able to respond to both unexpected and anticipated future system needs.

“We’ve taken on the task of repairing a system that went far too long without the necessary investments and maintenance,” said Oneida County Executive Anthony J Picente Jr. “Our approach has been strategic and collaborative, as we have worked for years with a Steering Committee, representative of all District municipalities, to set a course for efficient and responsible methods of repair. As such, I’m pleased to announce that the OCSD has been able to use funds saved over recent years to cut the impact of this first rate increase by half. This assistance will greatly reduce the burden to ratepayers in 2018.”

In April 2018, OCSD ratepayers can expect to see an increase



from \$4.13 per 1,000 gallons of consumption to \$4.52 per 1,000 gallons to pay for the first round of work completed at the OCSD Water Pollution Control plant (treatment plant). On average, for the OCSD portion of sewage bills, this equates to an annual increase of:

- \$5.26 for a single-person household (13,500 gallons per year*)
- \$21.45 for a four-person household (55,000 gallons per year*)
- \$31.59 for a six-person household (81,000 gallons per year*)

“We knew that when it came time to start paying back the debt service on these facility improvements and upgrades that there would be an impact on the ratepayers,” said Steven P. Devan, P.E., Commissioner, Oneida County Department of Water Quality and Water Pollution Control. “With this in mind, we were conservative in our spending and saved our surpluses to be able to help make the increases more gradual and manageable.”

Continued on side two.



Contact cmanion@paigegroup.com to schedule a briefing. For more news and reports, visit www.RippleEffectOCSD.org.

An Initiative of the Oneida County Sewer District

Anthony J. Picente Jr., County Executive

Steven P. Devan, P.E., Commissioner
Department of Water Pollution and Water Quality Control

PLANNING HELPS REDUCE IMPACT

Continued from side one.

The rates residents pay fund the improvements that:

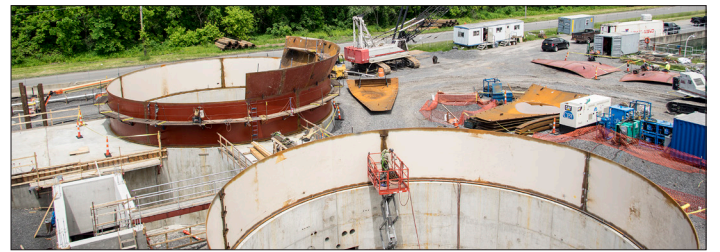
- Assist the City of Utica with treatment elements of its Long-Term Control Plan by increasing wet weather treatment capacity at the Water Pollution Control Plant;
- Increase system capacity to help prevent sewage overflows into the Mohawk River;
- Upgrade the more than 60-year-old Water Pollution Control Plant into a more environmentally sustainable and technologically advanced facility;
- Prevent economic development economic development moratoriums.

“With these investments, all OCS D residents can have the peace of mind that we will avoid catastrophic system failure,” Picente said. “In addition, we are setting in place the mechanisms to ensure the ongoing maintenance of the system in the future, including the formation of a Shared Services plan to minimize the burden on District communities.”

Further, those residents within the nine Sauquoit Creek Pumping Station Basin (towns of New Hartford, Paris, Whitestown, and villages of Clayville, New Hartford, New York Mills, Whitesboro, Oriskany, and Yorkville) will continue to pay an additional surcharge to fund the first \$25.8 million in sanitary sewer system repairs and improvements specific to those municipalities. These repairs directly relate to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s 2007 Consent Order to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows at the Sauquoit Creek Pumping Station.

In addition to the OCS D rate, customers may have an additional municipal rate to fund local sewer system repairs and improvements. Those rates would be determined at the city, town and village level.

**Average consumption data from the Mohawk Valley Water Authority.*



Project Background:

Just because you don’t see it doesn’t mean there isn’t a problem. Normally, our Oneida County Sewer District (OCS D) sanitary sewer system has enough capacity to operate properly. But when we experience heavy rains or snowmelts, the sanitary sewer system becomes overwhelmed with clean stormwater, which causes overflows into the Mohawk River. In some cases, residents can even experience backups into their homes or overflows onto the street.

Since 2007, a Steering Committee, consisting of representatives from each of the 15 District municipalities, has participated in developing the three-part fix to this problem:

- 1 fix aging and failing sanitary sewer pipes;
- 2 remove stormwater and other materials from the sewers to maintain capacity; and
- 3 upgrade treatment and pumping facilities.

For information about Operation Ripple Effect™, Oneida County’s initiative to remove clean stormwater from the sanitary sewer system, visit www.RippleEffectOCSD.org.