

Coplay-Whitehall Sewer Authority
Proudly Serving The Community For Over 40 Years

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January 1, 2012

To our Customers:

This letter is to inform our customers of a rate increase. As of January 1, 2012, sewer rental rates will increase by \$5.00 per quarter for 2012. This is our first rate increase in the last five years and is due to costs associated with replacing the Coplay Creek Interceptor, a major component of our system. The cost of the project is approximately \$10,000,000 and we are actively seeking funding from both private and public financial institutions.

The CWSA board recently applied for a loan through PENNVEST, a state run loan program that offers substantially lower interest rates than private institutions. We are hopeful that we will get approval from PENNVEST and have worked very hard in the application process. We also pursued grant money but unfortunately due to the state of the economy no funding was available.

The reasons we are replacing the Coplay Creek interceptor is because of the age of the pipe and a mandate from the Environmental Protection Agency which requires all municipalities that own and maintain collection systems to repair or replace all parts of a conveyance system that may have water entering through cracks, bad joints, illegal hookups, etc. The reason for this mandate is to stop infiltration and inflow which overwhelms the treatment plant and causes overflows into our waterways. The EPA has indicated that it has zero tolerance for non-compliance and will levy substantial fines on the Authority.

The Board of CWSA has taken a very proactive approach to the mandate and ordered a comprehensive system-wide flow monitoring study of the entire CWSA system in June of 2011 at a cost of \$250,000. The results we received back were very encouraging and indicated that 92% of our system is sound and in good repair. The study also indicated that CWSA has one of the best systems they have studied. We have our maintenance staff performing Clear Water Inspections in all homes and businesses in the CWSA service area looking for illegal hookups to the system. So far our inspections of half of the system have found very few violations. The board and employees of CWSA are making every effort to maintain our system and keep our costs low and in turn keep our rates at some of the lowest in the state.

The CWSA Board