

# ANTIETAM VALLEY MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

502 BUTTER LANE, READING, PA 19606  
610-779-0150 (PHONE) 610-779-1939 (FAX)

January 1, 2007

TO: Sewer Service Customers of Antietam Valley Municipal Authority (AVMA)  
Mt. Penn Borough, Lower Alsace Township,  
Exeter Township, St. Lawrence Borough and Reading City

Dear Customer:

We want to take this opportunity to provide you with an update of various ongoing projects of this Authority. If you have recently driven along Butter Lane, you have noticed extensive construction activity at our sewage treatment plant and pump station. We have initiated a major improvement project at both locations, in an effort to mitigate the presence of extraneous water in our sanitary sewer system.

As you know from prior AVMA newsletters - the presence of this extraneous water in our sewer pipes, called *infiltration and inflow*, continues to cause us major problems at the treatment plant and pump station. Our system is not designed to handle storm or ground water entering the pipes and reaching the plant.

Most of you are aware that we been conducting an inspection program on a "door-to-door" basis, in an effort to locate some of the sources of *infiltration and inflow*; including sump pumps, floor drains, and downspouts connected to sewer pipes. 80% of our customers - approximately 3,000 homes and businesses - have already been inspected and the project is on-going. We thank those of you who have cooperated with our efforts to date. Although results have been very positive, and we anticipate continued improvement, the problem has not been eliminated.

Unfortunately, the situation has attracted the attention of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP). These agencies have required AVMA to enter into a "Consent Order & Agreement", which outlines a costly corrective action plan and provides for penalties if certain milestones are not met.

Major modifications are mandated at both facilities to accommodate excessive flows. The cost of new construction exceeds four million dollars, in addition to hundreds of thousands that have already been spent. We would certainly have preferred to avoid these expenses, but have been given no alternative.

Needless to say, capital improvements of this magnitude will have a major impact upon our sewer rates. Effective January 1, 2007, (billed April, 2007), a new rate structure has been implemented. The average residential customer's *quarterly sewer bill will increase from \$71.40 to \$108.33*, representing an extra cost of about 40 cents per day. Rates are based on water consumption using the following formula:

*\$30.00 – first 1,000 gallons of water used (minimum bill)*  
*\$8.00 – each additional 1,000 gallons*

While we are not happy about this unavoidable increase, the service we provide is still reasonable, as compared with sewer rates of other nearby municipalities.

As always, we welcome your input and comments. Our regular meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of each month (3rd Thursday in November and December) at 7:30 pm in our Operations Building, 502 Butter Lane. You can also reach our office during regular business hours at 610-779-0150, or via email at [avma@comcast.net](mailto:avma@comcast.net). Our web address is [www.antietamauthority.org](http://www.antietamauthority.org).

Respectfully,  
ANTIETAM VALLEY MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY