



*The ARAMARK Tower
1101 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107-2994*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Philadelphia Water Department

Initiatives

January 21, 2005

Pilot Plant Research

We are conducting research at two pilot plants, one for the treatment of drinking water withdrawn from the Delaware River, the other for the Schuylkill. Before investing in major capital improvements at our water treatment plants, this research provides us with vital information and a better understanding of how changes to our treatment process will impact the operations of our treatment facilities, as well as the overall quality of the treated water. This research helps us to meet future regulatory mandates that protect public health, in a cost-effective way, and to do so well ahead of the federal deadlines.

On-line Drinking Water Quality Monitoring

In response to heightened security concerns, real-time, water quality monitoring systems at our water treatment plants, reservoirs, pumping station, wholesale customer connections, and at numerous points throughout our water distribution system will provide us accurate information in a timely manner. This technology is vital to the utmost safety of water quality and the health of our customers. Expected installation cost: \$500,000.

Early Warning System

To further protect our drinking water sources from chemical spills and other potential hazards, this system is our first line of defense. Funded in part by a \$725,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, it will provide us with essential information when making critical treatment and pumping decisions in response to spills and accidents that can have a detrimental impact on the rivers. Recent events including the major oil spill on the Delaware this fall, a tanker car derailment of hazardous materials along the banks of the Schuylkill, and a fire at a Bridgeport, Pennsylvania chemical plant have emphasized the need to improve coordination and planning for such events. This state-of-the art system has already increased communication among water suppliers up and down the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers.

New Pumping Station

The construction of a new water pumping station is necessary to enhance local water pressure and water service reliability for our customers in the Northwest section of the City. This new pumping station will house eight energy-efficient pumps, a control room and offices.

Assessing the City's Sewer Infrastructure

Maintaining the sewer system is equally important. Heavy rains experienced this past summer were highly unusual for Philadelphia, and they greatly impacted our sewers in several neighborhoods. That's why it's important for us to continue a sewer assessment program begun more than a year ago. With nearly 3,000 miles of sewers collecting nearly 500 million gallons of wastewater a day, assessing sewer conditions is a major part of our operations. We've already videotaped and evaluated nearly 230

miles of sewers, and are developing a database and ranking system to prioritize sewer improvements. We will continue to assess additional miles of sewers each year.

Long-Term Control Plan for Combined Sewer Overflows

During heavy rainstorms, the release of some storm water and sewage overflows from combined sewers (sewers that carry storm water and sanitary waste in one pipe) to the City's rivers and stream, causing pollution to these waterways. Nearly eight years ago, we began a short-term plan, using industry accepted best practices to operate our sewer system. These efforts successfully reduced overflow volume by three percent or six billion gallons a year. Our efforts included detecting and eliminating overflows during dry weather, getting the most storage as possible in our sewer system, and stepping up inspections and monitoring at sites where overflows occur. Since then, we have begun a long-term control plan that includes \$48 million in capital improvements so we can capture even more flow in the sewer system. During the next three years, our plan features a "watershed-based" approach, which involves other regional stakeholders in planning efforts that are more comprehensive and reach far beyond city boundaries. We anticipate that these efforts will result in reducing overflow volume from combined sewers approximately 15 percent to 19 percent by late 2007 and early 2008.

Waterways Restoration Program

Philadelphia has a rich network of more than 100 miles of streams and tributaries. During wet weather, storm water and sanitary waste can overflow to these waterways. Some of the most visible and distressing effects of overflows are debris and floatable materials that remain in the waterways. This past year, we began a Waterways

Restoration Program to clean up the waterways and we are undertaking restoration projects at both combined sewer overflows and storm water overflows. These projects will help eliminate potential health hazards by removing pools of water that remain where the overflows occur. The cost for the first year was \$515,000 and we have removed over 100 tons of debris, including cars, from Philadelphia's streams.

Advance Regional Source Water Protection Plans

A healthy water environment means a better quality of life for our customers. It will also support sustainable economic development. We've already completed source water assessments for the Schuylkill and Delaware River watersheds. Funded in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, other partners in the project included Aqua Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania American Water companies. We now have a better understanding of the major issues within the watersheds, such as agricultural run-off up river from Philadelphia that can impact the quality of our drinking water sources. During the next three years, we will develop source water protection plans for both rivers, using a grant of \$200,000 from the Department of Environmental Protection. These plans will help us prioritize source water protection programs to preserve Philadelphia's water sources.

For more information about these initiatives, call the Water Department at 215-685-4904.

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