

PROJECT CONSULTING TEAM MAKING PROGRESS

The county's Sewer Abatement and Permit Compliance project is a multi-year infrastructure evaluation and improvement initiative being undertaken by the Oneida County Sewer District (OCSD). The project results from the settlement of an enforcement action brought about by a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Consent Order requiring that the County's sewer system be brought into compliance with current state regulations.

In addition to conducting comprehensive engineering studies to determine the extent and nature of the repairs, the ultimate goal of this project is the removal of storm and groundwater sources from the sanitary sewer system. Examples of these sources include failing municipal sewers, leaking private sewer laterals, roof gutters, foundation drains and sump pumps.

To date, the project engineering consulting team has completed a number of tasks mandated by the DEC under the Consent Order. These include the following:

- An Environmental Benefit Project (EBP) involving a trail-head parking lot at BOCES has been approved by NYSDEC. This project accounts for \$30,000 of the \$150,000 fine imposed on the county by DEC under the Consent Order.
- Workshops were held in October to discuss Inflow/Infiltration (I&I) Offset Plan.
- The project consulting team continues to work toward identifying potential "quick hit" projects that will reduce I/I and create credits for development projects.
- Site inspections and workshops have been conducted by the Consultant Team as part of efforts to draft a Flow Management Plan, Wet Weather Operating Plan and WPCP Capacity Analysis.
- Workshops have been held with municipal sewer system operators and a draft Sewer Overflow Response Plan was prepared and sent initially to municipal sewer system operators for review/comment and then revised and submitted to NYSDEC for review/comment.
- Site inspections of municipal sewers, data collection, and a list of potential "quick fixes" have taken place as part of developing an Interim Remedial Measures Plan(s) that include Temporary Treatment Alternatives for Sauquoit Creek Pump Station overflow and Interim I/I Reduction Plan. The draft plan is in development.
- Intermunicipal Agreements and/or other legal instruments are being coordinated by Special Counsel to the County. Proposed Sewer Use Local Law amendments have been submitted to DEC for review.

- Workshops were conducted in October to discuss development of a Work Plan for a long-term study of the system. A system map that identifies municipal connections to the OCSD sewer interceptor was created and a Draft Flow Metering Plan has been updated and is ready for submission to NYSDEC for review and comment.

The project consulting team also includes legal and fiscal advisors along with public information specialists. The team meets regularly with the District's Advisory Board and a newly-created Steering Committee, which includes elected officials from the District's member municipalities and community representatives to gather and share information, make recommendations, and provide progress and status reports over the duration of the project.