

I. Project Progress for the Month of February

METRO Projects

- **Aeration System Upgrade**
(ACJ completion date - 7/1/02 - **Complete – January 2000**)

Work completed

Retrofitting a total of eight tanks was completed well ahead of the required ACJ completion milestone. The tanks are all fully operational with the new more energy efficient and effective fine bubble diffuser aeration system. Lower ammonia levels reported in lake with installation of new system.

- **Ammonia Removal/Phosphorous Removal Combined Project**
(ACJ completion date for ammonia full scale - 11/01/03 - on schedule)
(ACJ completion date for phosphorous removal Stage II - 4/01/05 - ahead of schedule)

Numerous meetings held as start of construction nears

Design Engineers, project team members and county staff were very busy this month completing final design documents and holding coordination meetings on specific construction related issues. In-house coordination meetings were held on technical aspects of the project, coordination with sewer maintenance activities, traffic concerns with the City, and geotechnical considerations. Additionally, meetings were held with the State DEC on site remediation activities and with Niagara Mohawk on finalization of site acquisition.

Meeting held with EPA on Environmental Review

A meeting was held between County staff, design consultants and EPA officials on February 5th to discuss the status of the EPA's review of the Environmental Information Document forwarded to EPA in October 2000. Additional information was requested and provided. Impending construction schedules and milestone dates were also discussed.

- **Digester Modifications/Chemical Storage/Digester Cleaning (Phase III Improvements)**
(ACJ completion date – 7/1/02 – project ahead of schedule)

Construction nearly completed on new chemical storage and feed building

Work to be completed includes HVAC controls for the chemical feed building.

Close out paperwork activities continue on Contracts 1, 2 & 3. All actual construction work on cleaning of lagoons and modifications to digester have been completed.

- **Digital System Improvements**
(ACJ completion date – 7/1/02 – project on schedule)

Installation completed at some facilities

Installation of the new system is now completed at the following treatment facilities: Oak Orchard, Wetzel Road, Baldwinsville and Brewerton. In addition, work has begun at METRO and three pumping stations – Meadowbrook, Ley Creek and Henry Clay. After each new system is installed, they are made operational. Training schedule under review. Testing and shakedown underway. Systemwide testing will be done after all installations are complete.

- **Odor Control and Residuals Handling**
(ACJ completion date – 7/1/02 – **Complete- December 2000**)

Installation completed on covers for clarifiers

Installation of all clarifier covers is complete and all clarifiers are now operating with the new covers. Installation of these covers on the primary clarifiers was the final step in this phase of the odor control program at METRO which was directed at reducing odors at the headworks of Metro adjacent to Hiawatha Boulevard.

- **Phosphorous Removal Pilot Project**
(ACJ milestone date for completion of pilot – 4/01/07 - well ahead of schedule)

Final Report in preparation

During the month, work continued on preparation of the final report on the results of the advanced phosphorus removal pilot project. The pilot was completed in December 2000.

The County is more than 6 years earlier in completing this pilot project than is called for in the ACJ.

CSO Projects

- **Clinton Conveyances and Regional Treatment Facility**
(ACJ completion dates – conveyances by 5/1/07 and RTF by 1/1/12 – on schedule)

Activities continue on draft Facility Plan

Activities this month included further investigation of alternative sites, further development of sections of the facilities plan report and development of the environmental information document. Meetings continue to be held with City officials to coordinate this project's schedule with other City improvements slated for the Armory Square area near the Creek.

The goal of the project is to address the abatement of the ten CSO's in the area to be served by the Clinton Facility near downtown Syracuse and the Armory Square area between Fayette and Adams streets. The contract work currently underway

includes preparation of a Facility Plan which will evaluate alternative technologies to address the overflows and alternative sites for any treatment facility. The contract also covers preparation of an environmental impact assessment and conceptual design.

- **Erie Boulevard Storage System Upgrade**
(ACJ completion date – 7/1/02 – on schedule)

DEC approval received on Design Report

In a letter dated March 6, 2001, the State DEC approved the Engineering Design Report on this project.

This project involves upgrading an existing large diameter underground storm sewer previously constructed to store combined sewage in storm situations. Following a storm event, the combined flow would be released back to the sewer system for treatment at Metro. The system has experienced operational problems with control gates and is in need of upgrading to function effectively.

- **Franklin Street Floatables Control Facility**
(ACJ completion date – 5/1/00 – **Complete – May 2000**)

Facility operational

This \$4.7 m facility was completed by its ACJ milestone date of May 1, 2000 and is in operation. This is the largest floatables facility currently planned by the County and is designed to remove floatable debris from both the Burnet and Butternut Trunk Sewers.

- **Harbor Brook Floatables Control Facility**
(ACJ completion date – 7/1/02 – ahead of schedule)

County waiting for approval of EDR by State

In a letter dated December 15, 2000 to DEC, the County forwarded additional information on how this project relates to the overall Combined Sewer Overflow Abatement Project for Harbor Brook. The information was provided along with a request that final approval be given by DEC to the Engineering Design Report for the FCF project so that it could proceed to be implemented this spring and begin collection of floatables.

The project involves design and installation of a net bag structure in the channel of Harbor Brook to capture floatables released from combined sewer overflows before they enter Onondaga Lake. Scope and cost for amendment to engineering services to complete final design on this project is currently under review by the County.

- **Harbor Brook CSO Abatement Project**
(ACJ completion date – 7/1/02 – to be revised due to change from in-water project)

Facilities Planning Continues

Design engineers continue working on evaluation of various sites and alternative technologies or combination of technologies for this project.

The purpose of the design contract is to compile a Facilities Plan, environmental impact assessment and conceptual design for Harbor Brook CSO Abatement. The project is intended to address the 19 CSO's which enter Onondaga Lake via Harbor Brook.

- **Hiawatha Blvd. Regional Treatment Facility**
(ACJ completion date – 7/1/02 – ahead of schedule)

Construction completed

Construction of all of the major structures of this facility is complete and the major equipment has been installed. Punch list on instrumentation and control items still to be completed. The facility is not yet in operation.

This project is managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

- **Kirkpatrick Street Pump Station Upgrade**
(ACJ completion date – 7/1/02 – on schedule)

100% contract documents under review at DEC

100% documents were finalized and submitted to DEC on January 25th. Additionally, the County responded to comments from DEC on the Engineering Design Report.

Meetings held this month included meeting with City Parks staff to discuss landscaping plans for the new facility and meetings with utility and various telecommunications companies regarding utility poles to be placed underground and design of conduits for cables along Van Rensselaer Street. 50% drawings on conduit bank prepared.

Other activities to prepare for construction this year

An Archeological Field Reconnaissance report (Phase IB) was submitted to the County for review.

- **Maltbie Street Floatables Control Facility**
(ACJ completion date – 5/1/99 – Complete May 1999)

Facility Fully Operational

This is the first floatables control facility completed under the Onondaga Lake ACJ program. The County is collecting operational data on this facility which will be helpful in designing and operating other netbag operations that are part of the Lake Improvement Project or elsewhere. Quarterly reports submitted to DEC.

- **Midland Conveyances and Regional Treatment Facility**
(ACJ completion date – revised RTF - 5/01/04 & Phase III Conveyance - 5/01/07)

Phase II Design work continues

Work conducted this month on the next phase of the project included: updating the proposed Neighborhood Redevelopment plan, preparation of additional materials and information to use in meeting with the public regarding site plans, building architecture and related redevelopment initiatives, preliminary site surveying activities, and a presentation on the project before a special joint committee meeting of the Syracuse Common Council.

The Phase II portion of this project includes the Regional Treatment Facility and about 1000' of pipeline running to the south of the facility to intercept existing overflows.

- **Newell St. Pilot Treatment Facility**
(ACJ completion date for RTF – 7/1/02 – pilot completed)

Response to DEC Comments to be drafted

A response to DEC's comments on the draft final report on this pilot project is being compiled for the County.

- **Onondaga Creek Floatables Control Facility**
(ACJ completion date – 7/1/02 – on schedule)

Work Plan forwarded to DEC for review

A draft work plan for installation of a boom in the creek was developed by design engineers and was forwarded to DEC for review. The boom would prevent floatables from entering the harbor and the lake.

Under the phased approach, the boom would be installed this coming spring and while preventing floatables from entering the harbor, the County would study the effectiveness of the boom at differing angles of installation and stream velocities before implementation as a final project.

Coordination with the construction of the Kirkpatrick St. Pump Station upgrade will be necessary on this project. Meetings have and will continue to be held with State Canal and City Lakefront Development officials.

Implementation of the first phase of this project will require necessary permission by the City Common Council for use of adjacent property and permit from US Corps of Engineers for work in creek.

- **Sewer Separation**
(ACJ completion date – 1/1/12 – on schedule)

House Survey Report received

A draft report on the survey of residences conducted by County DDS staff and design engineers is under review by County staff. The survey was conducted to assess the presence and location of sump pumps and foundation drains in areas in the City that are slated for sewer separation projects. A total of 41 homes were surveyed.

The US Army Corps is directing and funding the design of this project.

- **Siphon Rehabilitation**
(ACJ completion date – 7/1/02 – **Complete – May 1999**)

Work completed May 28, 1999 ahead of schedule.

- **Teall Ave. Floatables Control Facility**
(ACJ completion date – 7/1/02 – on schedule)

Meeting held with Neighborhood

On February 13th, representatives of the County and Design engineers attended a meeting of the Neighborhood Watch group in the area of this project which was held at Salem Hyde School. A presentation on the project was given and questions answered. Construction on this project is scheduled to begin this spring and be completed before the end of the year.

Contract Documents under review by DEC

On December 29th, the County submitted the 100% design contract documents to DEC on this project and thereby met its January 1, 2001 minor milestone for submission. Review comments expected from DEC shortly.

This project involves design of a mechanical screening device to remove floatables from a combined sewer overflow. The facility will be located underground near the intersection of Teall and Mildred Avenues on the City's northeast side.

- **West Street Sewer Separation**
(ACJ completion date – 7/1/02 – **Complete- December 1999**)

This was the first sewer separation project conducted under ACJ and eliminated 3 CSO's on Onondaga Creek by converting them to stormwater discharge only.

Ambient Monitoring Program

- **Summary of Sampling Program**

Tributary sampling

Biweekly tributary sampling was conducted at 11 tributary sites on February 9 and 27. Appropriate notification was provided to DEC and ASLF prior to sampling dates. The Feb. 9th event was the first high flow sampling event for the 2001 year. A minimum of five such events are required to be sampled annually.

Lake sampling

Sampling took place in the north deep end of the lake on February 22.

River Sampling

None conducted this month.

Macroinvertebrate sampling

Analysis underway. Completed sub-sampling on all of the 226 samples.

Fisheries sampling

Consultant has developed a preliminary fisheries database for year 2000 Fisheries sampling program.

Macrophytes sampling

Aerial photo interpretation and data analysis continued this month.

- **Other Activities**

- Submitted Quarterly Report data from monitoring program for Oct.-Dec. 2000 to DEC.
- Submitted Year 2001 proposed Ambient Monitoring Program to DEC on February 28 for review and comment.
- Requested and received approval from DEC for a slight delay in submittal of Final Monitoring annual report for 1999 program to March 8, 2001 to allow incorporation of DEC and EPA comments received recently.
- Hosted and arranged Lake Advisors Meeting held March 1 & 2.

II. Additional Activities and Accomplishments

Participation in State Wastewater Conference

Representatives of the County Drainage and Sanitation Department took part in the Annual Winter meeting of the Water Environment Association held February 5 to February 7 in New York City. The conference involves professionals in the

wastewater field and presentations on the latest technologies. County staff and consultants served as presentors and moderators for various workshops.

Quarterly All-Parties

County representatives met with representatives of the other parties to the ACJ on February 21 for the Quarterly All-Parties meeting in Syracuse. Updates and status reports on all the ACJ projects were given and discussed.

III. Issues

Ammonia/Phosphorus Removal Project

- The environmental information document on this \$125m project was submitted to the Federal EPA on October 9, 2000 for their review and assessment. This project is on an extremely tight time schedule to meet its required completion milestone and construction must begin this spring.

This is the largest and most costly of the ACJ projects and will bring about the most significant changes to improve the water quality of Onondaga Lake by reducing the amount of ammonia and phosphorus discharged to the lake via METRO effluent.

A timely review and issuance of the environmental assessment is needed on this project by EPA. The County completed SEQR review and issued a negative declaration. The project will be built on and adjacent to the existing METRO facility in a heavily commercial area and any negative environmental impacts are only projected to occur during construction related to traffic and noise. The County will be taking mitigating measures to reduce construction impacts as much as possible and the major environmental benefits of the project outweigh the limited negative impacts.

Oxygenation Demonstration

- Discussions are taking place on requesting that the project proceed under the direction of the US Army Corps of Engineers. A proposed RFP for work plan development has been compiled by the State, but not yet been issued.

IV. Contracts

New Contracts

No new contracts were finalized this month.

Amendments to Existing Contracts

Kirkpatrick St. Pump Station and Force Main

- Contract with EEA amended to cover additional design for dedicated wet weather facilities and new force main.
- Contract amendment amount: \$144,485. Executed February 1, 2001.

Project Management

- Contract with CDM/C&S amended to cover project management activities during the year 2001.
- Contract amendment amount: \$2,130,803. Executed February 16, 2001.

Harbor Brook CSO Abatement

- Contract with Moffa and Associates to cover cost of evaluating Metro tertiary tanks.
- Contract amendment amount: \$58,840. Executed February 16, 2001.

Change Orders

- Metro Phase III – with C.O. Falter for \$10,684.75 for slab and wall construction joints and temperature transmitters – February 14, 2001.
- Franklin FCF – with Maxim Construction for \$56,232.88 for correction of unit price items and installation of catch basin – February 27, 2001.

V. Public Participation

Overall Project

- Requests for information received over the telephone, web site and at meetings, continue to be responded to.
- Presentation and informational materials to use in public presentations continue to be developed and used.

Midland CSO Abatement Project

- Discussions continue to be held with City Councilors and County Legislators regarding the Midland project and use of \$2-3 m commitment.
- Presentation given this month and scale model brought to Joint meeting of two committees of the Syracuse Common Council on February 13th.

Clinton CSO Abatement Project

- Presentation given to Downtown TNT group on February 14th.
- Contacts continue to be made with interested City officials, individuals and other interested parties.

Harbor Brook CSO Abatement Project

- Continue to pursue joint project with ESF and ASLF on wetlands project with educational and community tie-ins in retention basin.

Ammonia/Phosphorus Removal Combined Project

- Continue to describe and discuss this project at all public presentations.
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Teall FCF Project

- Communications continue with resident closest to project construction.

Sewer Separation

- Presentations on other projects (Midland, Harbor Brook, Clinton) include information on Sewer Separation program.

VI. Legislative Action

Actions taken at February meeting by County Legislature:

- Adoption of SEQR/negative declaration on Ammonia/Phosphorus Project.

Actions taken to February Committees:

- Informational only.
- No actions needed.

Actions to be taken to March Committees:

- Informational only. No formal actions needed.

VII. Funding

Grants

State Bond Act Funds

- **Payments received this month from State Bond Act Funds:**

None to report.

- **Requests for reimbursements were submitted this month for the following projects:**

Midland RTF and Conveyances (Phase I) – request #1 for \$768,030.94 on February 27, 2001.

Total received to date in State Bond Act funds - \$9,096,673.

Federal EPA Funds

- **Payments received this month from Federal EPA Funds:**

None to report.

- **Requests for reimbursements were submitted this month for the following projects:**

None to report.

Total received to date in Federal EPA funds - \$1,332,583.

Loans

- **The following reimbursement payments were received from EFC during the month of February:**

Franklin St. FCF – \$162,130 (request #9) received on February 2, 2001 bringing the aggregate reimbursement to \$4,261,290.54.

West St. Sewer Separation - \$5,195.66 (request #6) received on February 2, 2001 bringing the aggregate reimbursement to \$2,356,499.10.

Metro Digital - \$40,091.01 (request #14) received on February 2, 2001 bringing aggregate reimbursement to \$1,783,614.89.

- **Closure on Loans:**

None to report.

- **Short Term Loan applications submitted this month for:**
None to report.
- **Reimbursement Requests Filed:**
 - Request #10 for Franklin FCF of \$28,725.08 on 2/27/01
 - Request #7 for West St. Sewer Separation of \$4,938.80 on 2/27/01
 - Request #15 for Metro Digital Upgrade of \$65,385.11 on 2/27/01
 - Request #9 for Phase III Digester of \$7,996.25 on 2/27/01
- **Total Reimbursement monies received to date through EFC Loans for the funded ACJ projects: \$27,225,234.**

VIII. Upcoming

Meetings:

Focus on Family Display – OnCenter – March 16 and 17th in Syracuse.

ACJ Milestone Dates:

- **January 1, 2001 – (Minor Milestone) – Submit Construction Documents for Harbor Brook FCF. (Revision requested)**
- **January 1, 2001 – (Minor Milestone) – Submit Construction Documents for Teall Brook FCF. (Met)**