



Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Settlement

On September 10th YCUA entered into a consent order with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to settle issues relating to Industrial Pretreatment Program documentation, a passthrough of dye from the Crown Vantage Paper Company at our Wastewater Plant, five effluent violations and several sanitary sewer overflows. YCUA has agreed to increased staffing and reporting for the Industrial Pretreatment Program. YCUA also agreed to actions to prevent sanitary sewer overflows and improved reporting when such overflows occur. YCUA agreed to pay a penalty of \$12,500 and spend \$12,500 on a local environment project. The cost of the penalty was offset by the \$10,000 fine which YCUA assessed Crown Vantage for their violation of releasing color dyes into the sewer system.

Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority

A quarterly newsletter dedicated to enhancing water and wastewater services brought to you by the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority

Progress Report—Plant Expansion

The plans for the Wastewater Plant expansion are moving along according to schedule. Preliminary engineering has been done on the sludge processing building, alterations for additional capacity, renovations, disinfection of effluent leaving the plant, plant maintenance facilities, and administrative offices.

Plans of TetraTech-MPS are being evaluated by a 'value-engineering' firm to provide a second opinion to assure the Authority and its customers are getting the best value for their money. The plans have been derived and approved by the Plant Expansion Committee. TetraTech-MPS, the engineering firm that designed the existing plant, completed the Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion feasibility study in March of 1999. They have toured the

plant and interviewed employees to come up with plans to suit the needs of the new capacity as well as the growing needs of the existing work areas.

The \$110 million project will include improvements to the Administration Building, Maintenance Building, Filter Building, Disinfection Systems, Grit and Screen Building, Clarifiers and Basins. Major modifications will also be made to the plant's Solids Processing Building.

The bond financing process has begun in order to pay for YCUA's share of the \$110-million total cost of the plant. The Western Townships Utilities Authority (WTUA) will pay the \$80-million cost of expansion of capacity of the plant from 28.9 million gallons per day to 45.9 million gallons. The project is to be completed by 2006.



Plant planning session

INTERNET ACCESS

Information and updates on the expansion will be available on our website,

www.ycua.org

Plant Effluent Disinfection

Effluent is treated wastewater that has been processed so that it may safely return to the environment. One of the projects YCUA is happy to have proceed is the new disinfecting facilities for wastewater effluent. Instead of using chlorine gas to disinfect the water leaving the plant, it will be disinfected with ultraviolet light. Chlorine gas is highly dangerous and has required special handling procedures and emergency contingency plans. It is pleasing to know that we will be able to take advantage of a technology that is cost effective, easier, and safer for our employees and neighbors.



Light bulbs for ultraviolet radiation treatment of plant effluent.

Sanitary Sewer Overflows



Sewer Main collapse causing exposure of raw sewage requiring emergency repairs in 1999.

The State of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is cracking down on sanitary sewer overflows demanding that municipalities reduce the incidence of these events in their communities. A sanitary sewer leak or overflow occurs when the system is overwhelmed by more sewage flowing in the pipes than they can handle, blockages, or breaks in the lines.

Line breaks like the one shown on this page are rare. This was caused by sewer gases gradually destroying the concrete pipe. In the case of the amount of water and sewage in the sewer lines exceeding capacity, YCUA commissioned a study in 1999 to identify those kind of problems. YCUA will be adopting a plan this year to address these problems. Often such occurrences as basement flooding are due to water getting into the sanitary sewer system in older parts of the system or basement footer drains connecting

into the sanitary sewer system. The practice of tying those footer drains to the sanitary sewer system was discontinued in the early 70s.

Various solutions are used to remedy these problems:

1. Replace mains with larger sizes.
2. Improve capacity of nearby sewage pumping stations.
3. Decrease opportunities for rainwater and groundwater to get into the sanitary sewer system.
4. Clean the sewers regularly to reduce the chances of obstructions.

The new sewer line being built in the Willow Run area is an example of fixing a sewer experiencing capacity problems. More projects are planned over the next few years to assure basements do not backup or sewage flow onto the ground, because of capacity. In addition, in the last year YCUA has added a

crew to jet clean the sewers regularly to keep them running clear without obstructions that might create backups. It is our goal to not have any basement backups or overflows from YCUA's sewer main.



YCUA's Vactor

Did You Know

Over 50% of water use is in toilet use or laundry.

"This will be a busy year for YCUA. Building and replacing infrastructure is an important function to assure reliable, quality service to our customers."

- Larry Thomas, Director

Investing In Infrastructure

Infrastructure is the water and sewer mains and system in the community that allow the delivery of water and sewer services to the residents and businesses of the Ypsilanti area. It is the backbone of a viable community that can assure a healthy quality of life for its users. The fact that you don't have to worry about the quality of service is testimony to the efforts of YCUA employees and its Board.

Maintaining and improving infrastructure is important and costly. This upcoming year YCUA will spend more on infrastructure improvements than at any other time since the wastewater treatment plant was built. The wastewater plant improvements will include replacement of worn equipment and systems, and improvements in efficiency that the staff has

learned during the 20 years of operation. Another major project is the replacement of nearly all of the water lines in the residential streets in the City of Ypsilanti in conjunction with the City's Paving Program. This will improve the reliability of the water service in the City for years.

Other projects include replacing



Sewer pipe-laying

roofs on several pump stations and the historical water tower, the second connection to the Detroit Water System (a key to maintaining water service at all times), work on sewer mains for Joe Hall Drive, Golfside Road, Sweet Road and Paint Creek. YCUA recently replaced the water main on Congress Street. YCUA is planning replacement of part of the Harris Road watermain, and coordinating replacing water/sewer mains with a Township Paving Program that will be starting next year.

The Director of YCUA, Larry Thomas, said, "This will be a busy year for YCUA. Building and replacing infrastructure is an important function to assure reliable, quality service to our customers."

Winterizing

The time to prepare is before winter winds get here. Follow these tips to help prevent frozen pipes in your home:

1. Disconnect outdoor hoses.
2. Insulate pipes in unheated areas / seal unheated areas.
3. Find master shutoff so if a break occurs, you can turn off service quickly.