

CSO!

Clean Solutions for Omaha

Omaha Must Reduce Sewer Overflows

Nationwide, the Federal government has identified 772 communities, including Omaha, that must address their combined sewer system overflows. This unfunded Federal mandate means we must reduce the number of average raw sewage overflows per year to the Missouri River and the Papillion Creek from 52 to four. Raw sewage contaminates these waterways with unhealthy bacteria making them unfit for swimming or recreation.

The Solutions

In fall 2007, the City presented the CSO proposed solutions at a community meeting and to the regulators.

The recommendations include: **targeted sewer separation, one deep tunnel and three new high rate treatment facilities to only operate during wet weather.** Under an agreement with the State of Nebraska, Omaha is committed to completing the implementation of the long-term control plan by 2024.



Deep Tunnel

What Are the Benefits?

- improved water quality for rivers and streams
- increased community enhancements such as streetscapes and landscapes
- increased job opportunities and economic growth (contractors and services)

What Will It Cost?

Engineers and city officials estimate it will cost approximately \$1.5 billion to meet appropriate water quality goals.

How Will We Pay For the Improvements?

Sewer rates are the most likely source of funding this project which means all rate payers, residential, commercial, industrial and wholesale customers will see monthly rates increase. Currently the average resident pays approximately \$12 per month or \$144 per year. This amount could rise to approximately \$50 per month or \$600 per year by 2017. Even when the work is completed, the increased fees will be needed for maintenance and to pay off the bonds issued by the City.

Ratepayer Assistance Program

While our community is required to implement this project we know it will be difficult for some families to pay the increased rates. So, the City is developing a rate payment assistance program to help those in need.

City of Omaha, NE
Mike Fahey, Mayor



CSO! Program Office
Central Park Plaza
222 S 15th St., Ste. 1406
Omaha, NE 68102-1602

How You Can Participate

Attend one of these community meetings
to learn more:

September 18, 2008

Southwest Metro

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Chalco Hills Recreational Area –
Visitor's Center
8901 South 154th Street

October 23, 2008

Southeast Metro

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Metropolitan Community College
South Campus
Mahoney Building – Room 534-A
2909 Edward Babe Gomez Avenue

October 7, 2008

Northeast Metro

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Metropolitan Community College
North Campus
Building 7 – Room 107
3000 Fort Street

CSO! Hotline:
402-341-0235

www.omahacso.com