

# Your input is critical to protecting our water

Did you know that your community has a Combined Sewer System (CSS) that discharges into local waters during heavy rains? Revisions in the laws governing CSSs require that all municipalities with these systems develop a *Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP)*.

Combined Sewer Systems are typically located in older urban areas and were constructed to provide for the transportation of sanitary sewage, industrial discharges and stormwater within the same pipe. The system in your area was designed to transport all sewage flows, and some wet weather flows for treatment. The system was also designed to discharge excess flows from the Combined Sewer System as a CSO discharge into the adjacent receiving waters. If these systems were not permitted to overflow, the community would flood.

The *CSO Long Term Control Plan* is a feasibility study to evaluate the means, costs and effectiveness of control alternatives for reducing the frequency and volume of CSO discharges, as well as different levels of pretreatment and disinfection.

To meet the *Public Participation Program*, and other requirements of the LTCP, the City of Paterson, the Towns of Guttenberg, Harrison and Kearny, the Borough of East Newark, Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authorities (MUA), Bayonne MUA, North Bergen MUA and Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners have joined together to form the *New Jersey CSO Group*. Each of these entities owns and/or operates various components of a Combined Sewer System.

*Hatch Mott MacDonald (HMM)*, a Consulting Engineering firm with vast CSO experience, has been retained by the *NJ CSO Group* to develop, coordinate and implement the *Public Participation Work Plan* as submitted to the NJDEP. The first task in this endeavor is the formation of a *Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)* to explore issues and options related to Combined Sewer Systems.

*The Citizen Advisory Committee is open to any interested person or group.*

The *Citizen Advisory Committee* will provide input and recommendations to the Group as the LTCP is being developed. It is anticipated that the CAC will meet approximately every four months. In addition the CAC will meet once for a field trip to tour some of the facilities. It is encouraged that only individuals or groups capable of making a long-term commitment to the CAC consider joining.

The CAC will hear presentations, offer feedback, learn about alternative controls and their estimated project costs and benefits and, ultimately, will offer recommendations on what types of controls, if any, should be implemented under the LTCP. The CAC will conclude in January 2007 and a *Public Participation Program Report* will be submitted to the *NJ Department of Environmental Protection* summarizing the group's findings.

*The future of our waterways is in your hands.*

If you are interested in participating on the Citizen Advisory Committee, please contact **Donna Gregory**, of Hatch Mott MacDonald.

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Notifications of interest should be submitted as soon as possible. You or your organization will be notified with details about the time and location of the next meeting.

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is in your hands.

NJ CSO Group

Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners  
Borough of East Newark  
Town of Harrison  
Town of Kearny  
North Bergen MUA  
Bayonne MUA  
City of Paterson  
Town of Guttenberg  
Jersey City MUA

**NJ CSO Group**  
Citizen Advisory Committee Forming