

# MWRA ADVISORY BOARD

## WATER AND SEWER UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 1990

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News and information on MWRA water and sewer programs, projects and policies. Provided as a service to cities and towns by the Advisory Board.

- \* Clinton - Community Costs!
- \* Booster Disinfection Program
- \* Advisory Board Field Trip
- \* Walpole sludge site vote delayed
- \* Norfolk County Jail water connection approved
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## CLINTON WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, WHAT DOES IT COST YOU?

As many readers probably know, the Legislature enacted legislation making the MWRA and its ratepayers responsible for the Clinton Wastewater Treatment Plant. Costs for the construction of the new plant and for the operation and maintenance of the new and old plants were to be picked up by the state--for the latter, the first \$500,000, a figure that was chosen arbitrarily. Last year the Advisory Board tried unsuccessfully to eliminate the \$500,000 cap. Worse, the state has not yet contributed a dime toward either construction and/or operation and maintenance costs.

At the request of the Advisory Board, the Authority generated a report showing the approximate cost each MWRA water community will be paying this year for the Clinton WWTP. These communities now pay approximately 7% of their total water assessment toward Clinton. The Advisory Board is strongly opposed to these payments: Why should MWRA communities pay for the construction and maintenance of a facility from which they do not benefit, especially at a time when these communities are under severe financial constraints and facing possible layoffs of teachers, policemen, firemen and DPW Workers?

Here is what Clinton is costing each of these Communities:

| <u>Community</u> | <u>Cost</u> | <u>Community</u>   | <u>Cost</u> |
|------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Arlington        | \$63,579    | Needham            | \$3,497     |
| Belmont          | \$38,188    | Newton             | \$157,911   |
| Boston           | \$1,606,846 | Northborough       | \$4,949     |
| Brookline        | \$100,747   | Norwood            | \$56,522    |
| Cambridge        | \$2,620     | Peabody            | \$774       |
| Canton           | \$25,724    | Quincy             | \$149,949   |
| Chelsea          | \$49,247    | Revere             | \$73,873    |
| Everett          | \$99,870    | Saugus             | \$48,334    |
| Framingham       | \$117,738   | Somerville         | \$132,591   |
| Leominster       | \$3,328     | Stoneham           | \$40,071    |
| Lexington        | \$84,181    | Swampscott         | \$28,353    |
| Lynn             | \$40,699    | Wakefield          | \$37,459    |
| Lynnfield        | \$6,110     | Waltham            | \$139,932   |
| Malden           | \$69,866    | Watertown          | \$58,882    |
| Marblehead       | \$26,159    | Wellesley          | \$2,563     |
| Medford          | \$97,620    | Weston             | \$17,581    |
| Melrose          | \$46,856    | Winchester         | \$22,288    |
| Milton           | \$41,354    | Winthrop           | \$28,013    |
| Nahant           | \$5,617     | Woburn             | \$13,962    |
| <b>Total</b>     |             | <b>\$3,543,853</b> |             |

The time is right for the MWRA cities and towns to stand up and demand that the state fulfill its financial obligation and lift this burden from the communities. **Remember, the Legislature created the problem and only the Legislature can correct it.**

#### **BOOSTER DISINFECTION PROGRAM**

The MWRA currently disinfects the water at the Norumbega and Weston Reservoirs. Additional disinfection is provided at Spot Pond and Fells Reservoir, which are open water supplies within the distribution system. MWRA current disinfection procedures meet all applicable State and Federal standards. A number of Northshore communities, however, are experiencing exceptionally high coliform concentration levels in their distribution systems. Recent tests conducted by the Town of Marblehead have discovered that water entering the town's distribution system from the MWRA line contains high coliform counts. Efforts have been made by the town to disinfect the water so that it is safe for consumption. This process to date has been funded by Marblehead. Recent construction and preventive maintenance by the Authority on the distribution system may have contributed to the situation.

At the September 5th meeting the MWRA Board of Directors voted to approve the Booster Disinfection Program Policy. Retroactive to January 1990, the Authority will reimburse the MWRA communities for the cost incurred by carrying out measures ordered by the DEP to remedy total coliform level violations in their distribution system. The Board approved to reimburse up to \$10,000 per community per calendar year, upon approval by the Executive Director, provided the problem is related to MWRA activity. This policy will be reviewed by the Board after a period of two years.

Advisory Board members observe the Fore River RO/RO facility in operation

#### **ADVISORY BOARD FIELD TRIP**

On Thursday, August 23rd, the MWRA Advisory Board conducted its' 3rd annual field trip. This year our tour consisted of visits to Squantum Point, Nut Island Treatment Facility and Fore River Staging Area. The day originated at Pier 4 in Charlestown, which is located directly behind the MWRA Headquarters, where we boarded the Authority Personnel Ferry and cruised to our first stop, Squantum Point, the site from which Southshore workers will be able to park and board the ferry to Deer Island. Upon our arrival we were greeted by Advisory Board members from the Southshore communities, who were joining our trip, and we were then given a brief summary of the Squantum Point area. After that we boarded buses and proceeded to the Nut Island Treatment Facility. At Nut Island we were given a tour of the facility, which included the existing headworks, the site for the new headworks, and the location of the 16-foot diameter shaft that will connect the headworks to the interisland tunnel. We concluded our Nut Island tour with a view of the new pier from on top of the digester building. The pier will be used to transport construction materials on or off the island via barge, to lessen the burden on the narrow streets of the adjoining residential neighborhood.



Our trip then proceeded to the Fore River Staging Area. Upon our arrival at Fore River, we observed the actual operation of the Roll-On/Roll-Off Facility (RO/RO). A barge carrying vehicles from Deer Island docked and unloaded at the pier. We then headed over the Interim Sludge Processing Facility. This facility will turn sludge into pellets to be used for fertilizer. We then moved on to the administrative offices of the Fore River Staging Area for a buffet lunch and a presentation by Enviro-Gro on the use of the sludge pellets and the future of sludge management.

After lunch we returned to Squantum Point where we concluded our tour. Those of us who were returning to Charlestown boarded the ferry. On our return ride to Charlestown the ferry detoured by Deer Island so we could observe the construction from afloat. We then continued on and docked at pier 4 in Charlestown.

The Advisory Board would like to commend the MWRA Community Relations Department for a very well-planned and enjoyable day.

#### **WALPOLE SLUDGE SITE VOTE DELAYED**

The House voted to delay any decision on the proposed MWRA landfill site in Walpole until December of this year. This action was approved in June by a vote of 96 to 57. Judge Mazzone, however, has sent a strong message to the Legislature that if in fact they do not act on this matter in December, he will take the necessary action to ensure that the MWRA stay within the court schedule. This delay could possibly force the Authority to conduct a design study for the Rowe's Quarry site in Malden/Revere, which would ultimately cost the ratepayers an additional \$10 million.

#### **ADVISORY BOARD APPROVES NORFOLK CONNECTION**

In the interest of taxpayers statewide the MWRA Advisory Board voted at the June meeting to approve the connection of the Norfolk County Jail and House of Correction to the MWRA water system. This connection will be made to the Town of Needham distribution system. The Advisory Board takes this action largely because this connection will allow the State Department of Planning and Operations (DCPO) to complete construction of the correctional facility by the proposed deadline and will save the state taxpayers approximately \$880,000.

#### **LEAK DETECTION PROGRAM UPDATE**

|                     |                           |          |
|---------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| As of July 11, 1990 | Miles of Pipe Surveyed    | 6085     |
|                     | # of leaks detected       | 2303     |
|                     | Estimate leakage detected | 29.8 MGD |
|                     | Leakage repaired          | 27.5 MGD |

### MWRA AWARDS TUNNEL CONTRACT

The MWRA Board of Directors at their July 18th meeting voted to approve the award of \$279 million in contracts for the construction of a 9-1/2-mile effluent outfall tunnel. This tunnel will be built under Boston Harbor and extend out to the ocean. It will carry treated wastewater from the MWRA Treatment Plant at Deer Island and disperse it in the deep water of the ocean. Once the wastewater reaches the ocean it will be dispersed through 55 defuser shafts, which will rise above the ocean floor, along the last 1-1/2 miles of the tunnel.

The contracts are as follows: \$201,959,987 for the construction of the outfall tunnel was awarded to a joint venture of the Kiewit Construction Company of Omaha, Guy F. Atkinson Construction Company of San Francisco, and Kenny Construction Company of Wheeling, Illinois; \$76,754,665 for the construction of the diffuser shafts was awarded to a joint venture of J.M. Cashman Incorporated of Quincy, Massachusetts, and Interbeton Incorporate, a United States Subsidiary of HBG of the Netherlands.

The tunnel will have a diameter of 24 feet and will be bored through solid rock at a depth of up to 350 feet beneath the ocean floor. It will have the capability of transporting more than 1 billion gallons of treated wastewater per day. The entire project is expected to employ approximately 500 workers, who will work around the clock, and is expected to be completed in 5 years.

### CALENDER OF EVENTS

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| October 10 | MWRA Board of Directors meeting.            |
| October 12 | Advisory Board Executive Committee meeting. |
| October 18 | Advisory Board meeting, Dedham.             |
| October 24 | MWRA Board of Directors meeting.            |