

Oneida County  
Sewer District

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**Stearns & Wheeler, LLC**

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## Oneida County Sewer District

Permit Compliance and Abatement Project

### **NEWS – For Immediate Release Thursday, July 22, 2010**

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### **Sewer Overflow Mitigation, Rehabilitation Plan Detailed For Oneida County Officials**

UTICA ---- An overview of a program to address sanitary sewer system overflows to the Mohawk River was outlined for Oneida County officials tonight.

The county's proposed Sanitary Sewer Overflow Mitigation Plan ("SSO Mitigation Plan") was submitted to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) earlier this month as required by a consent order issued in July 2007. The SSO Mitigation Plan presents a specific approach and timeline for addressing the overflows and includes significant rehabilitation of sanitary sewers within the municipalities whose wastewater reaches the Sauquoit Creek Pumping Station in Yorkville.

Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente Jr. reported that County officials and members of the engineering consulting team met with NYSDEC officials in Albany to provide a detailed overview of the SSO Mitigation Plan, including findings from the numerous sewer system investigations and engineering assessments. Picente noted that the outcome of that meeting was positive. "Our sewer infrastructure team has done an excellent job assessing the problems and devising solutions for a complex system serving 15 different communities," Picente said.

Steven Devan, PE, Oneida County Commissioner of Water Quality and Water Pollution Control, said that the proposed sanitary sewer overflow mitigation plan offers a holistic approach.

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#### 7-22-10 Sewer Overflow Mitigation, Rehabilitation Plan Detailed

Devan stated, “This plan addresses system-wide sewer repairs, asset management, and proactive operations and maintenance of the municipal sewer systems in order to protect the substantial financial investment that is going to be made over the next several years.”

He also said the plan looks at making repairs to the infrastructure system itself; takes into account needed adjustments on private properties to address inflow and infiltration issues; and identifies the need to incorporate capacity improvements for the Sauquoit Creek Pump Station and forcemain, and Water Pollution Control Plant. It also includes the integration of any work at the Water Pollution Control Plant with Utica City combined sewer operations, the Commissioner noted.

Importantly, Devan said, the implementation plan presents the proposal of a modified schedule to complete the work. The report recommends extending the completion timeframe out to 2020. This schedule “takes into consideration timeframes to secure the financing, construct the work, and implement local programs” for such a major, multi-community project, according to Devan.

The plan is pending review by the NYSDEC, and it is expected the agency will need time to review it, Devan noted.