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Department of Environmental Facilities

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Commissioner

2009 Budget Presentation – Department of Environmental Facilities

The Mission of the Westchester County Department of Environmental Facilities is to protect and supply water, provide wastewater collection and treatment, and provide proper solid waste reduction and recycling, in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public and the environment.

The 2009 Budget supports the following:

- 7 Wastewater Treatment Plants; 42 Pump Stations; 13 Sanitary Sewer Districts
- 194 miles of Trunk Sewers and Force mains
- Water Districts #1 and #3
- Solid Waste Transfer Stations; Material Recovery Facility
- Treat 57 billion gallons of wastewater per year
- Supply 11 billion gallons of drinking water per year
- Dispose/Recycle 539,000 (2007) Tons per year Municipal and Privately collected Solid Waste
- Recycle 269,000 tons in 2007 of Recycled Waste – Organics, Paper, Commingled and miscellaneous recyclable materials

The 2009 Department of Environmental Facilities Budget consists of the Sewer Division, the Refuse Division and the Water Districts.

Division of Solid Waste
Wastewater Treatment
Water agency

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Sewer Division

The Sewer Division is made up of the actual individual Taxing Districts and consists of two types of expenses. The first is for Capital Expenses, including debt service and debt related expenses, which are allocated directly to the District in which the expenses are incurred. The second is for operations and maintenance expenses which are now consolidated into one fund and allocated out to the 13 Sewer Districts based on the fully equalized value (FEV) of each District. As the total FEV of the individual Districts changes as compared to the total FEV County wide, the percentage of the consolidated District Expenses allocated to that District changes as well.

The total increase of all the individual Taxing Districts combined in expenses (the Sewer Division) is \$1.3M in 2009 as compared to 2008. This is an increase of 1.2%.

The total expense of the Consolidated Operations and Maintenance in the 2009 Proposed Budget is \$83.2M. This is an increase of \$1.7M (2% inc). This includes \$1.1M for the septic tank pump out reimbursement program, which will reimburse those Westchester County residents that reside in and pay taxes to a Westchester County Sewer District, but utilize septic systems. Also increasing are the cost of utilities (\$1.6M) and chemicals (\$306K) necessary to operate the Sewage Treatment Plants.

Object: 1010 – Annual Regular: The 2009 Increase in salaries is \$403K. This includes a provision for the increase in salaries as outlined on the recently proposed contract settlement for CSEA employees. The adjustment covers years 2006 - 2009.

Object: 1400 – Overtime: Among other things, overtime expenses are necessary to maintain coverage during storms, to cover for vacancies and for employee absences. Includes a salary adjustment as mentioned in 1010.

Various Fringes – expenses as per Budget Office estimates for each account.

Object: 2300/2400 – Equipment: Includes items such as pumps, motors, grounds maintenance equipment, replacement engine parts and four replacement trucks or vans.

Object: 3090 - Chemicals: A 15% Increase in price (per gallon, etc.) was added for most chemicals in the 2009 Budget. The Department has seen the price of some chemicals increase significantly over the past year. This is expected to cover the expected increase in 2009 in the account for both costs and utilization - to treat any additional flows or for any new initiatives (additional odor control or to reduce the sludge volume, etc). Chemicals are used in the wastewater treatment plants primarily for disinfection of the effluent, in odor control processes and to enhance solids handling processes.

Object: 3180 – Water Service: Reflects a 15% increase in the rate charged. This matches the rate increase experienced in the Water Districts as imposed by the NYC Water Board.

Object: 3200 - Utilities: This expense is necessary for the wastewater treatment process at both the Treatment Plants and Pump Stations. The majority of the expense is for electricity, but it also includes heating fuel oil and natural gas. The percentage increase included in the 2009 Budget for utilities is as follows: electricity – 25%, fuel oil – 25%, natural gas – 35%.

Object: 3240 – General Supplies: This includes any supplies necessary to operate the Treatment Plants and Pump Stations. Some examples are smaller pumps that are not included in the equipment account and any parts that are needed. The desire to perform more preventive maintenance than in the past may lead to an increase in expense in this account in the short run,

but will hopefully save on more costly repairs down the road.

Object: 4110 – Travel and Meals: Has been increasing in recent years and the 2009 Request reflects the increase seen in the 2008 Forecast.

Object: 4200 – Repairs and Maintenance: This account is used for any repairs needed in the Department. Generally, this is used for repairs done by an outside contractor as compared to general supplies which would be used for the purchase of the supplies when the work is done “in house”. Some of these repairs can be quite large, such as the refurbishing of the rotating assembly on the centrifuges at Yonkers. The Request is for an increase over the 2008 Adopted Budget of 25%, but the increase over the 2008 Forecast is much lower – 9.9%.

Object: 4280 – Insurance: As provided by Risk Management.

Object: 4310 – Non-recurring repairs: This includes a provision for the emergency repair of leaks and any other emergency work for Westchester County Wastewater Treatment Plants and Pumping Stations. The line break in North Yonkers that was ultimately charged to Capital because the expense involved was unusually large is an example of the type of unforeseen expense that would be generally be funded here. In addition, many projects that are too big for Repairs and Maintenance, but too small for the Capital Budget are budgeted in this account. Among other things, these include door and window replacement projects, building a Flood Wall at the Weaver Street Pump Station, a screenings and washer press at the Blind Brook Wastewater Treatment Plant, installing a chemical tank at the Yonkers Wastewater Treatment Plant and improving the sludge truck loading area at the Port Chester Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Object: 4380 – Contractual Services: most contracted expenses are charged to this account. These include maintenance contracts for generators, electric switchgear, hoists and cranes, boilers, instrumentation, and HVAC. Also included are sludge and grit removal contracts, the expense associated with digester and storage tank clean outs and a contract to work on engines at the Yonkers Plant. As mentioned above, \$1.1M has been included for the septic tank reimbursement program in this account. The Department recently entered into a Grit removal contract with a 39% increase over the previous contract price – most likely due to the increase in fuel prices since the contract was previously awarded. The sludge hauling contract at the New Rochelle Wastewater Treatment Plant expires at the end of February 2009 and a large increase is expected when the new contract is signed.

Object: 4999 – Indirect Charges: the expense associated with the allocation of countywide overhead costs. Calculations of the expense from the Finance Department

Debt Service – expenses as per Budget Office and Finance Department

Interdepartmental Charges: expenses either provided by the respective Departments to which the charge relates or trended forward based on current/past/expected expenses.

Refuse Division

The County Refuse Disposal District consists of 3 Transfer Stations, a waste-to-energy- plant (RESCO) for Municipal Solid Waste, a recyclable materials recovery facility (MRF), an ashfill, a fleet of tractors, transfer trailers, recyclable containers and various equipment for organic yard waste processing and transport. New programs continue in the area of recycling. These include increasing the number of Household Chemical Cleanup and E-Waste Days that help to remove hazardous waste from the waste streams; increasing the number of Mobile shredder events to protect identity theft; education through tours given at the MRF and at various Schools in the County, mailings to Westchester County residents and the "Veggie Van" which runs on used frying oil. This division will continue to develop new programs to recycle materials in an effort to reduce, recycle and reuse waste and improve the quality of life in the County.

The Tax Levy for 2009 in the Refuse Disposal District is unchanged from the 2008 Adopted Budget. The total expense in the Refuse Division in the 2009 Request is actually expected to decrease by \$2.1M. Utilizing the Cash to Capital account instead of selling bonds that will fund various Capital Projects – Material Recovery Facility Enhancements, heavy equipment purchases and the Croton Landfill Pump Station rehab – will continue in 2009. The contract between the Refuse Disposal District and Wheelabrator in regards to the waste-to-energy facility (RESCO) ends in October of 2009. The estimated expenses are calculated under the existing contract assumptions through October 2009 and for the last two months of the year are calculated assuming the Refuse District will be a customer of Wheelabrator and simply pay a per ton fee to dispose of MSW at the facility.

A total of two new positions are being requested in the Refuse District. The positions are for the recycling crew that is responsible for collecting recyclables from County owned buildings. One position was created when the new I-Park facility opened and required the Department to collect from that building and the other is needed for the shared services initiative as one of the crew members works the County Shredder for these events and will need to be back filled as needed. In general, the work load for this crew has increased as the recycling efforts of the County and it's employees have increased.

Object: 1010 – Annual Regular: The 2009 Increase in salaries is \$211K. In addition to the two new positions mentioned above, an amount for a possible salary adjustment due to the ongoing union contract negotiations for 2006 - 2009 has been included. Also, the Department has transferred a Deputy Commissioner position into the Refuse Division in 2009. In 2008, the position was charged to the Consolidated Sewer District and then the expense would be allocated to the Refuse District at year end. Since this position is 100% dedicated to the Refuse District, it should be shown there on the Department's organizational structure.

Object: 1400 – Overtime: In addition to the "regular" overtime necessary to provide coverage for vacancies, absences and emergencies, overtime has been incurred for the new and expanded programs in recycling. In 2009 it is expected that the Department will continue to increase the number of Household Chemical Cleanup Days, e-Waste Days, Mobile Shredder events and "Veggie Van" events. These events, when held on weekends, are generally staffed through overtime. The amount budgeted for each is as follows: Household Chemical Cleanup Days – 12 events, estimated overtime cost \$102K; E-Waste Days - 12 events, 4 staff members per event, estimated overtime cost \$34K; other programs total \$100K and include the "Veggie Van" events and Mobile Shredder events and all other Programs and needs of the division.

Various Fringes – expenses as per Budget Office estimates for each account.

Object: 2400 – Additional Equipment: \$50K is Budgeted for two new vehicles. These are needed by the two new solid waste inspectors that were hired in 2008. This will enable them to be more independent and effective and will eliminate the need for them to travel with another inspector, now that they have been properly trained.

Object: 3200 – Utilities: Like the Sewer Districts, the utilities in Refuse are expected to increase significantly in 2009.

Object: 3240 – General Supplies: Includes: \$100K for recycling bins for County facilities, \$100K for Recycling Enforcement Task Force items - this would fund any new RETF initiatives that come about in 2009 and also provide for any promotional/giveaway/misc items. Also included is \$25K for initiatives (such as recycling bins) to increase recycling in municipalities.

Object: 3700 – Postage: In 2009, funding was included for two mailings to each household in Westchester for recycling items or for recycling related announcements, such as the new Household Recycling facilities.

Object: 4200 – Repairs and Maintenance: For all repairs at the sites in the Refuse District. Mostly these occur at the transfer stations or at Sprout Brook.

Object: 4280 – Insurance: As provided by Risk Management.

Object: 4320 – Rental and Taxes: Peekskill Pilot payments and transfer station rents.

Object: 4380 – Contractual Services: This account includes the City Carting Contract to operate various facilities and transport Waste from the transfer stations to Resco, the disposal of Organic Waste and various other expenses such as consultant contracts for assistance with RFP's as needed, software maintenance, graphic designs and major alterations to Transfer Stations and other sites as they arise. Starting after the contract between the County and Wheelabrator expires, it also includes the expense for tipping fees that will be required for each ton of garbage brought to the facility.

Object: 4420 – Technical Services: This account includes permit fees paid to the NYS DEC, EFC Administrative costs and Department Studies for various items. Included in these studies are a contract to update the Solid Waste Management Plan for the Refuse District, preliminary work needed for any future Capital Projects, alternate disposal methods for MSW, and a contract to update or replace the Solid Waste Management system currently being used by the County at Transfer Stations and for billing purposes. It also includes the continuation of a contract for legal services that assists the District in negotiations for Solid Waste Disposal services.

Object: 4450 – Cash to Capital: Includes the following Projects: \$1.2M for Heavy Equipment purchases Project RD013 (Haulage Vehicles), \$7M for Material Recovery Facility Enhancements and \$300K to rehab the Croton Point Landfill Pump Station.

Object: 4999 – Indirect Charges: the expense associated with the allocation of countywide overhead costs. Calculations of the expense from the Finance Department

Debt Service – expenses as per Budget Office and Finance Department

Interdepartmental Charges: expenses either provided by the respective Departments to which the charge relates or trended forward based on current/past/expected expenses.

Services by DEF – reflects the allocation of DEF Admin staff to the other funds in the Department.

Law Charges – Increase to show the proper distribution of law charges throughout the Department. Includes an expected increase for the RFP process underway to determine a vendor for Disposal of MSW in the County.

Water District

Water District #1 includes the Cities of Yonkers, Mount Vernon, and White Plains, the Village of Scarsdale and a small portion of New Castle. Water District #2 mostly serves the Town of Yorktown, but also includes Somers and Cortlandt. Water District # 3 serves the Valhalla Campus at Grasslands. Water District #4 was created to serve the Town/City of Rye, the Village of Port Chester and the Village of Rye Brook which are currently serviced by United Water.

The Tax Levy in in Water District #1 is increasing significantly in 2009. This is due to the cost of the chemical Orthophosphate which is required for corrosion control. The previous contract to purchase Orthophosphate was for \$2.87/gallon. The expected cost in 2009 has skyrocketed to a projected \$29/gallon - \$2,047,400 for 2009. This alone is expected to increase the 2009 expense by over \$1.8M. This increase has been the result of a worldwide shortage and an inability for many suppliers to even get the product.

In addition, the water service account is expected to increase by \$1.7M in 2009. This includes a 15% increase in the rate charged by the NYC Water Board and a 5% increase in utilization.