



What is the background on the Wastewater Treatment Plant? The BPW processes all wastewater at the *Howard Seymour Water Reclamation Plant of the City of Lewes*.

ISSUE: Wastewater Treatment. The BPW processes wastewater at a treatment plant on American Legion Road on Lewes Beach. The plant had a major upgrade which was in 2008.

BACKGROUND: The decision to upgrade the Lewes wastewater treatment facility, now known as the *Howard Seymour Water Reclamation Plant of the City of Lewes*, was made in 2005. The BPW had been under investigation by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency over issues connected to wastewater treatment plant discharge levels. The EPA report states it issued two administrative orders “outlining alleged items of noncompliance by the board of its discharge permit and suggesting remedies necessary to come into compliance.” The BPW addressed the EPA’s concerns and determined that the appropriate action was to perform a major upgrade of the treatment facilities. If this situation had not been rectified, the EPA would likely have imposed significant fines and penalties against the BPW. Construction of the facility began in August 2005 and was dedicated on April 25, 2008.

The upgraded plant uses one of the latest wastewater treatment technologies, known as the Membrane Bioreactor Process or MBR. It combines ultra-filtration with biological treatment. This is followed by ultraviolet light treatment for disinfection. The result is an extremely high-quality effluent that exceeds the water quality of the water in the canal. The facility construction was financed through the issue of general obligation bonds and loans due to the Delaware Water Pollution Control Revolving fund that total approximately 12.5 million dollars. (See the BPW information paper: “*What is the status of the BPW long term debt?*” for more details.) A significant portion of the customer “Ready to Serve” charge pays for this debt repayment.

Since 2002, the facility had been operated by Severn Trent Services. White Marsh won the bid to operate the facility early 2017 and are the current contract operator. The benefits of having this firm operate and manage the wastewater treatment facility are:

- White Marsh is well known in their operation of other treatment facilities
- Technical expertise available and on call when needed
- Constant monitoring of government regulations to ensure facility foreknowledge and compliance
- Local presence allows for excellent responsiveness

BUDGET DATA

	Average monthly cost of operating the wastewater treatment plant	Approximate cost per year
Wastewater Treatment Plant	\$43,916	\$527,000

QUESTIONS: If you have further questions regarding the wastewater treatment plant, please contact the BPW General Manager, Darrin Gordon: 302-645-6228 or go to customerservice@lewesbpw.com

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