Albany Pool CSO Long Term Control Plan Development
Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting #1
Capital District Transportation Committee Conference Room
Thursday, August 9, 2007
1:30pm

1. Introduction

In Attendance: Rocky Ferraro, CDRPC; Leif Engstrom, CDRPC; Bob Campano, City of Rensselaer; Tom McGrath, Cohoes; Mike Ellrott, NY B.A.S.S.; Tim Murphy, Albany County Sewer Dist.; Harry Adalian, City of Rensselaer; Frank Parker, Cohoes; Paul Penman, Bethlehem; Mike Miller, APJVT-Clough Harbour; Nick Ostapkovich, Watervliet; Cheryle Webber, NYS DEC; Derek Thorsland, NYS DEC; Linda Von der Heide, Rensselaer County WQCC; Neil Bonesteel, City of Troy; Laura DeGaetano, Albany County WQCC; Greg Daviero, APJVT-Malcolm Pirnie; Chretien Voerg, Town of Colonie; Paul Reuss, Village of Menands; Andrea Dzierwa, NYS DEC; Rebecca Troutman, Riverkeeper; Dan Durfee, APJVT-CDM; Dan Hershberg, Albany Water Board; Rich Schiafo, Scenic Hudson; Beth Secor, Town of Schodack; Manna Jo Green, HR Sloop Clearwater

2. NYS SPDES Requirements for CSOs

Cheryl Webber from NYSDEC presented background information on the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) process and some associated issues. She began the presentation with a description of Combined Sewer Systems (CSS) and Combined Sewer Overflows. A CSS is sewer system designed to carry both sanitary wastewater and stormwater and a CSO occurs when the stormwater overwhelms the system and the untreated wastewaters are discharged to a waterbody.

Ms. Webber further discussed pollutants in CSO discharges. Some pollutants of concern in CSO's are oxygen demanding substances, sediment, pathogens, toxics, nutrients, and floatables. These pollutants are likely to cause or contribute impairment to drinking water supply, fish consumption, and recreation activities. The pollutants thought to be of concern in the Albany Pool are pathogens and floatables.

CSOs and non-disinfected wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) are significant sources of fecal coliform when compared to other municipal point sources on an annual basis. The treatment plants in the Albany Pool were not required to disinfect until recently and implementation will not be complete until 2009.

DEC's CSO control strategy has two components. The first is Best Management Practices, which are technology-based requirements to minimize CSO pollution. The second component is Additional Control Measures identified in a LTCP are

water quality based requirements to address standard problems not addressed by BMPs.

The Long Term Control Plan process has nine elements. They are characterization, monitoring and modeling; public participation; consider sensitive areas, evaluate control alternatives; cost/performance considerations; operation plan; maximize treatment at POTW; implementation schedule; and post construction monitoring.

The Albany Pool of the Hudson River has 8 Individual SPDES Permits, six CSO permits for the six communities with combined sewers and two discharge permits for the two sewer districts' three WWTPs. There are 92 CSOs along the Hudson River.

The LTCP will be submitted to DEC by September 2009. That report will state the outcome of evaluating the alternatives and include the schedule of activities to be done.

3. Introduction to the Organization Structure of the Albany Pool CSO LTCP

The Albany Pool CSO LTCP Development Organization Structure consists of 11 entities; Six Albany Pool Communities, Consultant Team consisting of 3 principal engineering firms, CDRPC and DEC. Each of the six communities is required to do their own LTCP, however they are all discharging into the same body of water. There are two shared waste water treatment plants and a third in the south of Albany that is not shared. Combining the six Albany pool communities' efforts into one LTCP will reduce duplication and expenses and create a better end product.

CDRPC was named the Project Manager and was able to apply for the $2 million matching grant from NYSDEC. The six communities are responsible to match that $2 million with $2 million of their own for the project.

The LTCP process is divided into two phases. Phase I is the development of the LTCP and Phase II is the implementation of that plan. The Phase 1 LTCP was divided into two parts, Part A and Part B. Part A was the development of Phase 1 Scope of Work, the Public Participation Plan, and the Cost allocation Agreement. Part B is the development of the LTCP. CDRPC has entered into contracts with both the communities and the consultants for Parts A and B of the project.

Since the start of the project, there have been over 30 meetings with the communities and the consultants with nearly perfect attendance. Part A of the project has been completed. The Public Participation Plan has been approved by NYSDEC as well as the Scope of Work. The Part B Municipal Cooperation has also been signed and the Part B contract with the Albany Pool Joint Venture Team has been signed as well.

CSO SPDES permits have been renewed and now contain the requirements for the LTCP standards. Work is underway on the initial detailed submissions to fill out the scope of work and the CSS mapping and digitizing. The timeline for the project has been moderately compressed for 2007. However, the project is expected to be on track with the approved timeline by the beginning of 2008.

4. Introduction to the Albany Pool CSO LTCP Development Program – Albany Pool Joint Venture Team

Greg Daviero from Malcolm Pirnie discussed the CSO LTCP Development Program, the Part B portion of the project.

The Part B will identify what the appropriate control measure is through a detailed process and the Phase II will be the construction of that. Some of the tasks that need to be done to complete Part B work are Public Participation, CSS mapping, database and digitizing, combined sewer system monitoring, implementation and identification of appropriate CSO control technologies, receiving water conditions assessment, understanding collections systems in the CSS modeling, and financial impact and affordability evaluation.

Greg went over each task pointing out the importance each of the tasks will have in order to complete Part B.

5. Overview of the Public Participation Plan and the CAC roles and responsibilities.

The Public Participation Plan will provide the Albany Pool Municipal Officials with public input and establish early communication with the public. The plan will encourage dialogue between the communities, the consultants, NYSDEC and the general public and build awareness of the issues associated with CSOs.

The target audience for the Public Participation Plan is Albany Pool Communities' ratepayers, taxpayers and residents, the elected and appointed leadership of each Albany Pool Community, environmental groups, and recreational groups.

There have been two committees developed for this CSO Project. The first one is the Technical Committee, which is the leadership of this project. This committee directs the development of the LTCP and makes recommendations to municipal leadership. The Technical Committee is made up of six members with one appointed by each community and advisory members from the sewer districts and NYSDEC. The second is the Citizen Advisory Committee. This committee advises the Technical Committee on issues important to the public. The Citizen

Advisory committee also advises/assists with public outreach and provides feedback.

The Citizen Advisory Committee is made up of the Albany Pool community residents, Hudson River recreational and environmental groups, adjoining municipalities and county agencies. There are eight meetings planned through 2009. The next meeting will be planned for the early part of 2008 to review what is planned for 2008.

The outreach will be made with press releases, newspaper ads, and with the assistance from the Citizen Advisory Committee. Municipal leadership meetings will be held with the leadership from the six communities to provide status reports and to address issues and concerns that may come up.

There will be general public meetings held in four rounds. The public meetings will be as follows: Round 1 – Project Introduction and overview; Round 2 – Overview of CSS characterization findings; Round 3 – Evaluation of mitigation alternatives; Round 4 – Presentation of LTCP Final Draft.

10. Additional Discussion and Next Steps

There will be more data collection this fall from within the system. The focus will be on verifying record maps, looking at the regulators and the control systems and verifying the actual system data. That information will then be put into GIS databases. In 2008 there will be data collection from the river and from within the system. This will set up the framework for control technologies and finding the benefits and potential impacts from CSOs.

The draft Long Term Control Plan will be submitted to DEC in September of 2009.

The goal for this project is to develop CSO control alternatives which provide the maximum benefit for the dollar spent.

The next CAC meeting is planned for early 2008.