CAPITAL PROJECTS THAT ADDRESS CSO ISSUES CAN BE VERY EXPENSIVE

- Buffalo Sewer Authority faces costs of $165 million to $1 billion to address its Combined Sewer Overflows.
  – *Buffalo News, August 30, 2007*

- The cost of the CSO program in Onondaga County exceeds $500 Million.
  – *Syracuse Post Standard, February 15, 2008*

- In Hartford, CT, the Metropolitan District Commission is starting its CSO program with costs expected to reach $1.6 Billion. Sewer rates are projected to quadruple in order to pay for the necessary improvements.
  – *Hartford Courant, August 8, 2006*

Though there currently are no projected cost estimates to address the Albany Pool CSO issues, based on experiences of other communities, solutions can be expensive.

In order to address their inherited CSO issues, and without Federal and State help, older urban communities will be required to pass the costs to rate payers who can least afford it.

Be Part of the Solution!

The Albany Pool communities invite you to participate in the dialogue that will ultimately shape the solutions. For information about public meetings and progress on the study, be sure to visit

http://www.cdrpc.org/CSO.html.

or call the **Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC) at 518-453-0850.**

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NYSDOS

NYSDEC

City of Albany | City of Cohoes | City of Rensselaer | City of Troy | City of Watervliet | Village of Green Island

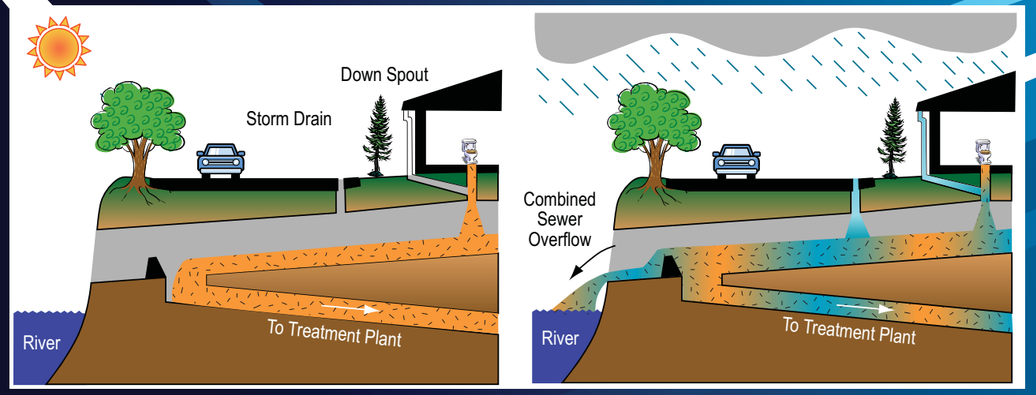
Albany Pool Communities

CSO

Long Term Control Plan Development

City of Albany City of Cohoes City of Rensselaer City of Troy City of Watervliet Village of Green Island

WHAT ARE COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOWS?



Combined sewer systems (CSS) are designed to collect rainwater runoff, domestic sewage, and industrial wastewater in the same pipe.

Combined sewer overflows (CSOs) are discharges of untreated wastewater from a CSS at a point before the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).

ALBANY POOL CSO LTCP COMMUNITIES:

City of Albany
City of Cohoes
City of Rensselaer
City of Troy
City of Watervliet
Village of Green Island

CSO DEMOGRAPHICS

Combined sewer systems (CSS) are remnants of the country's early infrastructure and so are typically found in older communities. Most communities with CSS's are located in the Northeast, Great Lakes regions, and the Pacific Northwest (see map).

The Cities of Albany, Cohoes, Rensselaer, Troy and Watervliet along with the Village of Green Island are six of 772 U.S. communities identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as needing to address Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs). Combined Sewer Systems (CSS) were designed to collect rainwater runoff, domestic sewage, and industrial wastewater in the same pipe. A CSO occurs when, during some wet weather events, a CSS discharges untreated wastewater before it reaches the treatment plant. Federal policy adopted in 1994 requires that communities address discharges associated with CSOs.

The six Albany Pool communities have hired engineers and begun working with community groups and citizens to look at ways to meet federal CSO regulations. This study process is called the Albany Pool Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) Development and will be completed at the end of 2009. Community acceptance of the proposed solutions is an important aspect of the work being completed.

CLEANING THE HUDSON - THE PAST 40 YEARS

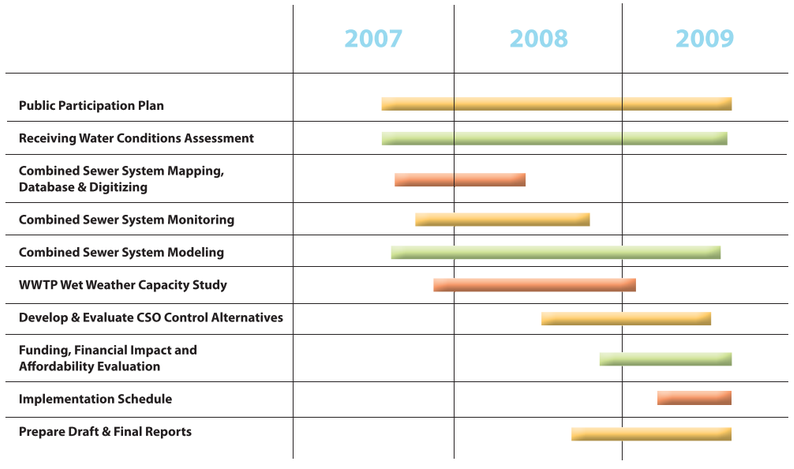
Cleaning the Hudson River has been an on-going process since the 1960's. Dramatic improvements have been made to the river as a result of the Pure Waters Bond Act of 1965 and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1967. Treatment plants constructed during the 1970's improved water quality to a point where fishing, boating, drinking water supplies, along with river front parks, are now an economic benefit to the cities, towns and villages located along the Hudson River and its tributaries. The Hudson River has fewer suspended solids (Total SS) and lower biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) than at any time in the past century. BOD is particularly important for wildlife because high BOD levels remove dissolved oxygen from the River and fish cannot live without dissolved oxygen.

NEXT STEPS IN CLEANING THE HUDSON

Addressing CSOs to meet federal requirements is the next major action in cleaning the Hudson River. While suspended solids and BOD in the River have decreased over the past 40 years, there are still concerns about bacteria levels in the River. In 2002, New York State set the goal of making the Hudson River swimmable from the Adirondacks to New York City. In order to meet that goal, the bacterial levels will have to be further reduced. CSOs are one source of bacterial loading on the River. Other sources include urban and agricultural stormwater, treatment plants, upstream septic systems, and wildlife (particularly geese).

THE ALBANY POOL CSO EFFORT

The LTCP development and implementation processes are complex and expensive. As a result, the six Albany Pool communities decided to combine their resources to undertake this responsibility. All parties recognized that developing six individual LTCP's would cause each community to do an immense amount of duplicate or overlapping research. Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC) has estimated that the initial savings of an intermunicipal LTCP will be over $5,000,000. As a result, the Albany Pool communities have joined into municipal cooperation agreements with the CDRPC to develop the LTCP.



The Albany Pool communities have commissioned CDM, Malcolm Pirnie, Inc and Clough Harbour & Associates LLP to develop the LTCP. These three firms have formed the Albany Pool Joint Venture Team (APJVT) to complete this project. A summary of the major program elements, along with their respective timelines, is shown to the left.

City of Albany City of Cohoes City of Rensselaer City of Troy City of Watervliet Village of Green Island