

NEWS RELEASE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Dept. of Environmental Protection

Commonwealth News Bureau
Room 308, Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

9/15/2009

CONTACT:

Lauri Lebo
Phone: (717) 705-4931

DEP APPROVES HARRISBURG WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLAN

Authority Will Meet Chesapeake Bay Limits with Nutrient Trading Credits

HARRISBURG – The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has approved Harrisburg Authority’s plan for a new wastewater treatment plant upgrade and its plan to use nutrient trading credits to further reduce nitrate pollution in the Chesapeake Bay.

“We encourage municipal authorities to use this innovative, market-based system of credit trading in order to meet increasingly stringent federal water quality standards,” said DEP Southcentral Regional Office Director Rachel Diamond.

Nutrient credit trading is a market-based program that provides incentives for entities to earn nutrient reduction credits by going beyond legal obligations to remove nutrients from a watershed. The credits can be traded to help others more cost-effectively meet their nutrient reduction obligations or goals.

As part of the authority’s Act 537 sewage facilities plan, the estimated \$35 million upgrade to the sewage treatment plant will allow the authority to meet most of the federally mandated nutrient limits required as part of Chesapeake Bay compliance standards. The remaining portion of the nitrogen reduction will be met by the purchase of nutrient credits equaling an estimated 150,000 pounds of nitrogen per year.

The authority must complete the upgrade to the plant to meet final effluent limits in 2013.

###