

## News Release

### Harrisburg Authority Nutrient Trading Plans Proceed to Design With DEP Approval

The Harrisburg Authority's news-making plans to use nutrient trading as part of its strategy to comply with Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy are ready to proceed now that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) has approved its Act 537 Plan and Environmental Assessment. The plan incorporates the results of a public bidding of nutrient credits – the first of its kind in Pennsylvania when it occurred last fall – and describes a detailed strategy for treatment process modifications and nutrient credit purchases. Its approval means the authority can now proceed with the purchase of nutrient credits and the design of treatment plant upgrades.

While previous analyses indicated significant potential for cost savings through nutrient trading, this report quantifies those savings using actual bid costs procured from the public bidding last October. During creation of the Act 537 Plan, the engineering firm of Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc., used these bids and estimated design and construction costs to compare the costs of three different approaches to compliance: one that completely relied on treatment plant upgrades, one that completely relied on nutrient trading, and one that combined trading with construction. The lowest cost of compliance, according to their report, is the combination of trading and construction. Using this approach, HRG estimates the authority will save more than \$28 million over the next 20 years versus a previously approved plan for treatment plant design that was halted in 2007 in favor of investigating nutrient trading options. This will, in turn, provide an estimated savings of \$48 per year in sewer service charges to city customers.

"Our goal when we began investigating nutrient trading options two years ago was to comply with environmental regulations at the lowest possible cost for our customers, and this report shows our efforts have been worthwhile," says Michele T. V. Torres, executive director of the Harrisburg Authority. With DEP approval in place, the authority is expected to begin design of its treatment plant modifications in January 2010 with construction to follow in August 2011.

#### **About Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.**

Originally founded in 1962 to serve central Pennsylvania, HRG has grown into a full-service firm that offers a comprehensive package of engineering and related services. HRG's professionals deliver quality, cost-effective solutions to diverse industries.

With offices throughout the mid-Atlantic region, we can provide personal, convenient service. Our service areas include land development, transportation, water resources, water and energy, environmental, electrical, surveying/GPS, geographic information systems, and financial consulting. For more information, please visit the web site at [www.hrg-inc.com](http://www.hrg-inc.com).

#### **About The Harrisburg Authority**

The Harrisburg Authority provides water, wastewater and resource recovery services to customers throughout the City of Harrisburg and surrounding municipalities. It also provides conduit financing for development projects in the public interest.

The Harrisburg Authority was formed in 1957 as the Harrisburg Sewerage Authority. In 1987, the name was changed to the Harrisburg Water and Sewer Authority, and its powers modified. In 1990, the authority was granted all powers authorized for a general purpose municipal authority under the Municipal Authorities Act.

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**For further information contact: Russ McIntosh, 717.564.1121, [rmcintosh@hrq-inc.com](mailto:rmcintosh@hrq-inc.com)**