\$200K Grant helps to fund **Authority Odor Control Project**



Contractors set up a lift instead of using scaffolding, which saved time on the project.

The Borough of Conshohocken Authority received a \$200,000 grant that will help offset costs of the \$2.3 million sewage treatment plant improvements.

The grant was endorsed by state Sen. Vincent Hughes and state Rep. Mary Jo Daley and is made possible through the 2015 Local Shares Account as part of the Department of Community and Economic Development. Funding will cover some of the costs associated with the Authority's

state-of-the-art odor control upgrades. Once complete, the upgraded system will capture and treat 99% of all odors coming from the plant.

"The board decided to really go with the top proposal," Borough of Conshohocken Authority Executive Director Stephen Clark said of the Authority Board's decision to implement the most advanced odor control system.

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BOARD MEMBERS

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MEETINGS

October 25 **November 22 December 27 January 24 February 28** March 28

Meetings are held in the Authority Office: 601 East Elm St. Conshohocken

Meeting time 6:30 PM

How is the Authority handling odors near the plant?

When odor control improvements first began at the Authority's wastewater treatment plant, work at the plant caused odors to worsen temporarily. The work, coupled with hot weather, led to a series of resident and community odor complaints.

This spring, in an effort to find interim odor mitigation solutions, the Authority enlisted the help of an odor control consultant. As a result, the Authority began hauling liquid sludge offsite for treatment. Each week, 19,500 gallons of liquid sludge - approximately half of the locally generated sludge is hauled elsewhere. Doing so dramatically reduced odor levels.

The Authority has not received an odor complaint since mid-June, which indicates that the interim fix is effective.

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A "before" view of the empty tank where contractors are removing the old coating (top portion of tank).



Seen here in white are portions of the tank following the cementitious coating.



An up-close look at crack repair inside the tank.



A worker applies a second application of coating.

Cost of Odor Control Project Aided By Grant

(Continued from front)

"Our unified focus on providing the best odor remedy for the community helped us in obtaining this grant."

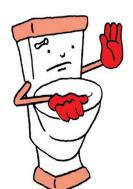
The extensive project, which began in spring 2016, is expected to conclude by summer 2017.

"It's on schedule," Clark said. "We're moving forward." Contractors have been onsite prepping the tanks,

sandblasting away the old material inside the tank, patching cracks and reapplying new coating similar to the steps painters take in readying an area for a fresh coat of paint.

The coatings, which have an expected life of 20 years, are one of the most important facets of the odor control project. Coatings protect the tank from corrosive gases. Without proper coatings, gases will erode and weaken the tank structure. Once the coatings are applied, aluminum covers are placed over the tank to trap gases - and accompanying odors - inside.

To stay up-to-date on the latest regarding the Authority's odor control project, visit the Website at http://www.conshohockensa.com/.



To Flush or Not to Flush?

These items should NOT be flushed down the toilet

- Baby wipes or diapers
- Pesticides
- Feminine products
 Fat, grease, oil
- Disposable wipes
- Paint
- Paper towels
- Pharmaceuticals
- Cat litter

How is the Authority handling odors?

(Continued from front)

Clark said the Authority will be able to resume normal operations once the contractors finish work on the next tank.

One resident emailed him and shared that the summer has been great in terms of odors.

"That's the number one thing: To keep the residents happy," Clark said.