



The  
*Authority*

NORTHAMPTON, BUCKS COUNTY, MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY



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## PRESS RELEASE

NOVEMBER 14, 2019

### SETTLEMENT OF SEWER RATE LITIGATION

On Tuesday, November 12, 2019, the Northampton, Bucks County, Municipal Authority (NBCMA) was notified by the Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority (BCWSA) that its 2020 charges to convey and treat the sanitary sewer flows from NBCMA are being reduced by 89.5 cents per 1000 gallons of flow. This reduction results in an approximate \$1,000,000 savings to NBCMA as compared to the prior rate.

As previously reported NBCMA sued BCWSA, claiming NBCMA had been overcharged on sewer rates since 2012. After extended negotiations, followed by an arbitration proceeding and an expert consultant's findings, it was determined that NBCMA has achieved a successful conclusion. Additionally, the BCWSA will reimburse NBCMA \$323,391 to be paid in monthly installments during the year 2020. Furthermore, reimbursement from BCWSA for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019 are being considered as an unresolved, outstanding claim.

This rate reduction will allow NBCMA to replenish its depleted funds for much needed capital expenditures. Capital projects can now be initiated to reduce inflow and infiltration into the sanitary sewer system, further reducing the volume of sanitary sewer flows into BCWSA and in turn reducing costs to be paid to BCWSA.

This very positive legal victory will enable sewer costs to remain stable in the near future, with the long-term goal of minimizing sewer rates through cost reductions and efficiency of operations.

Other wholesale customers of the BCWSA that convey flow to the Neshaminy Interceptor will also reap the benefit gains made possible by NBCMA in its litigation. But for the efforts and belief in the correctness of our position, no such sewer rate reduction or reimbursement would have occurred.

The Northampton Bucks County Municipal Authority will provide additional information as may be desired.

Thank you for your continued support of the Northampton Community.

Regards,

Thomas A. Zeuner

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR