

# Lower Bucks County Joint Municipal Authority

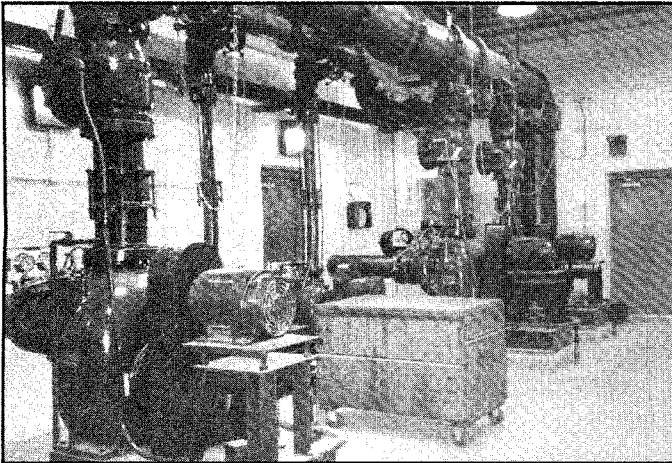


NEWSLETTER

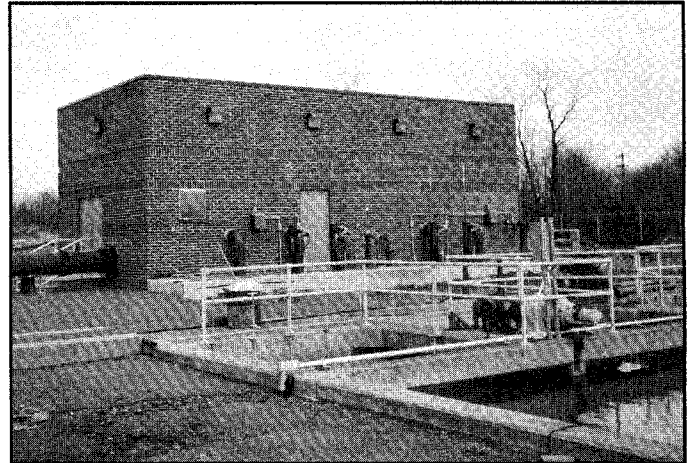
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## Your Municipal Authority in Action... Look What We Did In 1992!



*The return sludge pumping equipment.*



*The return sludge pump and control building*

### **Return Activated Sludge System**

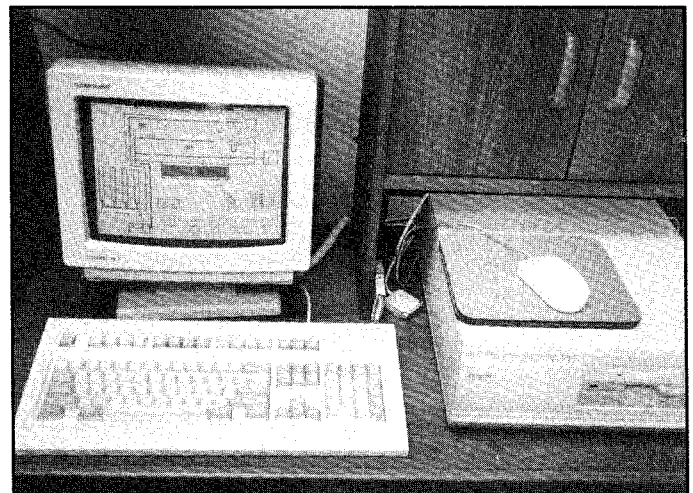
This system helps recycle the living organisms used in treating wastewater. Concentrations of the organisms must be carefully controlled to provide an optimum environment in which they can grow and do their work.

### **Computer Monitoring and Control System**

The Computer Monitoring and Control System recently installed has the capability of monitoring any equipment change in status, alarm, instrument or process occurring throughout the plant. At present only about 150 points are being monitored. However, the entire treatment process will eventually be tied into the computer. This will involve monitoring thousands of points throughout the plant.

### **Elevated Water Tank Painting**

We have recently completed the exterior painting of the water storage tank in the Cobalt Ridge section of Levittown. The painting system used should last from ten to twenty years before additional maintenance would need to be performed.



# Look at Our Projects Planned for 1993

## 1. Lime and Carbon Feed Systems

Lime and carbon are used for taste and odor control, and P.H. adjustment at the Water Treatment Plant. At present all of these chemicals are unloaded and the equipment filled by hand. The new lime and carbon feed system will not only eliminate the manual effort needed to handle the chemicals, but will result in a cost savings since we will now be able to receive bulk shipments that will be stored in a silo and holding tank.

## 2. 24" Water Transmission Main

The Authority is presently in the design phase of the installation of a water transmission main that will reach from the

Water Filtration Plant to the Authority's Five Points' storage tanks. This will help increase pressure and available fire protection throughout the Levittown area.

## 3. Instrumentation and Control Valve Rehabilitation

We are presently replacing most of the controls and valves associated with the filtration system at the Water Treatment Plant. The old controls were hydraulic and required a great deal of maintenance. The new system uses state-of-the-art electronic equipment to control the valving of the system.

## Somebody Said It Couldn't Be Done!!

Somebody — lots of bodies - said it couldn't be done. But when your Municipal Authority recently decided to refinance and float a bond to raise money for \$8 million in capital improvement projects, we knew there had to be a better way than that of the past. The answer? To perform as much of the work as possible in-house and by bidding **all** aspects of the project.

They said it couldn't be done. What did water and sewer authority personnel know about the world of high finance? How could we learn all we'd need to know to pass the test and receive an acceptable rating as investors?

They said we could never refinance the existing debt, let alone carry out the planned capital improvement projects, without raising rates. And we all know what happens when prices for any service rise.

***"Somebody said it couldn't be done,  
But he with a chuckle replied,  
That maybe it couldn't, but he would be one,  
Who wouldn't say so 'til he tried."***

Managing Engineer Joe Pantano may not have been chuckling when he began his investigation, but he certainly had his mind open to any and all possibilities. As for trying something new, he's never been afraid of hard work or innovation.

In October of 1992, Pantano, along with Authority fiscal administrator Susan Robert and the Authority's solicitor Jack Sirott, after

months of grueling preparation, took their tests. They passed with flying colors. The Authority received an A-1 rating from Moody's Investment Service, New York.

What does this innovative approach to finance mean to our customers? For one, this cost-effective move saved us thousands of dollars. Existing debt has been refinanced to take advantage of the current low interest rates. Underwriter as well as bond council fees were significantly reduced.

For another, competitive quotes were received for all parts of the bond issue including sale of the bonds themselves. This procedure is very seldom used in our industry. By using these innovative processes, we were able to carry out the entire bond issue without raising your rates. Even more important, we were able to stand by our ultimate goal —to deliver the best possible services to you at the lowest possible prices.

Somebody said it couldn't be done . . . Ready for some more "impossible" news? With completion of the bond issue, your rates will not rise through 1995!

A special thanks to the LBCJMA Board of Directors without whose cooperation an approach like this could never have been undertaken. Also, thanks to the Authority's office staff, especially the fiscal clerk, Donna Farris, for their hard work and diligence in preparing statistical and financial data necessary for the bond issue.

## Lower Bucks County Joint Municipal Authority

### Rate Comparison

For years, customers of LBCJMA have enjoyed quality water and sewer. And, your Authority has delivered these quality services to you at some of the lowest rates in the county. See for yourself.

### Sewer and Water Rate Comparison

|                                |                          |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bristol Borough                | \$ 69.83 Per Quarter     |
| <b>Lower Bucks</b>             | <b>70.75 Per Quarter</b> |
| Bensalem Township              | 81.35 Per Quarter        |
| Falls Township                 | 90.20 Per Quarter        |
| Middletown Township            | 103.03 Per Quarter       |
| Bucks County Water & Sewer Co. | 164.00 Per Quarter       |

# We're Winners!



*Our Winning Team: Leonard Rodack, Jr., James Coon, Michael Leedom and Ben Miller*

For the first time in our long history of membership in the Pennsylvania Water Pollution Control Association of Pennsylvania, (WPCAP), your Authority registered a team in "Operators' Challenge." This is a multi-emphasis state-wide competition among wastewater operators. The competition was held in Pittsburgh, site of this year's annual WPCAP conference.



*The Heat of Battle*

Our team of four plant people competed in five areas:

1. Process Control
2. Laboratory Procedures
3. Field Operations
4. Safety
5. Maintenance

When the challenge was over and the smoke had cleared, our team had earned the title of fourth in the State! Not bad for a first time entry.

Congratulations to our Authority and its team members. We know you give your best effort on our behalf everyday. How great to have your professionalism and competence recognized before your peers across the state.

## LBCJMA— Saving Lives & Dollars!

Last year your Municipal Authority took over all maintenance and repair of fire hydrants throughout our service areas. Although we have always assumed responsibility for safeguarding your municipal fire protection system, prior to 1992 we used outside contractors. By taking over these functions ourselves, estimates show we saved thousands of dollars the first year. What we can't estimate, though, is the number of human lives and the cost in property damage saved by maintaining hydrants in top working condition.

### Another Money-Saving Action

We are currently in the midst of taking over the repair of all water main breaks. At this point, we are responsible for repairing breaks in approximately 90% of the water mains in our service areas. Prior to 1992, these services were contracted out. Within the next year, we expect to extend this responsibility to 100%.

Facts and figures support our belief that rendering cost-effective, optimum services is best achieved when system maintenance and repair are under the charge of one official body — your LBCJMA. We are working toward a complete achievement of this goal.

### Who Are Our Customers?

The Lower Bucks Joint Municipal Authority serves portions of Bristol, Falls and Middletown Township. We are the sole water provider to Tullytown Township. In addition, we sell bulk water and sewer services to parts of Bristol, Middletown and Falls Townships.

## Water Facts

Today there is as much water in the world as there was thousands of years ago. Actually, it's the same water. This means the water from your faucet may contain molecules that dinosaurs drank!

Only 1% of municipally-treated water is consumed by humans. The rest goes down toilets and drains, on lawns and for other purposes.

Ultra-low flush toilets could cut your family's water use by 20%.

### Take Our Water Quiz

1. How much water does the human body contain?
2. What percentage of the world is covered by water?
3. As a percentage of body weight, which contains more water — a male or a female body?

1. Adult bodies contain about 10 gallons of water.  
2. About 80%.  
3. Female bodies are made up of about 50% water; males about 60% - 65%.

# Pretreatment Program Overview

In accordance with requirements of the Clean Water Act and general Pretreatment Regulations, the Lower Bucks County Joint Municipal Authority has developed a pretreatment program to control the discharge of non-domestic wastes into the Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW).

The pretreatment program is designed to control the discharge of non-domestic wastes into the POTW and to prevent the discharge of any pollutant that would create treatment process upsets, violations of POTW effluent limits, contamination of municipal sludge, or any other discharges that would cause interference with the POTW or Pass Through.

LBCJMA controls these types of discharges by means of a permitting system and enforcement of the Rules and Regulations. The permitting system is done on an annual basis. It consists of monitoring from industrial users. Unscheduled monitoring is also carried out by the Authority. If there are any violations, LBCJMA takes the appropriate Enforcement Action to correct the Noncompliance and to ensure the specific Violation does not recur.

The Authority's Pretreatment Program is consistently being upgraded to reflect Environmental changes where they are applicable. As the regulations change, so do the Authority's Rules and Regulations. The new requirements are then passed on to the Industrial Users. Inspections are performed to verify com-

pliance. When additional time is deemed reasonable to bring the user into compliance, the Authority issues a Compliance Schedule. This is carefully monitored.

LBCJMA's **biggest** operational problem is the treatment and disposal of **oil and grease**. When oil and grease are discharged into the sanitary sewer system, usually a sewer back-up will follow. This causes potential damage. The amount and/or temperature of grease illegally discharged into the system is irrelevant — a blockage will occur. To legally dispose of oil and grease, it should be placed in a can and put out with normal household or industrial trash.

Food establishments served by your Authority are required to install a 1,000 gallon grease trap, obtain a permit, and to comply with the requirements outlined in the permit. By issuing permits to service area food establishments, the Authority is able to regulate waste. However, our control depends upon compliance. Noncompliance by food establishments and other industries will result in the Authority proceeding with Enforcement Action until compliance is achieved.

The objective of LBCJMA's Pretreatment Program is to protect the integrity of the Authority's Publicly Owned Treatment Works. This leads to our ultimate goal of protecting the purity of the receiving waters of the Delaware River.

**Lower Bucks County Joint Municipal Authority**  
7811 NEW FALLS ROAD  
LEVITTOWN, PA 19055  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

|                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Robert Shellenberger</b> | <b>Chairman of the Board</b> |
| <b>Alice Demi</b>           | <b>Vice Chair Person</b>     |
| <b>Micky Pirolli</b>        | <b>Treasurer</b>             |
| <b>John W. Servis, Jr.</b>  | <b>Asst. Treasurer</b>       |
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