

Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Program Facts

- Northeast Ohio has come along way in rectifying the significant environmental problems it faced just a few decades ago with the Cuyahoga River and Lake Erie through the work of the NEORSD and its partners. The NEORSD believes that clean water and a healthy environment are critical in growing the region for future generations.
- In addition to state-of-art technology and award winning work in treating wastewater, the NEORSD has already invested more than \$820 million toward reducing combined sewer overflows and more than \$1.9 billion in overall capital improvement projects since its inception in 1972.
- Under the Clean Water Act, the District is required to plan, design and construct the Combined Sewer Overflow Control Program. This Program will include 103 additional miles of tunnels and connecting sewers under 65 total construction projects. It will cost the ratepayers \$1.6 billion.
- Based on the District’s experience with complex capital improvement projects, 30 years is a realistic and achievable timeframe to complete this program.
- Under a 30-year schedule targeted annual CSO discharges to the environment will be reduced by approximately 60% in the first 12 years, with an 88% reduction occurring by year 20.
- The USEPA has made an arbitrary policy that CSO compliance schedules should not extend longer than 20 years. This is not supported by the Clean Water Act or any other federal law.
- A 20-year schedule is not realistic for three reasons:
 - ✓ Increased total costs of \$280 million due to acceleration of the design and construction schedule
 - ✓ Increased financial impact on ratepayers
 - ✓ Increased construction disruption in neighborhoods and potential harm to the environment during construction
- A 20-year schedule will mean \$280 million in additional project costs and 20% higher sewer rates per year for 20 years. Even a 30-years schedule is a “high burden” on ratepayers according to the USEPA’s own affordability analysis guidelines.
- A 30-year schedule will save the average residential user over \$2,700 in sewer charges over the first 20 years versus a 20-year schedule.