

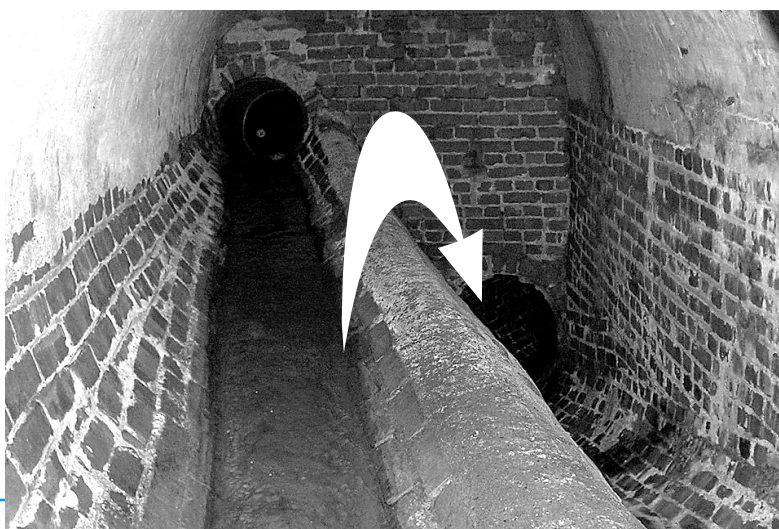
WHY IS MY SEWER BILL GOING UP?



THE HIGH COST TO REDUCE SEWAGE OVERFLOWS

Higher sewer rates are necessary to repair and maintain our existing sewer system. But the bulk of the cost can be attributed to reducing sewage overflows into the environment, to comply with the federal Clean Water Act.

Combined sewers—where sewage and stormwater are transported in the same pipe—are part of our older urban infrastructure. When it rains, so much water enters the sewers that it can overwhelm the system. To minimize sewer backups and flooding, some of the combined sewage and rainwater is allowed to overflow to an outfall, where it discharges into the environment. **This is called COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW, or CSO.**



A combined sewer under East 107th Street. In heavy rains, both rain and sewage overflow into the lower tunnel and out to the environment.

Sewage discharges totalling over 4.5 billion gallons a year seriously compromise the quality of our streams, river, and Lake Erie. After it rains, beachgoers are often advised not to go swimming in Lake Erie due to elevated bacteria levels.



An example of what ends up in the water after a combined sewer overflow.



NEORSD has reduced CSO discharges significantly since 1972. However, the EPA considers us in violation of the Clean Water Act because discharges have not been controlled to required levels.

Our community is one of 772 across the country with a federal EPA mandate to eliminate overflows.

FIXING THE PROBLEM:

PROJECT CLEAN LAKE



GREAT LAKE • GREAT FUTURE

NEORSD will build huge storage tunnels and other massive construction projects, in combination with green infrastructure (such as constructed wetlands) to capture and treat over 98% of wet weather flows in our combined sewer system.

PROJECT CLEAN LAKE

will cost approximately

\$3 billion over 20 to 30 years. As our main source of revenue, our customers will fund the project.

RATE INCREASES WILL BE SIGNIFICANT.

NEORSD will continue to seek and take advantage of alternative funding sources and will develop rate-saving programs to help eligible customers defray the cost.

LEARN MORE: ATTEND A PUBLIC MEETING

All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.

- Thu. 11/4** **South Euclid Community Center**
1370 Victory Drive, South Euclid
- Mon. 11/8** **Barlow Community Center**
41 South Oviatt Street, Hudson
- Tues. 11/9** **Mt. Sinai Baptist Church**
7510 Woodland Avenue, Cleveland
- Wed. 11/10** **Maple Heights Library**
5225 Library Lane, Maple Heights
- Tues. 11/16** **Gunning Park Recreation Center**
16700 Puritas Avenue, Cleveland
- Wed. 11/17** **Parma Memorial Hall**
6617 Ridge Road, Parma

For more information, visit neorsd.org/cso or contact **Jean Chapman** at **216.881.6600** or chapmanj@neorsd.org.

NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT



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