

Peirce Island Treatment Plant Part of “Wastewater 202” Presentation

MEDIA CONTACT: David Allen, Deputy Director of Public Works, 766-1421
PORTSMOUTH - The public is invited to learn more about the city's ongoing Wastewater Master Plan efforts and options under study for a new or upgraded wastewater treatment plant at a “Wastewater 202” session Wednesday, Oct. 22, in the second of a continuing series of information sessions.

The meeting, entitled “Wastewater 202” as a follow-up to last year's “Wastewater 101” session, will be held at 6:30 p.m. next Wednesday in the Library's Levenson Room. City staff and consultants will discuss the status of the Master Plan, as well as the types of treatment technologies necessary to meet current and future permit requirements.

“We are in the midst of an extremely important and complex process that will have an impact on our residents and businesses,” said City Manager John Bohenko. “People are able to participate more effectively when they understand the issues and the alternatives.

“This program, ‘Wastewater 202’ will expand upon the first public meeting by providing a review of the treatment technologies currently being considered and an opportunity for input on other potential solutions that have not yet been considered,” Bohenko said.

The three-year Master Plan effort will identify and study feasible alternatives for secondary treatment of wastewater, and recommend a final plan to replace or upgrade the Peirce Island Treatment Plant that will protect valuable natural resources and comply with federal Clean Water Act regulations.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in April 2007 issued a permit requiring the City to implement a higher level of treatment than is currently being achieved at the Peirce Island facility. Next Wednesday's meeting is part of the process to study alternatives and recommend final plans for wastewater treatment that will meet the needs of the community for the next several decades with the most sustainable, environmentally sound and cost-effective solution.

Additional information about the Wastewater Master Plan Project can be found at www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks.