



Environmental Facilities Corporation

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EFC Approves \$7.2 Million for Infrastructure Improvements, Storm Mitigation Studies in Upstate Communities

The Board of Directors of the New York State Environmental Facilities Corp. (EFC) today approved \$6.7 million in no-cost financing to improve wastewater treatment systems in Madison County and Saranac Lake, along with a \$357,000 no-interest loan and a \$119,000 grant for Westchester County to assess projects to protect its entire wastewater system from flooding and other damage from major storms.

“New York State operates the largest Clean Water State Revolving Fund in the nation and today’s actions deliver that financing power to three important infrastructure projects in Upstate New York,” said EFC President and CEO Matthew Driscoll. “Governor Cuomo has made storm recovery and flood resiliency a major priority and, today, EFC is proud to help rebuild vital infrastructure in the Village of Saranac Lake and to plan for future storms in Westchester County. On behalf of the Governor and our Board of Directors, EFC is also pleased to help Madison County undertake a money-saving wastewater project that will help attract businesses to a new industrial park.”

The EFC Board of Directors unanimously approved:

- funding from the New York State Storm Mitigation Loan Program for Westchester County to examine the storm resiliency of four areas of the county wastewater system: the Yonkers Joint Wastewater Treatment Plant; the Mamaroneck and New Rochelle wastewater treatment plants; the Blind Brook, Ossining, Peekskill and Port Chester treatment plants; and two overflow retention facilities and 31 pumping stations spread throughout the county;
- a \$3.4 million interest-free loan to the Village of Saranac Lake to repair wastewater treatment tanks damaged by flooding from the Saranac River in 2011. The state financing will allow construction to begin ahead of a \$2.7 million commitment from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and,
- a \$3.3 million, interest-free loan to Madison County for the construction of a three-mile sewer line to convey leachate from the county landfill to the City of Oneida’s Wastewater Treatment Plant. The new line will also serve present and future businesses at the Agricultural and Renewable Energy (ARE) industrial site located next to the county landfill in the Town of Lincoln.

Last month, Governor Cuomo announced a \$4 million grant in NY Works funding to extend municipal water service to the ARE park, as well as residents of Lincoln. This investment will leverage as much as \$4 million in county funding for the \$15.7 million project, creating a shovel-ready site for potential businesses.

“These no-interest loans, along with the grant funding approved today, will make these vital projects more affordable for local taxpayers,” said Joe Martens, Commissioner of the New York State department of Environmental Conservation and chairman of EFC’s Board of Directors. “It is crucial that we repair and fortify our drinking water and wastewater systems to provide clean, reliable service to New York homes and businesses.”

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Funding for the Westchester County studies is the second award under New York's Storm Mitigation Loan Program, a state and federally funded program created in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy. The \$408 million fund provides 25 percent grant and 75 percent zero-interest loan to protect water systems in the 14 New York State counties impacted in 2012 by Superstorm Sandy: Bronx, Greene, King, Nassau, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester.

EFC recently expanded its interest-free loan program and, at today's Board meeting, no-interest loans were approved for both Saranac Lake and Madison County.

Short- and long-term financing from EFC will save Madison County approximately \$7 million over the cost of borrowing on its own, according to county estimates. The new sewer line will also save the county roughly \$200,000 a year over the cost of trucking the leachate to the Oneida Waste Water Treatment Plant, according to the county.

These projects not only protect the environment and improve public health, they can also be the catalyst for new economic development," said President Driscoll. "We are pleased to help smaller communities by providing significant cost-savings through our zero-interest loan program."

The Village of Saranac Lake owns and operates a central sewer collection system and a 3.66 million-gallons-per-day wastewater treatment plant, which serves the Village of Saranac Lake and the towns of St. Armand, North Elba and Harrietstown. The treatment plant has three secondary clarifiers – two that are 40 feet in diameter and a 60-foot diameter tank. The two smaller tanks were damaged by a severe storm in April 2011 and since then only the 60-foot clarifier has been in operation. This new project will replace the two damaged clarifiers with a single 80-foot unit.

Along with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, EFC administers the nation's largest revolving loan fund for wastewater treatment plants, collection systems and other infrastructure. EFC led the nation once again in 2014 with more than \$2.3 billion in financings and refinancings for local governments. To encourage even more construction, EFC earlier this year modified its hardship loan program, making it easier for smaller communities to obtain interest-free loans and jumpstart clean-water improvement projects. Statewide, nearly 1,000 cities, towns and villages could qualify for a no-interest loan under the new hardship policy.

EFC is a public benefit corporation dedicated to promoting environmental quality through a wide range of funding and technical assistance focused on protecting, improving and restoring New York's precious natural resources. According to the federal government's National Information Management System, EFC also provided more than \$924 million to wastewater infrastructure projects between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014, which was the most of any state and more than twice as much as the second-leading state, California, with \$400 million.

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