



# DEP INFORMATION SHEET<sup>1</sup>

## June 2007: Question 2 Environmental Bonds

date: May 2007<sup>2</sup>

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Question 2 on the June 12, 2007 ballot proposes a total of \$18.3 million for a number of programs designed to protect and improve public health and the environment. Approval of the bond is likely to access approximately \$49.5 million in additional federal funding for those programs.

The initiatives are to be implemented by two state agencies.

### **Distribution of Funds:** **\$ 18.3 million (total)**

Department of Environmental Protection: Wastewater Treatment \$14.9 million  
Construction and upgrades of large water pollution control projects

Department of Health and Human Services: Drinking Water Infrastructure \$3.4 million  
Drinking water system improvements

### **Wastewater Treatment:** **\$14.9 million** (contact: Deborah N. Garrett, Maine DEP, 287-2812)

- **\$2.9 million** will be deposited in the State Wastewater Revolving Loan Fund as a match to \$14.5 million more in federal funds. The funds are distributed as low-interest loans that enable municipalities to borrow money for large pollution control projects at lower than commercial rates.

State match monies, federal funds and loan re-payments are combined each year to: construct and upgrade treatment plants; extend, separate and rehabilitate sewers; build compost facilities, etc. In a typical year, \$25-35 million is loaned to more than a dozen communities. The total cost state-wide of needed infrastructure construction and upgrades is estimated at more than \$315 million over the next five years.

*Communities likely to receive funding from this portion of the bond include: Auburn, Augusta, Baileyville and Portland Water District (Westbrook). This is only a partial list.*

- **\$12 million** will be distributed through a grant program that enables municipalities to construct water pollution control facilities where existing conditions are impacting the environment. A key objective of this program is to ensure that sewer user fees are affordable throughout Maine. These grants are usually part of a larger funding package historically leveraging additional funds that represent 60% of the full project cost. In this instance, the \$12 million will likely make \$18 million more available for project financing.

*Communities likely to receive funding from this portion of the bond issue include: Machias, Loring Development Authority/Limestone, Indian Township, Presque Isle, Calais, and Ellsworth.*

**Drinking Water Infrastructure**  
(contact: Dr. Dora Anne Mills, Maine CDC, DHHS, 287-8016)

**\$3.4 million**

- **\$3.4 million** will be deposited in the State Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund as a match to \$17 million more in federal funds. The funds are distributed as low-interest loans to public water systems to insure the safety of Maine's drinking water. With many systems over 100 years old, some need upgrades in order to meet the demand of the people they serve and allow for economic expansion. Other public water systems require the installation of new treatment to remove contaminants that can harm human health. Some of those contaminants are associated with long-term cancer risks.

*Drinking Water projects for the 2007 construction season include: St. Francis Water District, Newport Water District, Milo Water District, Vinalhaven Water District, Madawaska Water District and Aqua Maine, Camden Rockland Division - all of which will install new treatment to remove cancer causing contaminants called disinfection byproducts; Island Falls Water Department will install arsenic removal treatment to remove naturally occurring arsenic contamination; Port Clyde Water District will replace distribution mains; Calais Water Department will install a chlorine booster station to maintain disinfection in the distribution systems; Presque Isle will install ultraviolet treatment as disinfection; and Passamaquoddy Water District will replace transmission mains. (This is only a partial list)*

**<sup>1</sup> Note: This PDF document, when printed using Adobe Reader version 5.0 or earlier, will cause errors in the printed form, including numerical amounts.**

**<sup>2</sup> Revised May 25, 2007**

## June 12, 2007 Question 2 Environmental Bond

State construction grant funds and State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans, from the June 12, 2007 Question 2 Environmental Bond would be used for the following projects. It is noted that the grant amounts listed fund only a portion of the project. State grants may match Rural Development (RD) funds, Community Development Block Grants (CDGB), Federal State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) or State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans that would be necessary to complete the projects.

### AROOSTOOK COUNTY AREA - GRANTS

- **Loring Development Authority/Limestone/Caribou: \$5 million** to upgrade, consolidate and regionalize the wastewater treatment facilities in the Limestone/Loring Development Authority (LDA)/Caribou area. The Limestone treatment plant, which is past its useful life, will be discontinued and a pump station and force main will be connected to (LDA). Depending on the final design, there will either be treatment at Loring before discharging to the Aroostook River, or all the wastewater from LDA and Limestone will be transported to an expanded Caribou treatment facility to accommodate the additional flow. This project will remove wastewater discharges from two prime trout streams, the Little Madawaska River and Limestone Stream, eliminate water quality violations and allow continued defense jobs and expansion of other business opportunities at LDA. The total project will cost approximately \$26 million, depending on the final design. With \$5 million of State grants, Rural Development will now work to secure an additional loan\grant package match of \$4.9 million to complete the first phase of this major regionalization project.  
**Local contact:** Neal Leighton, Chair, Limestone Water and Sewer District, phone 325-4788
- **Presque Isle: \$0.25 million** to provide partial funding to remove the discharge from Presque Isle Stream and extend the outfall to the Aroostook River. This will eliminate water quality problems in the stream from the Presque Isle treatment facility at a total cost of about \$5.0 million, with the majority funded by Rural Development.  
**Local contact:** Steve Freeman, Presque Isle Sewer District, phone: 762-5061

## DOWNEAST AREA - GRANTS

- **Machias: \$2.0 million** to make improvements to the Machias wastewater collection and treatment system by eliminating combined sewer overflows and improving wastewater effluent quality. Recent deterioration of water quality below the treatment plant has led to closure of clam flats in the Machias River, putting more than 80 clambers in Machiasport out of work. Fixing this problem will improve the water quality significantly and lead to re-opening the clam flats. In 2007, Machias will be constructing \$1 million in sewer rehabilitation work. Total cost for the remaining work is \$3.5 million.  
**Local contact:** Betsy Fitzgerald, Machias Town Manager, phone: 255-6621
- **Indian Township: \$1.75 million** to partially fund a proposed pump station and force main at Indian Township. Currently the school and residences are experiencing exposure issues from a malfunctioning cluster septic system at Peter Dana Point. This project will discontinue the failing septic system and convey wastewater about three miles to the newly expanded land treatment system. The total cost for this project is approximately \$3.36 million. Rural Development is matching most of the remaining cost.  
**Local contact:** Bob Tyler, Indian Township Assistant Planning Director, Phone: 796-2301
- **Calais: \$1.0 million** to match Rural Development and other funds to design and construct one phase of a major pump station and treatment plant upgrade project to stop discharging raw or inadequately treated wastewater to the St. Croix River, an international waterway. Total cost for the entire project is \$16 million. With \$1 million in state grant, Rural Development has a better chance to secure matching funds for this phase.  
**Local contact:** Jim Porter, Interim City Manager, Phone: 454-2521 ext. 10

## DOWNEAST AREA - STATE REVOLVING FUND LOANS

- **Baileyville: \$1.1 Million** for sewer repairs to remove excess groundwater and rain water from the sewer system.  
**Local contact:** Scott Harriman, Town Manager, Town of Baileyville, phone: 427-3442

## **EASTERN MAINE - GRANTS**

- **Ellsworth: \$2.0 million** to Ellsworth to assist in funding a new pump station and force main and a new wastewater treatment plant to replace the existing plant that has reached the end of its useful life. Total cost for the entire project is about \$15 million. Matching funds would likely come from Rural Development and CDBG funds.  
**Local contact:** Michelle Beal, Finance Director, phone: 667-2563 ext. 134.

## **CENTRAL/WESTERN MAINE AREA - STATE REVOLVING FUND LOANS**

- **Augusta Sanitary District: \$3.5 Million** Pump Station and force main from Togus V.A. hospital to the District sewer system to eliminate the hospital's current treated discharge to Togus Stream, which causes water quality problems in the stream.  
**Local contact:** Brian Tarbuck, General Manager, phone: 622-6184
- **Auburn Water and Sewerage District: : \$1.5 Million** Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) reduction project  
**Local contact:** Normand Lamie, General Manager, phone: 784-6469

## **SOUTHERN MAINE - STATE REVOLVING FUND LOANS**

- **Portland Water District: \$3.8 Million** for the Westbrook treatment plant headworks upgrade.  
**Local contact:** Scott Firmin, Portland Water District, phone: 774-5961 ext.3077