

HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO SCHEDULE HEARINGS TO GATHER  
PUBLIC COMMENT ON MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR MSD MILL CREEK PROJECT

Public Notice

The Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Ohio today announced the scheduling of four (4) Public Hearings and the opening and closing dates for public comment on multi-million dollar Lower Mill Creek-related projects to be performed by the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD).

The Board of Commissioners' hearings will be held on the following dates in the Commission Chambers at 138 E. Court Street, Room 605, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202:

- **Wednesday, September 26 at 11:30am**
- **Wednesday, October 3 at 11:30am**
- **Wednesday, October 10 at 11:30am**

Additionally, a fourth public hearing has been scheduled for **October 8 at 5:30pm** at the MSD Administration Building, located at 1081 Woodrow Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45204. The Commission will accept oral and written comments at each of its hearings.

The Commission is requesting MSD to begin the hearings by presenting its recommendation(s) for projects and provide written and on-line materials for public review and consideration during the public comment period. The Commission will make this information available to the public.

The Commission is requesting testimony and comment from others, including:

- Mayors and Administrators of Hamilton County cities, villages, and townships served by MSD
- MSD customers and ratepayers from across Hamilton County
- Citizens, community councils, and businesses from potentially impacted neighborhoods
- Hamilton County Township Association
- Hamilton County Municipal League
- Chambers of Commerce
- Sierra Club, an intervenor in the MSD Consent Decree litigation

The Lower Mill Creek project work is required under a Consent Decree approved by U.S. District Court Judge Spiegel in 2004, and a Final Wet Weather Implementation Program

(WWIP) approved by U.S. EPA, Ohio EPA, and ORSANCO in 2010. The WWIP mandates construction of a 7,600 foot deep tunnel (and related equipment) by December 31, 2018. However, the WWIP allows the County, as owner and principal of the MSD, and the City, as the County's agent, to propose an alternative Lower Mill Creek project by December 31, 2012. The Commission intends to consider and vote on an alternative plan after the public comment period closes. In its final vote, the Board will consider MSD's recommendation(s), public input from local communities, MSD customers/ratepayers, citizens and business, the requirements of the Consent Decree and WWIP, and the County's own financial, technical and legal analysis.

The Original Lower Mill Creek Preliminary Remedy was estimated in 2009 to cost approximately \$244 million (in 2006 dollars). It represented the largest single project within Phase 1 of the WWIP, the total cost of which was estimated at that time to cost approximately \$1.1 billion. In June, MSD made public information indicating that cost estimates for the Lower Mill Creek project (whether the alternative or a tunnel), had increased - in a range of \$317 million to over \$500 million, in order to comply with the goals of the WWIP, and that the scope of the original tunnel project had increased.

Many key documents (including the two Consent Decrees, the WWIP, MSD's June 2012 concept proposals, and other background information) are available on MSD's web site at [www.msdbg.org](http://www.msdbg.org)

On July 18, 2012, the Commission passed a Resolution setting policy for MSD (operated by the City of Cincinnati) to follow in implementing the WWIP, including provisions addressing costs, cost certainty, communication with the Board, and spending on non-Consent Decree mandated work; a copy is attached to this Notice.

**The Commission's public comment period will open on September 26 and close on October 26, 2012.**

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Attachment: BOCC Resolution 50-4, July 18, 2012