

City of Hamilton, Ohio – Wastewater System

Financial Statements

Years Ended December 31, 2008 and 2007

With Independent Auditors' Report



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

City Council
City of Hamilton
345 High Street
Hamilton, Ohio 45011

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditors' Report* of the City of Hamilton Wastewater System, Butler County, prepared by Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co., for the audit period January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. The City of Hamilton Wastewater System is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

Mary Taylor

Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

June 11, 2009

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Independent Auditors' Report 1

Management's Discussion and Analysis 2 - 6

Financial Statements:

 Statements of Net Assets 7

 Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets 8

 Statements of Cash Flows 9

 Notes to Financial Statements 10 - 17

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Honorable City Council
City of Hamilton, Ohio

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the City of Hamilton, Ohio - Wastewater System, an enterprise fund of the City of Hamilton, Ohio as of and for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the City of Hamilton's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As discussed in Note 1, the financial statements present only the Wastewater System and do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of the City of Hamilton, Ohio as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the changes in its financial position and cash flows, where applicable, for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the City of Hamilton, Ohio - Wastewater System as of December 31, 2008 and 2007 and the changes in financial position and cash flows thereof for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The Management's Discussion and Analysis on pages 2-6 is not a required part of the basic financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co.

Cincinnati, Ohio
June 2, 2009

City of Hamilton, Ohio

Wastewater System

Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Year Ended December 31, 2008 and 2007
Unaudited

The discussion and analysis of the City of Hamilton, Ohio's Wastewater System's financial performance provide an overall review of that System's financial activities for the year ended December 31, 2008 and 2007. While the intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the system's financial performance, readers should also review the Statements of Net Assets; Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets; and Cash Flows to enhance their understanding of the system's fiscal performance.

Financial Highlights

Key highlights for 2008 and 2007 are as follows:

- The assets of the Hamilton Wastewater System exceed its liabilities at the close of 2008 and 2007 respectively by \$29,539,250 and \$29,989,024 (net assets). Of this amount, \$7,933,576 and \$9,194,216 (unrestricted net assets) may be used to meet the System's ongoing obligations to customers and creditors.
- The System's total net assets decreased by \$449,774 between 2008 and 2007, representing a 1.5% decrease.
- The system's investment in capital assets, net of related debt increased by \$836,262 in 2008.

Wastewater System Summary and Using this Annual Report

The City of Hamilton, Ohio owns and operates the Wastewater System. The System consists of the Treatment Plant, sanitary sewer and composting facilities. The initial sludge plant was placed in service in 1959. In 1978, the Wastewater System was expanded to provide complete treatment services and an expansion of treatment facilities was completed during 2002.

This annual report consists only of the Statement of Net Assets, the Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets, and the Statement of Cash Flows as well as Notes to the Financial Statements for the City of Hamilton, Ohio's Wastewater System for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007.

Reporting Hamilton's Wastewater System (Whole and Significant Fund)

The financial statements contained within this report include the City of Hamilton, Ohio's Wastewater System *only*. Readers desiring to view city-wide financial statements, as well as the impact that the Wastewater System has on the City's overall financial position and operating results, should refer to the City's Basic Financial Statements appearing in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2008 and 2007. The City of Hamilton's Wastewater System is reported as a business-type, enterprise fund and is considered a major fund for purposes of individual fund reporting. Payments made from the Wastewater Fund are restricted to Wastewater System purposes by municipal ordinance, Ohio Revised Code and indentures issued pursuant to long-term financing.

City of Hamilton, Ohio

Wastewater System

Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Year Ended December 31, 2008 and 2007
Unaudited

In the Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets, the view of the system looks at all financial transactions of the Wastewater Fund and asks the question, "How did we do financially during 2008 and 2007?" These statements provide answers to that question. The statements include all assets and liabilities of the System using the accrual basis of accounting similar to the accounting used by private sector companies. This basis of accounting considers all of the current year's revenues and expenses regardless of when the cash is received or paid. These two statements report the System's net assets and the changes in those net assets. The change in net assets is important because it tells the reader whether, for the System, the financial position of the City has improved or diminished. However, in evaluating this position, non-financial information including the condition of capital assets will also need to be evaluated. The Notes to the Wastewater System's Financial Statements provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided. The System provides services that have a charge based upon the amount of usage. The City's Wastewater System charges fees to recoup the cost of the entire operation of the Wastewater System as well as all capital expenses associated with these facilities.

Financial Analysis

As noted earlier, net assets may serve over time as a useful indicator of financial position. In the case of the Wastewater Fund, assets exceeded liabilities by \$29,539,250 and \$29,989,024 as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. By far, the largest portion of the net assets of the Wastewater System reflect its investment in capital assets (e.g. land, buildings, improvements, construction in progress, machinery and equipment) less any related debt used to acquire those assets that are still outstanding (64.61% for 2008, 60.9% for 2007 and 63.3% for 2006). The System employs these assets in the treatment and collection of sanitary sewer flow; consequently, these assets are not readily available for future spending. The System's investment in its capital assets is reported net of related debt and it should be noted that the resources needed to repay these debts must be provided from other sources, primarily the revenues of the system, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate the liabilities. Table 1 provides a summary of the Wastewater System's Statement of Net Assets for the Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006.

	2008	2007	2006
Current and Other Assets	\$12,414,571	\$13,185,837	\$12,533,945
Capital Assets	41,843,678	42,309,184	43,889,414
Total Assets	<u>54,258,249</u>	<u>55,495,021</u>	<u>56,423,359</u>
Long-term Liabilities	19,900,346	20,907,097	22,270,446
Other Liabilities	4,818,653	4,598,900	4,397,618
Total Liabilities	<u>24,718,999</u>	<u>25,505,997</u>	<u>26,668,064</u>
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	19,086,378	18,250,116	18,847,363
Restricted	2,519,296	2,544,692	2,547,719
Unrestricted	7,933,576	9,194,216	8,360,213
Total Net Assets	<u>\$29,539,250</u>	<u>\$29,989,024</u>	<u>\$29,755,295</u>

City of Hamilton, Ohio

Wastewater System

Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Year Ended December 31, 2008 and 2007
Unaudited

As of December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, the City is able to report positive balances in net assets. The overall change in net assets was a decrease of \$449,774 in 2008, and increases of \$233,729 and \$41,978 in 2007 and 2006, respectively. Operating income of \$274,418 for 2008, \$757,522 for 2007, and \$895,395 for 2006 were positive. Maintenance of positive operating income is primarily due to controlling the growth of expenses and maintaining rates commensurate with operating costs and the cost of required compliance with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA).

	2008	2007	2006
Operating Revenues	\$10,682,911	\$11,019,239	\$10,602,668
Operating Expenses:			
Depreciation	2,156,456	2,119,036	2,385,773
Other Operating Expenses	8,252,037	8,142,681	7,321,500
Total Operating Expenses	10,408,493	10,261,717	9,707,273
Operating income	274,418	757,522	895,395
Non-Operating revenues (expenses)			
Interest and fiscal charges	(1,138,491)	(1,258,322)	(1,230,442)
Other non-operating revenues (expenses)	464,299	734,529	539,764
Total non-operating revenues (expenses)	(674,192)	(523,793)	(690,678)
Transfers	(50,000)	-	(162,739)
Change in Net Assets	(449,774)	233,729	41,978
Beginning Net Assets	29,989,024	29,755,295	29,713,317
Ending Net Assets	\$29,539,250	\$29,989,024	\$29,755,295

Capital Assets and Debt Administration

Capital Assets: The City's investment in capital assets of the Wastewater System as of December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 amounted to \$19.1 Million, \$18.3 Million, and \$18.8 Million, respectively, (net of accumulated depreciation and related debt). This investment in capital assets includes land, buildings, improvements, construction in progress, and machinery and equipment.

Note 5 (Capital Assets) provides Wastewater System asset activity during 2008 and 2007.

Debt Administration: At the end of 2008, the City had an outstanding Wastewater System Revenue Bond totaling \$20,630,000. In March 2005, the City issued Wastewater System Revenue Refunding Bonds in the amount of \$25,070,000 to provide resources to advance refund the 1996 and 1998 Wastewater Revenue Bonds outstanding at December 31, 2004. The refunded bonds are now considered defeased.

City of Hamilton, Ohio

Wastewater System

Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Year Ended December 31, 2008 and 2007
Unaudited

In September 2008, the City issued bond anticipation notes in the amount of \$2,155,000 to rollover the \$2,430,000 outstanding bond anticipation notes originally issued to finance Wastewater System improvements.

See Notes 6 and 7 for a discussion of the outstanding Wastewater System bonds, notes and related activity.

Economic Factors and the Future of the System

The City's Wastewater System is continually monitoring the costs of treatment and collection. However, the loss of industrial revenue over the past five years has impacted rate structures and the City is required by both ordinance and indentures to pass the cost of running the system and maintaining environmental compliance increases on to its customers. Maintaining compliance with environmental protection regulations has continued to be problematic. The number of customers has remained steady although the reliance formerly placed on industrial revenue to buffer residential rates grows increasingly difficult to maintain, especially in light of both the infrastructure, maintenance and environmental protection regulation required of the system.

The annual budget of the City Wastewater System is adopted in accordance with ten-year projections developed by a rate consultant, and these projections are updated and reviewed in the spring and fall of each year, or more often as deemed necessary by City Management.

In spite of increasing costs and a renewed focus on main replacements and lining programs to control inflow and infiltration of stormwater into the City Sanitary Sewer Collection system, the City's Wastewater System has maintained its fiscal health. All bond anticipation notes of the City have received a MIG-1 rating, the highest possible rating.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) alleged, in previous years, that sanitary sewer overflows from the City's sanitary sewer collection system were violations of the Federal Clean Water Act and analogous State law. Federal agencies have pursued similar enforcement actions nationally against public wastewater treatment systems. The City contested this action and the initial remedial measures proposed by the State. Negotiations to resolve the enforcement action through the entry of a mutually agreeable Consent Decree began in 1997. In January 2007 a Consent Decree was executed with the Ohio EPA in which the City agreed to undertake certain remedial measures to eliminate and/or reduce sanitary sewer overflow occurrences. Costs of these remedial measures are estimated at \$360 million and are to be completed prior to October 2014. The City began engineering as budgeted in 2007 for the improvements required by the OEPA. Also, all reports have been submitted to OEPA and they have been or are in the process of being approved.

City of Hamilton, Ohio

Wastewater System

Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Year Ended December 31, 2008 and 2007
Unaudited

Requests for Information

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, customers, taxpayers, creditors, investors and elected officials with an overview of the City of Hamilton, Ohio's Wastewater System's finances and to show accountability for the money the system receives. If you have any questions about this report or need additional information, contact William E. Moller, City of Hamilton Finance Director, 345 High Street, Hamilton, Ohio 45011, (513) 785-7161, (email at mollerb@ci.hamilton.oh.us) or visit the City website at www.hamilton-city.org.

CITY OF HAMILTON, OHIO – WASTEWATER SYSTEM
STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash and investments	\$ 8,078,017	8,543,823
Accounts receivable (less allowance for uncollectible accounts of \$1,532,063 and \$1,421,865, respectively)	1,470,819	1,680,917
Interest receivable	42,364	72,136
Inventory of supplies at cost	1,525	3,118
Prepaid expenses	<u>73,167</u>	<u>93,404</u>
Total current assets	<u>9,665,892</u>	<u>10,393,398</u>
Restricted assets:		
Cash and investments	<u>2,519,296</u>	<u>2,536,292</u>
Bond issuance costs	<u>229,383</u>	<u>256,147</u>
Capital assets:		
Property, plant and equipment	89,845,394	89,343,197
Construction in progress	2,179,979	1,022,444
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(50,181,695)</u>	<u>(48,056,457)</u>
Total capital assets	<u>41,843,678</u>	<u>42,309,184</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 54,258,249</u>	<u>55,495,021</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 840,148	393,291
Accrued wages and benefits	67,904	46,710
Intergovernmental payable	65,940	62,984
Accrued interest payable	267,826	292,252
Customer deposits payable	126,790	123,747
Compensated absences payable-current	235,045	219,916
General obligation anticipation notes payable	2,155,000	2,430,000
Revenue bonds payable - current portion	<u>1,060,000</u>	<u>1,030,000</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>4,818,653</u>	<u>4,598,900</u>
Non-current liabilities:		
Compensated absences payable	358,046	308,029
Revenue bonds payable (net of unamortized discounts)	<u>19,542,300</u>	<u>20,599,068</u>
Total noncurrent liabilities	<u>19,900,346</u>	<u>20,907,097</u>
Total liabilities	<u>24,718,999</u>	<u>25,505,997</u>
NET ASSETS		
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	19,086,378	18,250,116
Restricted for debt service	519,296	544,692
Restricted for rate stabilization	2,000,000	2,000,000
Unrestricted	<u>7,933,576</u>	<u>9,194,216</u>
Total net assets	<u>\$ 29,539,250</u>	<u>29,989,024</u>

See notes to financial statements.

CITY OF HAMILTON, OHIO - WASTEWATER SYSTEM
STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Operating revenues:		
Charges for services	\$ 10,245,310	11,005,008
Other operating revenues	<u>437,601</u>	<u>14,231</u>
Total operating revenues	<u>10,682,911</u>	<u>11,019,239</u>
Operating expenses:		
Personal services	2,495,549	2,345,270
Materials and supplies	671,320	866,956
Contractual services	2,684,797	2,003,150
Depreciation	2,156,456	2,119,036
Other operating expenses	<u>2,400,371</u>	<u>2,927,305</u>
Total operating expenses	<u>10,408,493</u>	<u>10,261,717</u>
Operating income	274,418	757,522
Non-operating revenues (expenses):		
Investment earnings	468,182	739,888
Loss on disposal of capital assets	(3,883)	(5,359)
Interest and fiscal charges	<u>(1,138,491)</u>	<u>(1,258,322)</u>
Total non-operating revenues (expenses)	<u>(674,192)</u>	<u>(523,793)</u>
Income (loss) before transfers	(399,774)	233,729
Transfers out	<u>(50,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
Change in net assets	(449,774)	233,729
Net assets - beginning of year	<u>29,989,024</u>	<u>29,755,295</u>
Net assets - end of year	\$ <u><u>29,539,250</u></u>	<u><u>29,989,024</u></u>

See notes to financial statements.

**CITY OF HAMILTON, OHIO - WASTEWATER SYSTEM
STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Cash received from customers	\$ 10,896,052	10,479,179
Cash paid for employee services and benefits	(2,384,393)	(2,318,997)
Cash paid to suppliers for goods and services	<u>(5,724,452)</u>	<u>(5,628,355)</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>2,787,207</u>	<u>2,531,827</u>
Cash flows from noncapital financing activities:		
Transfers to other funds	<u>(50,000)</u>	-
Net cash used for noncapital financing activities	<u>(50,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash flows from capital and related financing activities:		
Payments for capital acquisitions	(1,280,042)	(544,165)
Debt proceeds	2,155,000	4,860,000
Debt principal payments	(3,460,000)	(6,130,000)
Debt interest payments	<u>(1,132,921)</u>	<u>(1,311,784)</u>
Net cash used in capital and related financing activities	<u>(3,717,963)</u>	<u>(3,125,949)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Interest from investments	<u>497,954</u>	<u>717,191</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>497,954</u>	<u>717,191</u>
Net change in cash and investments	(482,802)	123,069
Cash and investments at beginning of year	<u>11,080,115</u>	<u>10,957,046</u>
Cash and investments at end of year	\$ <u>10,597,313</u>	<u>11,080,115</u>
Reconciliation of operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Operating income	\$ 274,418	757,522
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	2,156,456	2,119,036
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase) decrease in receivables	210,098	(540,060)
(Increase) decrease in inventory	1,593	(1,042)
(Increase) decrease in prepaid items	20,237	7,432
Increase (decrease) in customer deposits payable	3,043	1,010
Increase (decrease) in payables	32,066	167,076
Increase (decrease) in accrued liabilities	86,340	11,259
Increase (decrease) in intergovernmental payables	<u>2,956</u>	<u>9,594</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ <u>2,787,207</u>	<u>2,531,827</u>
Schedule of noncash activities:		
Outstanding liabilities for purchase of certain capital assets	\$ 443,685	-
Change in fair value of investments	34,804	(41,466)

See notes to financial statements.

CITY OF HAMILTON, OHIO – WASTEWATER SYSTEM

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended December 31, 2008 and 2007

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Financial Reporting Entity – The City of Hamilton, Ohio – Wastewater System (Wastewater System) is a utility operating as a separate enterprise fund of the City of Hamilton, Ohio (City). The Wastewater System is controlled by and is dependent on the City's executive and legislative branches. Control by or dependence on the City is determined on the basis of outstanding debt secured by revenues or general obligations of the City, obligation of the City to finance any deficits that may occur, or receipt of subsidies from the City.

Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Basis of Presentation – The financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as applied to government units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of cash flows. The Wastewater System has elected only to apply Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) pronouncements issued on or before November 30, 1989 that do not conflict with or contradict GASB pronouncements.

Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and producing and delivering goods in connection with the Wastewater System's principal ongoing operations. The principal operating revenues are charges to customers for sales and services. Operating expenses include the cost of sales and services, administrative expenses, and depreciation on capital assets. All revenues and expenses not meeting these definitions are reported as non-operating revenues and expenses.

Income Taxes – The Wastewater System, which is owned and operated by the City, is exempt from income taxes since it is a division of a municipality.

Cash and Investments – Certain Wastewater System cash and investments are held in the City Treasury and pooled for investment management purposes. The portion of these pooled funds owned by the Wastewater System is reported as cash and investments. The Wastewater System's investments are stated at fair value. Interest earned on funds invested is distributed on the basis of the relationship of the average monthly balance of all funds, including the Wastewater System.

Inventories – Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market based on a moving-average cost method.

Capital Assets – Expenditures that increase values or extend the useful life of the respective assets are capitalized while the costs of maintenance and repairs are charged to operating expenses. Interest costs related to the construction of property, plant and equipment are capitalized. Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the various classes of assets. The range of useful lives for computing depreciation is 3 to 75 years.

Bond Discounts and Issuance Costs – Unamortized bond premiums, discounts and issuance costs are amortized on the interest method over the term of the related bonds. Amortization of bond premiums was \$100,294 and \$103,217 in 2008 and 2007, respectively. Amortization of issuance costs in 2008 and 2007 amounted to \$26,764 and \$27,544, respectively.

Compensated Absences – The Wastewater System follows the provisions of GASB Statement No. 16, “Accounting for Compensated Absences”. Vacation and compensatory time benefits are accrued as a liability as the benefits are earned if the employees’ rights to receive compensation are attributable to services already rendered and it is probable that the Wastewater System will compensate the employees for the benefits through paid time off or some other means. Sick leave termination benefits are accrued using the vesting method. The liability includes the employees who are currently eligible to receive termination benefits and those employees for whom it is probable that they will become eligible to receive payment in the future. The amount is based on accumulated sick leave and employees’ wage rates at year-end.

Use of Estimates – The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Reclassifications – Certain items from the prior year financial statements have been reclassified to conform to the current year presentation.

2. CASH AND INVESTMENTS

The Wastewater System follows the practice of pooling cash and investments with the City Treasurer except for the cash and investments of certain accounts maintained by trustees. Pooled cash and investments of the Wastewater System totaled \$10,078,017 and \$10,535,423 at December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively, and consisted of demand deposits, money market funds, U.S. government agency securities and STAR Ohio. Cash and investments held by trustees were \$519,296 and \$544,692 as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

Star Ohio is an investment pool managed by the State Treasurer’s Office, which allows governments within the State to pool their funds for investment purposes. STAR Ohio is not registered with the SEC as an investment company, but does operate in a manner consistent with Rule 2a7 of the Investment Company Act of 1940. Investments in STAR Ohio are valued at STAR Ohio’s share price, which is the price the investment could be sold for on December 31, 2008.

Deposits – Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the City’s deposits may not be returned to it. The City does not have a custodial risk policy. As of December 31, 2008, nearly 86% of the City’s deposits with financial institutions, including the amount of pooled deposits related to the Wastewater System, were exposed to custodial credit risk because they are considered uninsured and uncollateralized. However, the State of Ohio has established by statute a collateral pooling system for financial institutions acting as public depositories. Public depositories must pledge qualified securities with fair values greater than the total amount of all public deposits to be secured by the collateral pool. This pooled collateral covers the Wastewater System’s uninsured and uncollateralized deposits.

Investments – The State of Ohio statutes, Wastewater Revenue Bond indentures, and the City Charter authorize the City to invest in obligations of the U.S. Treasury, agencies, instrumentalities, and repurchase agreements. Custodial credit risk in regards to investments is the risk that, in the event of a failure of a counter party, the City will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in possession of an outside party. The City employs the use of “safekeeping” accounts to hold and maintain custody of its investments as identified within this policy and as means of mitigating this risk.

Interest rate risk is the risk that the City will incur fair value losses arising from rising interest rates. Such risk is mitigated by the investment policy by limiting investments to certain maximum maturities. As a rule, unless specified otherwise within the policy, investments are to have a maximum maturity of five years unless the investment is matched to a specific expenditure. The context of a specific investment purchase must be weighed in proportion to the remainder of the existing investment portfolio and the “prudent investor” rule to attempt to limit such risk.

The City’s pooled investments, as well as the investments held by trustees specifically for the Wastewater System, are invested primarily in U.S. governmental agency securities with a credit rating of AAA and an average maximum maturity of 3.52 years and STAR Ohio which has a credit rating of AAAM.

3. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Receivables at December 31, 2008 and 2007 consist of the following:

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Earned and unbilled consumer accounts	\$ 448,127	410,296
Earned and billed consumer accounts	2,552,516	2,691,252
Other	2,239	1,234
Less allowance for uncollectible accounts	<u>(1,532,063)</u>	<u>(1,421,865)</u>
Total	\$ <u>1,470,819</u>	<u>1,680,917</u>

4. RESTRICTED ASSETS

Restricted assets consist of assets whose use has been restricted by bond indenture for debt service and rate stabilization. Restricted assets were \$2,519,296 and \$2,536,292 at December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

5. CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007 was as follows:

	Balance 1/1/08	Increases	Decreases	Balance 12/31/08
<i>Nondepreciable capital assets:</i>				
Land	\$ 2,863,793	-	-	2,863,793
Construction in progress	<u>1,022,444</u>	<u>1,157,535</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,179,979</u>
Subtotal	<u>3,886,237</u>	<u>1,157,535</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,043,772</u>
<i>Capital assets being depreciated:</i>				
Buildings and improvements	55,733,797	-	-	55,733,797
Machinery and equipment	<u>30,745,607</u>	<u>537,299</u>	<u>(35,102)</u>	<u>31,247,804</u>
Subtotal	<u>86,479,404</u>	<u>537,299</u>	<u>(35,102)</u>	<u>86,981,601</u>
Totals at historical cost	<u>90,365,641</u>	<u>1,694,834</u>	<u>(35,102)</u>	<u>92,025,373</u>
Less accumulated depreciation:				
Buildings and improvements	33,536,488	718,735	-	34,255,223
Machinery and equipment	<u>14,519,969</u>	<u>1,437,721</u>	<u>(31,218)</u>	<u>15,926,472</u>
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>48,056,457</u>	<u>2,156,456</u>	<u>(31,218)</u>	<u>50,181,695</u>
Capital assets, net	\$ <u><u>42,309,184</u></u>	<u><u>(461,622)</u></u>	<u><u>(3,884)</u></u>	<u><u>41,843,678</u></u>
	Balance 1/1/07	Increases	Decreases	Balance 12/31/07
<i>Nondepreciable capital assets:</i>				
Land	\$ 2,863,793	-	-	2,863,793
Construction in progress	<u>1,188,039</u>	<u>73,140</u>	<u>(238,735)</u>	<u>1,022,444</u>
Subtotal	<u>4,051,832</u>	<u>73,140</u>	<u>(238,735)</u>	<u>3,886,237</u>
<i>Capital assets being depreciated:</i>				
Buildings and improvements	55,733,797	-	-	55,733,797
Machinery and equipment	<u>30,134,513</u>	<u>709,760</u>	<u>(98,666)</u>	<u>30,745,607</u>
Subtotal	<u>85,868,310</u>	<u>709,760</u>	<u>(98,666)</u>	<u>86,479,404</u>
Totals at historical cost	<u>89,920,142</u>	<u>782,900</u>	<u>(337,401)</u>	<u>90,365,641</u>
Less accumulated depreciation:				
Buildings and improvements	32,817,754	718,734	-	33,536,488
Machinery and equipment	<u>13,212,974</u>	<u>1,400,302</u>	<u>(93,307)</u>	<u>14,519,969</u>
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>46,030,728</u>	<u>2,119,036</u>	<u>(93,307)</u>	<u>48,056,457</u>
Capital assets, net	\$ <u><u>43,889,414</u></u>	<u><u>(1,336,136)</u></u>	<u><u>(244,094)</u></u>	<u><u>42,309,184</u></u>

6. BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES

In January 2007, the City issued \$2,430,000 in bond anticipation notes that provided funding to rollover the bond anticipation notes originally issued in 2006. In September 2007, the City issued bond anticipation notes in the exact amount that provided funding to rollover the bond anticipation notes that were issued in January 2007, to have all of the City's bond anticipation notes mature at the same time. In September 2008, the City issued bond anticipation notes in the amount of \$2,155,000 that provided funding to rollover bond anticipation notes originally issued in 2007.

Activity for the year ended December 31, 2008 was as follows:

		Balance 1/1/08	Additions	Reductions	Balance 12/31/08
2007 System Improvement 4.00%	\$	2,430,000	-	(2,430,000)	-
2008 System Improvement 2.00%		-	2,155,000	-	2,155,000
	\$	<u>2,430,000</u>	<u>2,155,000</u>	<u>(2,430,000)</u>	<u>2,155,000</u>

Activity for the year ended December 31, 2007 was as follows:

		Balance 1/1/07	Additions	Reductions	Balance 12/31/07
2006 System Improvement 4.25%	\$	2,700,000	-	(2,700,000)	-
2007 System Improvement 4.00%		-	4,860,000	(2,430,000)	2,430,000
	\$	<u>2,700,000</u>	<u>4,860,000</u>	<u>(5,130,000)</u>	<u>2,430,000</u>

7. LONG TERM DEBT

During 2005, the City issued Wastewater System Revenue Refunding Bonds in the amount of \$25,070,000 to provide resources to advance refund the 1996 and 1998 Wastewater Revenue Bonds outstanding. The refunded bonds are now considered defeased. Debt activity for the year ended December 31, 2008 was as follows:

		Balance 1/1/08	Additions	Reductions	Balance 12/31/08	Due Within One Year
2005 Refunding Bonds	\$	21,660,000	-	(1,030,000)	20,630,000	1,060,000
Less deferred amount on refunding		(990,823)	-	103,526	(887,297)	-
for issuance premiums		959,891	-	(100,294)	859,597	-
Total bonds	\$	<u>21,629,068</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,026,768)</u>	<u>20,602,300</u>	<u>1,060,000</u>

Debt activity for the year ended December 31, 2007 was as follows:

	Balance 1/1/07	Additions	Reductions	Balance 12/31/07	Due Within One Year
2005 Refunding Bonds	\$ 22,660,000	-	(1,000,000)	21,660,000	1,030,000
Less deferred amount on refunding	(1,097,366)	-	106,543	(990,823)	-
for issuance premiums	1,063,108	-	(103,217)	959,891	-
Total bonds	\$ <u>22,625,742</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(996,674)</u>	<u>21,629,068</u>	<u>1,030,000</u>

All property and revenue of the Wastewater System facilities have been pledged as collateral on the indebtedness. Under the terms of the revenue bond indenture, the City has agreed to certain covenants including, among other things, maintaining revenue levels and providing for operating expenses and debt service. The Mortgage Revenue Bonds are insured under a municipal bond insurance policy. Under the terms of this policy, the payments of principal and interest are guaranteed by the insurer. Maturities of mortgage revenue bonds at December 31, 2008 are as follows:

	Principal	Interest	Total
2009	\$ 1,060,000	996,015	2,056,015
2010	1,100,000	961,565	2,061,565
2011	1,130,000	923,065	2,053,065
2012	1,185,000	877,865	2,062,865
2013	1,235,000	827,503	2,062,503
2014-2018	7,160,000	3,137,613	10,297,613
2019-2023	7,760,000	1,099,863	8,859,863
Total	\$ <u>20,630,000</u>	<u>8,823,488</u>	<u>29,453,488</u>

8. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS AND OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

The Wastewater System contributes to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) which administers three separate pension plans as described below:

- The Traditional Pension Plan – a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan.
- The Member-Directed Plan – a defined contribution plan in which the member invests both member and employer contributions (employer contributions vest over five years at 20% per year). Under the Member-Directed Plan, members accumulate retirement assets equal to the value of member and vested employer contributions plus any investment earnings thereon.
- The Combined Plan – a cost sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. Under the Combined Plan, employer contributions are invested by the retirement system to provide a formula retirement benefit similar in nature to the Traditional Plan benefit. Member contributions, the investment of which is self-directed by the members, accumulate retirement assets in a manner similar to the Member-Directed Plan.

OPERS provides retirement, disability, survivor and death benefits, and annual cost of living adjustments to members and of the Traditional Plan and Combined Plan. Members of the Member-Directed Plan do not qualify for ancillary benefits. The authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by state statute per Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code. OPERS issues a stand-alone financial report that may be obtained by writing to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642.

Plan members are required to contribute 10.0% of their annual covered salary. The City was required to contribute 14.0% of covered payroll for employees. The Gas System's required contributions to OPERS for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006 were approximately \$268,000, \$235,000, and \$249,000 respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

OPERS maintains a cost-sharing multiple employer defined benefit post-employment healthcare plan, which includes a medical plan, prescription drug program and Medicare Part B premium reimbursement, to qualifying members of both the Traditional Pension and the Combined Plans. Members of the Member-Directed Plan do not qualify for ancillary benefits, including post-employment health care coverage.

In order to qualify for post-employment health care coverage, age-and-service retirees under the Traditional Pension and Combined Plans must have 10 or more years of qualifying Ohio service credit. Health care coverage for disability benefit recipients and qualified survivor benefit recipients is available. The health care coverage provided by OPERS meets the definition of an Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) as described in GASB Statement 45.

The Ohio Revised Code permits, but does not mandate, OPERS to provide OPEB benefits to its eligible members and beneficiaries. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided in Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The Ohio Revised Code provides the statutory authority requiring public employers to fund post retirement health care coverage through their contributions to OPERS. A portion of each employer's contribution to OPERS is set aside for the funding of post retirement health care benefits. Employer contribution rates are expressed as a percentage of the covered payroll of active members. In 2008, the City contributed 14.0% of covered payroll. The Ohio Revised Code currently limits the employer contribution to a rate not to exceed 14.0% of covered payroll. Active members do not make contributions to the OPEB Plan.

The OPERS' Post Employment Health Care plan was established under, and is administrated in accordance with, Internal Revenue Code 401(h). Each year, the OPERS Retirement Board determines the portion of the employer contribution rate that will be set aside for funding of post employment health care benefits. For 2008, the employer contribution allocated to the health care plan was 7.0% of covered payroll. The OPERS Retirement Board is also authorized to establish rules for the payment of a portion of the health care benefits provided, by the retiree or their surviving beneficiaries. Payment amounts vary depending on the number of covered dependents and the coverage selected. The portion of the Wastewater System's contributions that were used to fund post employment benefits was approximately \$134,000, \$93,000 and \$75,000 for 2008, 2007, and 2006, respectively.

The Health Care Preservation Plan adopted by the OPERS Retirement Board on September 9, 2004, was effective January 1, 2007. Members and employer contribution rates increased as of January 1, 2006, January 1, 2007 and January 1, 2008, which allowed additional funds to be allocated to the health care plan.

9. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Various claims and lawsuits are pending against the City involving the Wastewater System. The City believes that the ultimate disposition of such claims and lawsuits will not have a material adverse effect on the financial position of the Wastewater System.

10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Wastewater System purchases electricity from the City's Electric System. Purchases of approximately \$697,000 and \$573,000 were made in both 2008 and 2007 from the Electric System and are included in operating expenses.

The City allocates the cost of certain administrative services. In addition, the City established internal service funds which provide services to various City departments. Charges to the Wastewater System for these services were approximately \$2,533,000 and \$2,377,000 in 2008 and 2007, respectively, and are included in other operating expenses.

11. RISK MANAGEMENT

The City is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts and liability, damage to and theft of or destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The City maintains comprehensive insurance coverage, for all City departments including the Wastewater System, with private carriers for real property, building contents, vehicle, property and general liability insurance, police professional liability, and public officials errors and omissions insurance. Vehicle policies include liability coverage for bodily injury and property damage. Claim payments have not exceeded coverage in the past three years. There was no decline in the level of coverage from the prior year.

12. CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENTS

At December 31, 2008 and 2007, the Wastewater System had contractual commitments in the amounts of \$1,792,000 and \$521,000, respectively.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

**CITY OF HAMILTON
WASTEWATER SYSTEM**

BUTLER COUNTY

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.

Susan Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

**CERTIFIED
JUNE 25, 2009**