

For immediate release
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City of Columbus Releases Annual Sewer Overflow Report *Two Sanitary Sewer Overflow Locations Removed in 2008*

(Columbus) – The Columbus Department of Public Utilities continued to make progress on reducing sanitary sewer overflow locations in 2008 through ongoing capital improvement projects and preventative maintenance programs. The results are contained in the 2008 City of Columbus Sanitary Sewer Overflow and Water in Basement Report submitted to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). Consent order agreements between the city and state require the report to be filed annually with the agency. The city also has improvements underway to reduce overflows from heavy storms in older areas built with combined sewers through the 40-year, \$2.5 billion Wet Weather Management Plan, which was recently approved by the OEPA and began in 2005.

Highlights of accomplishments during 2008 include:

- Two sanitary sewer overflow discharge locations were removed, both in the Olentangy watershed: one on the Olentangy River near Kanawha Avenue and another in the Glen Echo Ravine near Indianola Avenue.
- The Division of Sewerage and Drainage provided backflow prevention devices to 109 Columbus homes at a cost of approximately \$437,000 under the Project Dry Basement program, launched by Mayor Michael B. Coleman in 2004.
- As part of an expanded maintenance cleaning program, 11 sewersheds were completed and cleaning in 13 others was in progress during the year.

“We remain committed to the improvements in the Wet Weather Management Plan, making sure the plan is done in a fiscally and environmentally responsible way that better serves our ratepayers while doing all we can to keep rates affordable,”
said Director Tatyana Arsh.”

The report is available to the public on the Department of Public Utilities' web site at: www.utilities.columbus.gov under the Project Clean Rivers area; or go directly to the report at www.utilities.columbus.gov/dosd/pdfs/2008SSO-WIBReport.pdf. Print copies are also available by request.

To report any suspected sewer overflows or other sewer related issues, Columbus residents should call 311 or 645-3111.