

Evesham MUA Starts Construction of Three New Infiltration Basins *Funding Through American Recovery & Reinvestment Act*

Evesham, NJ – The Evesham Municipal Utilities Authority (EMUA) has begun construction of three new infiltration basins at the Aerohaven Airport site, located off Kettle Run Road in Evesham Township. The new basins will replace two severely undersized infiltration basins that currently receive effluent from the Kings Grant Wastewater Treatment Plant. In addition, the EMUA will extend the effluent force main 6,700 feet from the existing infiltration basins to the new ones.

The \$1.1 million project received partial funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The balance of the project loan amount is being funded through the New Jersey Environmental Trust at 1.93 percent interest. According to EMUA Executive Director Joseph Rizzuto, the new infiltration basins are the final component of the upgrade to the Kings Grant Wastewater Treatment Plant, which was completed in 2008.

“The new infiltration basins will be more reliable and economical than the current discharge method,” said Rizzuto. “Due to the lack of capacity in the current basins, we discharge the effluent by spray irrigation over 93 wooded acres that are owned by the EMUA. The increased capacity of the new basins will not only meet the treatment facility’s discharge requirements, it will also enable us to discontinue spray irrigation.”

The Kings Grant Wastewater Treatment Plant permit restricts utilizing spray irrigation when weather conditions are unfavorable, such as snow or high winds. According to Rizzuto that causes tremendous hydraulic strain on the current basins.

The EMUA worked closely with Evesham Township, New Jersey Pinelands Commission, Burlington County and New Jersey Green Acres Program to determine a suitable location for the new infiltration basins.

The Aerohaven Airport site was selected for the construction of the basins following hydrogeologic evaluation, which demonstrated that the site has subsurface conditions that are favorable to receive the effluent from the Kings Grant Wastewater Treatment Facility.

According to Rizzuto, the EMUA adhered to the Pinelands Commission’s requirements to evaluate all cultural and biological resources on or near the site where the new infiltration basins will be constructed.

“A cultural resource survey found that the new infiltration basins will not impact any cultural resources eligible for Pinelands designation or listing on the National Registry of Historic Places. Also, background research revealed no prehistoric archaeological sites exist within the project’s limits,” said Rizzuto.

An additional requirement that must be met during construction is that a biologist must be on site to survey areas on, or in, the vicinity of construction for the presence of pine snakes. Appropriate measures have been taken to prevent pine snakes from entering the construction area. However, if pine snakes are found nearby, they will be captured and released in a safe location on the property.

Anticipated completion of the project is fall 2010.