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## **Department of Public Utilities**

### **Department Description**

The Department of Public Utilities protects surface water quality, promotes public health and safety and sustains economic development. The department is responsible for collecting and treating wastewater generated within the City of Columbus and 22 suburban communities, and those unincorporated areas of Franklin County. The department provides abundant, safe and reliable drinking water within the City of Columbus and 20 suburban communities.

The Department of Public Utilities also manages stormwater to mitigate flooding and water quality impacts, educates the public on watershed stewardship and water conservation, and regulates industrial water pollution discharged to sewers.

The department also supports fire suppression activities with reliable fire hydrants, provides and maintains street lights for vehicle safety and pedestrian security, and offers dependable electrical power at a competitive price.

### **Department Mission**

To enhance the quality of life, now and into the future, for people living, working and raising families in central Ohio through the economic, efficient and environmentally responsible stewardship of superior public utilities.

## **Strategic Priorities for 2013**

### **From the Columbus Covenant:**

#### **Customer Service**

- The Project Dry Basement Program will continue. The intent of this program is to cover the cost of approved backflow prevention devices for Columbus single and two-family homes prone to sewer backups during wet weather and from blockages.
- The department will annually update its portion of the city's website to provide residents with timely, important information on capital projects, such as status, location and projected completion date.
- The Division of Sewerage and Drainage will continue its comprehensive plan for Columbus' sewer system to mitigate the city's wet weather overflows and basement backup problems. Committing to a \$2.5 billion, in 2005 dollars, investment over the next 40 years, the Wet Weather Management Plan (WWMP) will bring Columbus into full compliance with two Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) consent orders. In 2013, the Division of Sewerage and Drainage will continue implementation of the WWMP. The division will also continue construction on the single largest capital project ever implemented by the city, a 20-foot diameter tunnel through the downtown area known as OARS.

## Neighborhoods

- The Division of Sewerage and Drainage will continue its Neighborhood-Focused Stormwater Program to mitigate flooding in residential areas. As part of this program, many localized stormwater capital improvements are planned for 2013, a list of which can be found in the capital summary section of this document.
- The department will use the Stormwater Drainage manual to promote “green” stormwater management systems. The Division of Sewerage and Drainage will continue to safely and responsibly manage stormwater runoff in the construction, expansion or redevelopment of residential subdivisions, industrial sites, commercial developments and roadway construction. The Division of Sewerage and Drainage will further seek ways to encourage the use of green infrastructure in new and existing properties.
- The Division of Sewerage and Drainage will continue to rehabilitate and replace aging sanitary and combined sewer infrastructure to increase the level of service in neighborhoods while continuing to reduce overflows in our rivers and streams.
- The Division of Power and Water and the Division of Sewerage and Drainage will improve and refine their respective programs to identify and prioritize projects that are geared towards the maintenance of a solid infrastructure in residential areas.
- The Division of Sewerage and Drainage is under construction for the removal of the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Dam.
- The Division of Power and Water will continue its main replacements and rehabilitation program to reduce water leaks.
- The Division of Power and Water will continue contracts to upgrade street lighting circuits and upgrades to critical power infrastructure.

## Safety

- The Division of Power and Water will continue to design and construct projects for enhanced security in order to ensure a secure and safe drinking water supply.
- The Division of Power and Water will continue its Neighborhood Lighting Program, continuing to work with neighborhoods that apply for decorative street lights through the petition and assessment process.

## Economic Development

- The department will continue to be a key partner in major development projects that enhance neighborhoods and downtown.
- The Division of Power and Water will continue major water treatment plant expansion projects to meet current and future regulations, ensure an adequate water supply for growing populations in the central city and outlying areas. Construction has begun on an upground reservoir in Delaware County.
- The department will continue to encourage responsible water conservation practices.

- The Division of Sewerage and Drainage will continue collaboration with the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) and Kurtz Bros. to implement a new process or processes to promote the beneficial reuse of organic wastes, including but not limited to, bio-solids, livestock manure and yard waste to produce clean renewable energy.
- The Division of Power and Water will continue the Children's Water Festival educational initiative. 2012's event brought over 700 grade school students during National Drinking Water Week in May and will be continued in 2013.
- The department will continue to promote the GreenSpot Program. This program inspires, educates and recognizes residents, businesses and community groups for committing to the methods and benefits of conserving and protecting water consistent with the Mayor's Get Green Columbus Initiative. Furthermore, the department will research and promote the use of green infrastructure alternatives.
- The department will participate in Neighborhood Pride and other public events, promoting both department programs and projects and its role in the Mayor's Get Green Columbus initiative.
- The department will continue its source water and stormwater protection services to include the We All Live Downstream Public Education Program and the Stormwater and Watershed Management Programs.
- The Division of Sewerage and Drainage will notify the public about overflow events through local newspaper ads, signs and its website. Education efforts include informational fact sheets and inserts in water and sewer bills annually.

### **Peak Performance**

- The department will continue implementation of an Asset Management Program begun in 2008 to continually focus on affordably meeting customer service level expectations at the lowest overall long-term financial, social and environmental cost. A more rigorous and defensible capital decision making process will be implemented prior to asset creation.
- The Division of Power and Water will continue a Valve Exercise and Replacement Program and a hydrant replacement program to improve distribution system reliability.
- The Division of Power and Water will complete a water audit to identify and quantify unmetered water. The division will also continue to replace meters and identify and repair leaks in an effort to lower the percentage of water that is not accounted for annually.
- The department will continue to work to develop leadership among staff members by improving communication throughout the department. The goal is to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of all staff members.
- The department will continue participation in the citywide effort to utilize internet and electronic contract bidding of its construction contracts in order to improve existing bid procedures and reduce bid costs.

- The department will continue implementation of the Environmental Management System to support all employees in performing day-to-day work activities in a manner so as not to harm the environment and to comply with all relevant regulatory requirements.

## **2013 Budget Notes**

### **Director's Office**

- The Sewer and Water Advisory Board (SWAB) will recommend to Columbus City Council adjustments to water and sanitary sewer rates that will increase revenue to the water and sanitary sewer funds by 4 and 1 percent, respectively. No increase is recommended for the storm sewer fee in 2013.
- Principal and interest payments on outstanding debt are a large proportion of the budget for many of the divisions within the Department of Public Utilities. The budgeted amounts in each division represent payments due on current outstanding balances in combination with estimates on new debt yet to be issued along with projected variable interest rates using the latest information available.

### **Water**

- The division's 2013 budget is approximately three percent higher than in 2012. The majority of this increase is the result of continued implementation of an extensive capital improvement plan to increase the safety and capacity of our drinking water system. Debt service represents 40 percent of the budget for the water enterprise fund. The division's capital improvement plan includes projects costing more than \$600 million over the next six years, of which 50 percent is due to EPA regulations.
- The 2013 budget includes \$48 million for personnel and will fund 540 full-time positions. These employees are responsible for all of the administration, distribution, maintenance, supply, safety and customer service related issues that goes along with providing the Columbus metropolitan area with clean and reliable drinking water.
- Water treatment chemicals continue to make up a large portion of the supplies budget and represents \$18.6 in the 2013 budget.
- The budget also includes funds for the continued maintenance program that is responsible for approximately 25,000 fire hydrants throughout the City of Columbus.

### **Power**

- The division's largest expense in the 2013 budget is for the purchase of power. The budget includes \$60 million for this expense, nearly 70 percent of the total budget. Although a large expense, this amount is down from the previous year due to new power purchase contracts.

### **Sewerage and Drainage**

- The division's 2013 budget is approximately one percent less than in 2012. Some of the division's anticipated lower costs are for chemicals and equipment. Lower expenditures are also expected in interest where several rounds of refinancing have decreased the interest rate on some of the division's long term debt, reducing the projected expenditure in the operating budget.
- The Division of Sewerage and Drainage, much like the Division of Water, has extensive capital improvement costs associated with maintaining and improving the city's wastewater system. Approximately 54 percent of the division's operating budget is to pay debt service.
- The 2013 budget includes \$46 million for personnel and will fund 521 full-time positions. These employees are responsible for the administration, maintenance, safety and operation of the city's wastewater treatment plants and approximately 5,000 miles of pipe.

### **Stormwater**

- The division's 2013 budget is less than one percent higher than in 2012. Much like the other divisions, the payment of principal and interest make up a significant portion of the operating budget. Debt service payments total 40 percent of the budget for the Stormwater Division.
- The 2013 budget includes the cost of street cleaning along with snow and ice removal, since such efforts protect water quality and minimize the burden on the sewer system from ice, snow and debris. The cost of these programs is expected to be \$7.4 million in 2013.

## Budget and Program Summary

DEPARTMENT FINANCIAL SUMMARY					
<b>DIVISION SUMMARY</b>	<b>2010 Actual</b>	<b>2011 Actual</b>	<b>2012 Original Appropriation</b>	<b>2012 Estimated Expenditures</b>	<b>2013 Proposed</b>
Public Utilities Director	\$ 8,815,258	\$ 9,228,872	\$ 10,521,035	\$ 10,209,048	\$ 13,444,529
Sanitary Sewers	201,528,400	215,028,191	238,631,495	238,841,055	236,099,013
Electricity	87,289,459	87,138,293	90,695,253	88,383,573	86,749,239
Water	144,566,160	153,407,573	173,466,457	169,294,255	179,162,558
Storm Sewers	31,561,644	34,522,261	37,275,881	36,406,270	37,628,325
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 473,760,921</b>	<b>\$ 499,325,190</b>	<b>\$ 550,590,121</b>	<b>\$ 543,134,201</b>	<b>\$ 553,083,664</b>

<b>DIVISION SUMMARY BY OBJECT LEVEL ONE</b>					
<b>ADMINISTRATION EXPENDITURES SUMMARY</b>	<b>2010 Actual</b>	<b>2011 Actual</b>	<b>2012 Original Appropriation</b>	<b>2012 Estimated Expenditures</b>	<b>2013 Proposed</b>
Personnel	\$ 7,808,134	\$ 7,820,483	\$ 9,369,889	\$ 8,638,046	\$ 10,608,024
Materials & Supplies	116,001	78,275	115,151	136,561	158,622
Services	871,596	1,329,930	1,008,955	1,430,794	2,652,883
Other	-	184	-	3,647	-
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Capital	19,527	-	27,040	-	25,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 8,815,258</b>	<b>\$ 9,228,872</b>	<b>\$ 10,521,035</b>	<b>\$ 10,209,048</b>	<b>\$ 13,444,529</b>

<b>DIVISION SUMMARY BY OBJECT LEVEL ONE</b>						
<b>WATER EXPENDITURES SUMMARY</b>	<b>2010 Actual</b>	<b>2011 Actual</b>	<b>2012 Original Appropriation</b>	<b>2012 Estimated Expenditures</b>	<b>2013 Proposed</b>	
Personnel	\$ 42,686,447	\$ 44,813,803	\$ 48,164,617	\$ 45,178,565	\$ 48,226,423	
Materials & Supplies	19,461,319	18,381,203	22,884,335	23,344,405	22,685,338	
Services	27,234,325	29,599,894	32,365,677	32,403,534	33,388,173	
Debt Principal	28,566,500	33,118,530	41,915,473	41,891,609	41,759,254	
Other	779,881	1,380,895	100,000	945,098	162,814	
Capital	1,942,779	759,773	1,443,100	1,391,856	1,556,500	
Interest	17,721,961	25,353,475	26,593,255	24,135,438	31,384,056	
Transfers	6,172,948	-	-	3,750	-	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 144,566,160</b>	<b>\$ 153,407,573</b>	<b>\$ 173,466,457</b>	<b>\$ 169,294,255</b>	<b>\$ 179,162,558</b>	

<b>DIVISION SUMMARY BY OBJECT LEVEL ONE</b>						
<b>SANITARY EXPENDITURES SUMMARY</b>	<b>2010 Actual</b>	<b>2011 Actual</b>	<b>2012 Original Appropriation</b>	<b>2012 Estimated Expenditures</b>	<b>2013 Proposed</b>	
Personnel	\$ 40,758,576	\$ 41,782,604	\$ 46,252,167	\$ 43,106,529	\$ 46,202,688	
Materials & Supplies	5,345,335	6,428,760	7,795,647	7,795,647	7,229,881	
Services	39,454,504	43,576,751	51,249,213	49,899,251	51,277,516	
Debt Principal	58,600,332	61,351,619	67,337,053	66,972,580	68,883,382	
Other	350,934	2,126,065	100,000	10,349,590	301,671	
Capital	1,617,654	1,398,271	3,929,700	3,499,218	3,323,100	
Interest	36,860,776	39,881,959	41,241,152	38,186,444	38,932,037	
Transfers	18,540,289	18,482,162	20,726,563	19,031,796	19,948,738	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 201,528,400</b>	<b>\$ 215,028,191</b>	<b>\$ 238,631,495</b>	<b>\$ 238,841,055</b>	<b>\$ 236,099,013</b>	

<b>DIVISION SUMMARY BY OBJECT LEVEL ONE</b>					
<b>STORMWATER EXPENDITURES SUMMARY</b>	<b>2010 Actual</b>	<b>2011 Actual</b>	<b>2012 Original Appropriation</b>	<b>2012 Estimated Expenditures</b>	<b>2013 Proposed</b>
Personnel	\$ 1,393,452	\$ 1,395,932	\$ 1,728,377	\$ 1,328,489	\$ 1,505,517
Materials & Supplies	13,090	11,130	34,136	29,020	31,534
Services	16,724,901	18,163,396	19,610,214	19,451,400	20,885,859
Debt Principal	7,542,200	8,064,200	9,534,700	9,534,700	9,786,800
Other	325,493	224,285	80,000	40,505	76,500
Capital	-	22,508	130,000	43,550	70,200
Interest	5,562,508	6,640,810	6,158,454	5,978,606	5,271,915
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 31,561,644</b>	<b>\$ 34,522,261</b>	<b>\$ 37,275,881</b>	<b>\$ 36,406,270</b>	<b>\$ 37,628,325</b>

<b>DIVISION SUMMARY BY OBJECT LEVEL ONE</b>					
<b>ELECTRICITY EXPENDITURES SUMMARY</b>	<b>2010 Actual</b>	<b>2011 Actual</b>	<b>2012 Original Appropriation</b>	<b>2012 Estimated Expenditures</b>	<b>2013 Proposed</b>
Personnel	\$ 8,455,067	\$ 7,927,958	\$ 8,708,390	\$ 7,754,612	\$ 9,971,420
Materials & Supplies	63,615,365	63,485,604	65,879,122	65,114,823	61,331,720
Services	8,640,565	8,345,521	9,508,779	9,297,389	9,399,819
Debt Principal	4,631,090	4,199,980	3,778,066	3,778,066	3,418,675
Other	18,985	126,640	158,100	32,625	150,920
Capital	682,826	474,343	1,777,397	1,522,187	1,800,000
Interest	1,245,561	1,097,247	885,399	883,871	676,685
Transfers	-	1,481,000	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 87,289,459</b>	<b>\$ 87,138,293</b>	<b>\$ 90,695,253</b>	<b>\$ 88,383,573</b>	<b>\$ 86,749,239</b>

<b>DEPARTMENT SUMMARY BY FUND</b>					
<b>FUND SUMMARY</b>	<b>2010 Actual</b>	<b>2011 Actual</b>	<b>2012 Original Appropriation</b>	<b>2012 Estimated Expenditures</b>	<b>2013 Proposed</b>
Sanitary Operations	\$ 205,360,473	\$ 219,233,494	\$ 243,208,145	\$ 243,409,328	\$ 241,947,381
Water Operations	147,971,900	156,902,255	177,548,619	173,157,605	184,379,040
Electricity Operations	87,842,796	87,671,434	91,337,036	88,998,908	87,569,373
Stormwater Management	32,585,752	35,518,007	38,496,321	37,568,360	39,187,870
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 473,760,921</b>	<b>\$ 499,325,190</b>	<b>\$ 550,590,121</b>	<b>\$ 543,134,201</b>	<b>\$ 553,083,664</b>

DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL SUMMARY					
DIVISION	FT/PT*	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Budgeted	2013 Budgeted
Public Utilities Director	FT	82	80	98	100
	PT	3	3	10	10
Sanitary Sewers	FT	481	470	522	521
	PT	10	10	16	16
Electricity	FT	78	70	82	92
	PT	4	4	10	11
Water	FT	513	502	548	540
	PT	16	16	33	32
Storm Sewers	FT	17	16	17	16
	PT	1	1	1	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,205</b>	<b>1,172</b>	<b>1,337</b>	<b>1,340</b>
*FT=Full-Time PT=Part-Time					

**2013 Operating Budget  
Department of Public Utilities**

Program	Mission	Financial History by Program				Personnel by Program			
		2010 Budget	2011 Budget	2012 Budget	2013 Proposed	2010 FTEs	2011 FTEs	2012 FTEs	2013 FTEs
Utilities Administration	To provide administrative support services for the Department of Public Utilities.	\$ 10,827,135	\$ 10,983,556	\$ 10,521,035	\$ 13,444,529	95	95	98	100
Water Supply	To maintain an adequate quantity and quality of raw and finished water for the citizens of Columbus.	\$ 45,596,889	\$ 44,257,162	\$ 47,417,327	\$ 47,474,305	161	161	162	161
Customer Service	To support managers of the other division by providing timely and accurate information related to the core business functions of the utility for daily operational decisions and long term strategic planning.	\$ 16,878,376	\$ 16,979,526	\$ 17,269,559	\$ 16,923,472	192	193	192	185
Water Administration	To provide administrative support services for the Division of Water.	\$ 67,122,732	\$ 74,706,591	\$ 83,753,831	\$ 89,587,125	10	9	6	6

2013 Operating Budget  
Department of Public Utilities

Program	Mission	Financial History by Program				Personnel by Program			
		2010 Budget	2011 Budget	2012 Budget	2013 Proposed	2010 FTEs	2011 FTEs	2012 FTEs	2013 FTEs
Water Distribution	To ensure the residents of the Columbus Metropolitan Area have an uninterrupted distribution of safe, reliable water, and that the infrastructure of the utility is maintained.	\$ 23,960,571	\$ 24,505,403	\$ 25,025,740	\$ 25,177,656	188	188	188	188
Sanitary Sewer Engineering and Maintenance	To ensure the integrity and maintenance of the existing sewer infrastructure and to expand this infrastructure to serve the Columbus Metropolitan Area without detriment to the community.	\$ 30,418,109	\$ 31,559,415	\$ 34,570,042	\$ 35,964,031	272	272	272	272
Wastewater Treatment	To promote the health and safety of residents of the Columbus Metropolitan Area through the effective treatment of wastewater.	\$ 47,808,777	\$ 49,702,622	\$ 48,049,306	\$ 44,432,268	239	239	239	239
Sewer Administration	To provide administrative support services for the Division of Sewers and Drains.	\$ 148,019,064	\$ 154,779,264	\$ 156,012,147	\$ 155,702,714	11	11	11	10

**2013 Operating Budget  
Department of Public Utilities**

Program	Mission	Financial History by Program				Personnel by Program			
		2010 Budget	2011 Budget	2012 Budget	2013 Proposed	2010 FTEs	2011 FTEs	2012 FTEs	2013 FTEs
Stormwater Management	To provide effective stormwater collection services to the community within the corporate limits of Columbus.	\$ 33,670,100	\$ 35,049,561	\$ 37,275,881	\$ 37,628,325	23	23	17	16
Electricity Distribution	To ensure that customers receive safe and reliable electric power and that neighborhoods receive modern street lighting.	\$ 8,865,538	\$ 8,842,603	\$ 8,174,503	\$ 7,945,863	51	55	48	46
Street Lighting	To promote public safety through the design, construction, maintenance, and operation of an efficient and reliable street lighting system.	\$ 2,796,892	\$ 2,788,012	\$ 2,743,964	\$ 3,043,686	19	15	9	13
Electricity Administration	To support the operations of the Division of Electricity.	\$ 83,310,873	\$ 81,139,604	\$ 79,776,786	\$ 75,759,690	29	29	25	33
		\$ 519,275,056	\$ 535,293,319	\$ 550,590,121	\$ 553,083,664	1,290	1,290	1,267	1,269