



**Lorain County  
Rural Wastewater District**  
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[www.lorco.org](http://www.lorco.org)

## ***ANNUAL REPORT TO THE TOWNSHIPS AND VILLAGES 2007***

The Board and Staff of LORCO are confident that nearly all obstacles have been overcome as they continue to work to establish a soundly engineered and economically viable wastewater collection system for portions of Carlisle and Eaton Townships. This project will serve as a model for future projects serving residents of rural Lorain County.

We have learned these past few years that creating a new utility, especially one dealing with wastewater collection and treatment, is a daunting task that has tested the convictions and perseverance of all who have strived to make this program work.

LORCO has established itself as a viable, forward thinking organization with a clear focus on addressing the wastewater needs of rural Lorain County. Many townships are faced with increasing development pressure, both residential and commercial, and recognize that a well-designed wastewater collection system will provide an exceptional tool for them to better utilize their land resources. It will also allow for this development to take place without surrendering large portions of the township to adjacent municipalities through annexation. Without question however, the most important service that a rural wastewater collection system can provide to rural Lorain County is the elimination of the environmental contamination currently resulting from poorly functioning and failed on site wastewater systems. Additionally, such a system precludes future environmental problems by eliminating the need for on site systems altogether.

South Amherst, Kipton and Rochester Villages, members of LORCO, also have wastewater issues that either are of immediate concern or will need to be addressed sometime in the not too distant future. Once the Phase I project in Carlisle and Eaton Townships is underway, these issues, as well as the needs of other townships feeling developmental pressures, can be addressed.

It is important to note that any project LORCO may undertake, whether it be the current Phase I project or a future project for a member township or village, is done in complete cooperation with that community. It is also with the recognition that the community, through its land use plan and zoning regulations, maintains absolute control of how best to utilize the options a wastewater collection system provides.

The past year did not produce the expected onset of construction of the Carlisle-Eaton Township wastewater project. However, the project is much closer to reality. The funding issues have been resolved and final environmental, permit and right-of-way issues are being addressed as we enter a new year. LORCO will soon be ready to advertise for bids and award contracts for the actual construction of the system. Absent

any last minute changes, pipe should go in the ground by the middle of 2008. By the end of 2009 approximately 1,300 homes, which are part of a documented 42.7% failure rate of septic systems throughout Lorain County, will begin connecting to public sewers and be relieved of future issues within the Black River drainage basin.

LORCO, by classification, is a not for profit organization under the Ohio Revised Code. Therefore, all considerations designed to produce the absolute lowest cost per household are being exercised. Connection costs and user fees have been calculated to provide for repayment of the funds that are being borrowed to accomplish the project. The Board has established an existing homeowners tap fee at \$5,000.00, which is payable within 30-days of connection or applied to the property tax duplicate and payable over a period of up to 20 years. As future housing is constructed within the system area, the cost will be spread to additional users. New home developers participating in LORCO's pre-construction plan have set aside ten percent of their requirements into an escrow account and will be charged \$6,000.00 for each home plus the cost of all infrastructure within their projects. All homeowner user costs are based on an estimate of \$42.00 per month, which includes the first two thousand gallons of flow. All on lot service connections are the responsibility of the homeowner or builder.

Your Board of Trustees remain ever mindful that this project not only addresses pollution issues and provides additional land utilization options for the township, but it creates a cost to the individual homeowners being served. The Board's job is to keep the cost as low as possible and at the same time provide top-level service. With that in mind we are prepared to move this project into the implementation stage and do our part to create a better environment for current and future homeowners.

For further information visit our web site [www.lorco.org](http://www.lorco.org).

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Yours truly,

James R. McConnell

James R. McConnell, President