

# Expansion sought for treatment plant

By Amanda Kerr

YORK — The Hampton Roads Sanitation District has filed an application for a special use permit in anticipation of a \$250 million project to expand and upgrade a sewage treatment plant on Back Creek Road.

The project is just one part of a \$760 million capital improvement plan designed to reduce phosphorous and nitrogen emissions being released into the Chesapeake Bay.

Ted Henifin, HRSD general manager, said the special use permit is for permission to expand the sewage treatment plant on 97 acres of land next to the existing plant.

Henifin said that only about 26 of the 97 acres will be disturbed in the expansion, leaving about 70 acres of forested buffer.

"We have a great plan to protect the buffer," he said. "The person driving by really isn't going to notice a whole lot of difference."

Andy Nelson, York River Treatment Plant manager, said that in addition to installing equipment designed to reduce the emission of phosphorous and nitrogen, the sanitation district will also increase the plant's flow capacity.

Nelson said the plant's existing capacity is 15 million gallons of water per day. After the expansion is complete in around 2017, capacity will be around 25-30 million gallons per day.

A composting facility will also be added to the plant that will utilize solid waste to produce a soil conditioner called Nutri-Green.

Henifin said that much of the cost of the capital projects will be funded by the customers.

A rate increase of 22 cents went into affect in July. The rate went up from \$1.76 to \$1.98 per 100 cubic feet of water. Henifin said the average monthly bill saw an increase of about \$2. Similar increases are expected in the next several years.

"You can walk into a store

and buy a bottle of water for \$1 and this is 100 cubic feet of water for \$1.98," Henifin said. "Sewage treatment is still a very economic service."

Henifin said the sanitation district will apply for state grants to help beef up funds.

In addition to the special use permit, as a technicality the sanitation district is seeking to rezone about an acre of land immediately along Back Creek Road from

resource conservation to general industrial.

The Planning Commission will review the Hampton Roads Sanitation District's applications on Nov. 14. The applications is scheduled to go before the Board of Supervisors on Dec. 18.

Nelson said assuming the applications are approved, the sanitation district will accept bids on the York River Treatment Plant project in January. Construction could start as early as late spring.



A Healthy, Natural Approach To Comfortable Footwear.

Hour Time Free To

**SAS Factory Shoe**

PATRIOT PLAZA  
3044-3 Richmond Rd., Williamsburg, VA  
757-259-7463

