



# St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

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## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

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### Sewer Project Nearing Completion

#### *Phase One Now in Construction*

**Akwesasne Territory --** The present sewer extension project has been in the works for a number of years. In 2003, studies began and grant applications were written for the upgrade of the existing sewer plant.

The original sewer plant was constructed in 1996 with a treatment capacity of 60,000 gallons per day (GPD). Flows from the casino used 80 percent of the treatment capacity. Other properties on the collection system were the Mohawk School, IGA and the HAVFD and approximately 30 homes along St. Regis Road.

The upgrade of the sewer plant began in 2008 and was completed in 2009. It now has a treatment capacity of 280,000 GPD. A program began to expand the collection system to serve additional homes, governmental, commercial and business properties. The expansion program called for a five-phased approach with a total cost of upwards of twenty five millions dollars. The present plant with its increased capacity will handle the five phases of the expansion program. The sewer plant is currently working properly, although problems are occasionally experienced because sump pump discharges from people's homes are connected to the collection system. This sometimes causes plant upsets during the spring thaw and storms.

The first phase of the expansion program is now in construction. A copy of the expansion program is available for public viewing. Final design and an environmental assessment (EA) were conducted for the first three phases as part of our overall pre-construction planning phases. The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was published in the *Indian Time* newspaper in May of 2009. A copy of the EA and FONSI are also available for public viewing. The present construction contract calls for a completion date of October 25, 2010.

One of the primary needs for sewer systems is overcrowding. Communities with sewer systems can have smaller lots for houses. Septic systems can fail because of issues with soil, ground and water, causing environmental concerns, ground water pollution, resulting in biological and health hazards.

The next phase of the expansion is from McGee Road to the border on St. Regis Road. This will not happen for a couple of years because design and grant applications have not started. A 2012 start date would be very optimistic. Community members can rest assured that driveways and lawns will be restored to their original state.

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The St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council is the duly elected and federally recognized government of the St. Regis Mohawk People.

**Helping Build A Better Tomorrow**

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