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# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

May 8, 2012

Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin Street – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202

**RE: Erie County Sewer Districts/Western New York  
Council on Occupational Safety & Health  
Proposed Agreement**

Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find an accompanying memorandum from the Department of Environment and Planning pertaining to a proposed agreement with the Western New York Council on Occupational Safety & Health to provide training to the Sewer District staff through a New York State Department of Labor Hazard Abatement Board grant.

Should your honorable body require further information, I encourage you to contact Joseph L. Fiegl, P.E. in the Division of Sewerage Management. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.  
Erie County Executive

MCP/JLF/ms

C: J. Fiegl – Environment and Planning

## **MEMORANDUM**

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature  
From: Department of Environment and Planning  
Re: Erie County Sewer Districts/Western New York  
Council on Occupational Safety & Health  
Proposed Agreement  
Date: April 26, 2012

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### **SUMMARY**

Approval of an agreement with the Western New York Council on Occupational Safety & Health (WNYCOSH) for safety training classes to be provided to Sewer District employees through a New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL), Hazard Abatement Board grant is requested.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There will be no fiscal impact on Erie County's General Fund or Sewer Fund. All costs for the training will be paid by WNYCOSH.

### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

There is an opportunity to provide mandated safety and health training to Sewer District staff without charge to the Sewer Districts. Without this free training, the Sewer Districts would have to provide the mandated safety and health training using their own funds.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

State and federal regulations mandate specific training for sewer operation and maintenance personnel. Failure to provide this training could result in NYSDOL fines. A lack of adequate training would put County employees at risk.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF A NEGATIVE ACTION**

Any of the required training not provided through the grant will be conducted at the Sewer District's expense.

### **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

No further legislation action will be required. The agreement will be executed with WNYCOSH and the training initiated.

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING  
DIVISION OF SEWERAGE MANAGEMENT**

**RE: Erie County Sewer Districts  
Western NY Council on  
Occupational Safety & Health**

**WHEREAS, the County recognizes the need to properly train its employees to protect their health and well being, and to comply with applicable state and federal regulations; and**

**WHEREAS, Erie County's Division of Sewerage Management has applied for funds from the Western New York Council on Occupational Safety & Health through a New York State Department of Labor Hazard Abatement Board training grant.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED, that the proposed agreement between the County of Erie and the Western New York Council on Occupational Safety & Health to provide health and safety training to the Division of Sewerage Management and Sewer District employees is hereby approved; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the County Executive be, and hereby is, authorized to execute said agreement subject to approval as to form by the County Attorney and as to content by the Commissioner of Environment and Planning; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature be authorized and directed to send two certified copies of this resolution to Joseph Fiegl, P.E., Deputy Commissioner, Department of Environment and Planning, and one certified copy each to the County Executive, the Director of Budget and Management, Erie County Comptroller; and County Attorney.**