The South Fork Coeur d’Alene River Sewer District sent the notice below to rate payers in October 2014 to inform you of the upcoming levy and why it was needed.

*The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has begun enforcement action against the South Fork Coeur d’Alene River Sewer District to meet its ammonia limit at the Page Wastewater Treatment Plant. This plant serves all of our users including waste from the District’s Mullan Treatment Plant. The heart of the process is a wastewater treatment lagoon that was designed to meet discharge permit requirements in 1974. Since then, our discharge permits have progressively gotten tighter and the current plant is struggling to meet the limits. The District is exceeding our ammonia limit as a result of EPA discharge permit changes and is facing current and potential fines of up to $37,500 per day. On average, we violate our permit 90 days per year resulting in a potential annual fine of $3,375,000. A new activated sludge treatment facility would provide higher levels of treatment during the summer when we need it most. High flows in the winter will be addressed by using the old lagoons to keep project costs as low as possible. The project will also replace equipment at Page and Mullan Treatment Plants that is the end of its useful life.*

Rate payers voted and approved the requested $18,200,000 levy which qualified the District for the 40-year bond at 2.5%. It was determined that we need to raise our rates by $12.85 per month or $38.55 per quarter to pay back this bond. The district wanted to phase in the cost over 4 years to lessen the hardship on our rate payers**. The quarterly rate was increased by $9 in March 2015, $9 in March 2016, $9 in March 2017 and will increase by $12 in March 2018.** Please contact our office at 208-753-8041 if you have any questions