

## **L-A Sewage Treatment Board Approves \$12 Million Dollar Project**

(Lewiston, Maine—August 12, 2011)—L-A Water Pollution Control Authority Board Chair Phil Nadeau reported today that the Authority approved Methuen Construction Company's low bid of \$11,957,548 for the Authority's anaerobic digester project.

This project will be one of the largest municipal projects in the community's history and most likely one of the largest municipal sewage treatment projects in the state. Additionally, the project will mark the first time that the anaerobic digestion process, once operational, will be utilized by a publicly owned waste water treatment plant in Maine. Currently, there are approximately 500 of these plants in the U.S.

The costs for the project include an energy producing cogeneration facility that will use the methane gas generated by the digester which will be another first in the state. The \$817,000 "alternative energy" funding for the cogeneration part of the project was set aside by the Authority's board to allow staff to pursue a \$360,000 grant from the Efficiency Maine Trust Grant. Awards for the energy grant are scheduled to be made in November which is within the 120 day contracted period which guarantees the alternate bid for the cogeneration facility.

Nadeau stated that the Authority will also begin the process of applying for project funding through the State Revolving Loan Fund which will provide approximately \$900,000 in principal loan forgiveness for the project. Nadeau also shared that information about the project, along with project updates, can be found on the Authority's website [www.lawpca.org](http://www.lawpca.org).

No decision was made by the board on when groundbreaking ceremonies would be scheduled. The Authority board is scheduled to revisit the issue at next month's meeting.