

## **Increased Costs Proposed for Water/Sewer Systems**

In other legislation affecting all wastewater discharge permittees, SB 1340 (Brown, R-Lake Jackson) would increase the maximum annual waste treatment inspection fee from \$11,000 to \$25,000. Could it be that permittees are in line for a significant increase in this fee from the TNRCC?

Speaking of fees, Rep. Ron Lewis (D-Mauriceville) has sponsored HB 1802, which would authorize authorizing the TNRCC to assess a fee, to be collected from each public water supply system in Texas, of up to \$1 per connection per month. Public water systems would be able to retain 5 cents per connection to offset collection costs. This fee appears to be in addition to the current TNRCC regulatory assessment fee.

Similar annual water rights fees would be imposed on industrial, irrigation, electric power water users, and holders of water rights. The proceeds would provide for grants and loans for state and local entities to conserve, convey and develop surface or underground water resources.