

Harrisburg apologizes but doesn't cancel sewer bills to neighbors

By [MARY KLAUS, The Patriot-News](#)

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A spokesman for Harrisburg Mayor Linda Thompson said that the city "sincerely apologizes for its under-billing" of \$1.8 million in sewer bills to four East Shore municipalities for three years, but the city still wants its money.

"The city wishes no intentional undue hardship upon the affected municipalities," said

Michael G. Holmes, Thompson's chief of staff. "However, we have a serious financial crisis that is due in part to this under billing."

The Harrisburg Authority's plant on South Cameron Street handles sewage from Paxtang, Penbrook, Steelton, Susquehanna Township, and portions of Swatara and Lower Paxton townships.

Officials of Paxtang, Penbrook, Lower Paxton Township and Susquehanna Township recently received letters and bills from M. Antonia Baum, the director of the city Bureau of Operations and Revenue, telling them that they owe Harrisburg tens of thousands of dollars because the city sent out incorrect bills in 2007, 2008 and 2009. ¶

Lower Paxton Township received a \$954,702.62 bill from the city, Holmes said. The city also billed Susquehanna Township \$713,101.81; Penbrook \$102,768.75; and Paxtang \$50,101.68.

"Harrisburg's apology doesn't go far with me," said Penbrook Mayor Ken Cramer. "We had an executive session about this matter. The borough of Penbrook is not happy about this bill. We are not going to just up and pay it, There has to be some sort of compromise. We are weighing our options."

