

## **City of Hudson, Ohio, Storm Water Utility Program, Expert Witness Project, Year 2002**

Environmental Rate Consultants, Inc., (ERC) was hired by the City of Hudson, Ohio legal counsel, Roetzel & Andress, to provide storm water utility expert witness consultation services. The City of Hudson was suing a national storm water utility engineering firm for NEGLIGENT acts with regard to developing and implementing the City of Hudson's storm water utility program. ERC reviewed and analyzed all of the financial and billing system and data products developed by the engineering consulting firm and how these products met minimum standards in the storm water industry. The result of the ERC analysis, provided a "Report of Findings" that found many discrepancies and deficiencies that did not meet minimum standards relating to the financial approach, the billing system and database methods, especially the creation of the ERU (equivalent residential unit) which is the key building block and the framework used as the basis for a legally defensible storm water utility program. This Federal Court case ended in a settlement without a trial. There was a gag order put on this case therefore, more of the specifics of the case are not included in this brief project summary.