

0.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

0.1 PLAN SUMMARY

Amity Township has a heavily developed residential core, with some highway commercial and low-impact industrial, surrounded by rural farm country. The densely populated area is served by municipal sewer and public water, while the rural parts of the township rely on on-site sewage disposal and individual wells.

This study investigated the non-sewered areas to determine whether there were areas of chronic malfunctions of on-lot disposal systems. During the study, a representative sample of wells was tested to identify areas where sewage may be affecting water supplies. Also, the on-lot sewage disposal systems (OLDS) were inspected.

Malfunctioning OLDS, and associated contamination of drinking water with fecal coliform, were rare, and the study identified only one problem area that would warrant action. Outside of that area, problems appeared to be isolated, and could best be dealt with on an individual basis. In that one area, a mobile home park, drinking water tested negative for coliform bacteria or elevated nitrate levels; however, there was a very high (greater than 90%) "confirmed" or "potential" OLDS malfunction rate. This plan proposes action to remedy the problems that were identified for this area.

0.1.1 SERVICE AREAS EVALUATED

The study evaluated all areas of the Township not currently served by sewer. Particular attention was paid to the Monocacy Creek drainage basin in the western portion of the Township. That area is characterized by a high water table, and was identified as a potential problem area in the Township's 1998 Act 537 Plan.

0.1.2 SELECTED ALTERNATIVES

0.1.2.1 Selected Alternative - Tier II Area - Bel Air Estates/Valley Road

The selected alternative is the Monocacy Creek Interceptor (Option 2 in the Plan). This option extends sewer from south of Route 422 along the Monocacy Creek, and will provide sewer service to both Bel Air Estates and Valley Road.

0.1.2.2 Sewage Management Program

An on-going concern in any municipality with a large number of OLDS is the maintenance of those systems by the residents. Periodic pumping of systems, with an inspection by someone familiar with identifying malfunctions, is key to the long-term viability of those systems. The study indicated that a very high percentage of residents are diligent about maintaining their systems, with over 80% having them pumped and inspected on a regular basis. A sewage management program will be implemented across the Township to assure continued high levels of maintenance of OLDS.

0.1.3 Estimated Costs

The cost of implementing the selected alternative is estimated at \$ 1,470,520.

The cost of implementing the sewage management system is expected to be minimal, and will be paid for by permit fees.

0.1.4 Municipal Commitments

Amity Township is committed to providing suitable sewage disposal facilities to the area of Bel Air Estates/Valley Road in order to eliminate a number of malfunctioning systems and protect drinking water supplies.

At the same time, the Township is committed to implementing a sewage management program to assure the continued high level of compliance by Township residents. A resolution to adopt a sewage management program is attached as an appendix to this report (APPENDIX 5-1).

0.1.5 Implementation Schedule

0.1.5.1 Expansion of Sewage Treatment Plant

The Township is currently designing maintenance upgrades and modifications to the existing sewage treatment plant, and expects to begin construction of those items in late 2003. The construction is expected to take 12 months. Conditioned on the approval of this plan, the Township also expects to apply to re-rate the plant to increase its capacity. This will enable the Township to meet its current commitments and provide capacity for the areas identified in Section 0.2.

0.1.5.2 Chosen Alternative - Tier II Area - Bel Air Estates/Valley Road

Major Milestones

Township adopts Act 537 Plan, submits to DEP	November 2003
DEP approval of Plan	May 2004
Preliminary Engineering	May - October 2004
Final Engineering, Specifications, Bidding	October 2004 - September 2005
Construction	November 2005 - November 2000
Connect customers	December 2006 - May 2007

0.1.5.3 Sewage Management Program

Adopt Ordinance	August 2004
Set up administration	September 2004 - May 2005
Begin pumping and inspections	June 2005

0.2 MUNICIPAL ADOPTION

A copy of the "Resolution of Adoption" is included in Appendix 0-1.

0.3 PLANNING COMMISSION COMMENTS

A review letter from the Berks County Planning Commission is included in Appendix 0-2. The Plan was formally approved on July 9, 2003.

A review letter from the Amity Township Planning Commission is included in Appendix 0-3.

0.4 PUBLICATION

A copy of the public notice from the Reading Eagle-Times newspaper is included in Appendix 0-4.

0.5 PUBLIC COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

Copies of written comments received from the public are included in Appendix 0-5.

0.6 IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

The suggested implementation schedule for the proposed alternatives is as follows. All dates are contingent on DEP approval in January 2004. Should that date change, all consequent dates will change accordingly.

Township approves Act 537 Plan, submits to DEP	November, 2003
DEP Approval	May, 2004

Sewerage Alternatives: Bel Air Estates/Valley Road

Feasibility Study of Engineering Design	May, 2004
Obtain funding for the service area sewerage project	February, 2005
Prepare final design documents for bidding	October, 2004 - June, 2005
Obtain necessary easements and permits	March, 2005
Bidding of projects	July, 2005 - September, 2005
Construction	November, 2005 - November, 2006
Connect EDU's to collection systems	December, 2006 - May, 2007

On-Lot Sewage Management Program

The suggested implementation schedule, as measured from the implementation date of this plan, is:

Adopt Ordinance	August 2004
Notify affected residents of obligations	September 2004
Implement record keeping/tracking system	October 2004
Begin inspection program	October 2004
Complete first round of inspections	May 2005
Notify residents to begin pumping	June 2005

0.7 CONSISTENCY DOCUMENTATION

Table 0-1. Facility Plan Consistency Requirements Summary

Consistency Element	Documentation
A. Comprehensive Planning	Appendix 0-2 Section 6.1.4
B. Wasteload Management	Section 3.1 Section 6.1.2
C. Plans developed under federal Water Quality Act or Clean Water Act	Section 6.1.1 Section 6.1.3
D. Antidegradation Requirements	Section 6.1.5 Section 6.1.6
E. Prime Agricultural Land Policy	Section 6.1.7
F. Stormwater Management	Section 6.1.8
G. Wetland Protection	Section 6.1.9
H. Protection of Plant and Animal Species	Appendix 6-1 Section 6.1.10
I. Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Act	Appendix 6-2 Section 6.1.11