

7.0 INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATION

7.1 EXISTING WASTEWATER TREATMENT AUTHORITY

The Amity Township Municipal Authority was formed by ordinance on December 10, 1964. The original purpose and objective of the Authority was to assist with financing a projected need for increased municipal sewage capacity and services. The Authority has since been disbanded, and its duties transferred to the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors has the responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the wastewater treatment facility, collection and conveyance system.

7.1.1 Financial and Debt Status

The Board of Supervisors, Township Manager and Plant Superintendent prepare an annual budget, with priority given to repair to existing sewer lines. A copy of the 2003 budget is included in **APPENDIX 7-1**.

7.1.2 Available Staff and Administrative Resources

Current staffing at the plant consists of the Plant Superintendent, Plant Operator, Lab Technician, Laborer/Equipment Operator, and Laborers. All routine maintenance is handled daily, as well as most repairs to plant and pump equipment.

Schooling and certifications routinely involve 230 hours of training for the Plant Superintendent, Plant Operator, lab technician and maintenance personnel. Staff operations are daily, 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 12 noon, and Sunday 7:30 a.m to 10:30 a.m. In addition, the entire staff is available through the Berks County Communication System for emergencies.

7.1.3 Existing Legal Authority

The Amity Township Board of Supervisors is the legal authority for the operation, maintenance and financing of the Amity Sewage Treatment Plant and its collection and conveyance system. The Board implements wastewater planning recommendations, will have the authority through the Sewage Management Program ordinance to implement operation and maintenance oversight for the on-lot systems within the Township, currently operates and maintains the sewage treatment, conveyance and collection system, sets user fees, authorizes purchases, and, through its Sewage Enforcement Officer, takes action against violators.

7.2 INSTITUTIONAL ALTERNATIVES NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT PLAN

7.2.1 Need For New Municipal Departments And Authorities

The current Board of Supervisors oversight is sufficient for implementation of this Plan. No additional municipal departments or authorities need to be created to provide the proposed services.

7.2.2 Functions of Existing and Proposed Organizations

There are no proposed new organizations. The current institutional arrangement is sufficient for implementing this plan.

7.2.3 Cost of Administration, Implementability, and Capability of Board to React to Future Needs

Administrative costs are considered to be negligible, and will be paid through user fees.

The Board of Supervisors has legal authority, and financial ability to implement this plan.

The Board of Supervisors closely monitors the activities at the treatment plant, and is involved in ongoing projects to reduce infiltration, and improve plant operations through the maintenance upgrades currently being undertaken at the sewage treatment plant.

7.3 ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL ACTIVITIES

7.3.1 Incorporation of Authorities or Agencies.

This is not necessary; all required institutions are in place.

7.3.2 Development of All Required Ordinances, Regulations, Standards and Intermunicipal Agreements

All ordinances are in place (see Appendix 1-1), except for the Sewage Management Program. A draft of that ordinance is included in Appendix 5-1.

7.3.3 Providing Rights-of-Way, Easements and Land Transfers

The Township will have to obtain easements along the Monocacy Creek for the interceptor. Sewer lines up Valley Road will be in road right-of-way. An easement across the Bel Air Estates property will have to be obtained. The Township has the legal authority to acquire all necessary easements.

7.3.4 Adoption of Other Municipal Sewage Facilities Plans

This plan is not contingent on the adoption or implementation of any other municipal sewage facilities plans.

7.3.5 Other Legal Documents

The Township does not anticipate the need to develop any other legal documents.

7.3.6 Project Implementation Schedule

The following is an expected schedule for implementing these legal and administrative activities:

7.3.6.1 Incorporation of Authorities or Agencies

The Amity Township Board of Supervisors will continue to own and operate the Township's sewage facilities. No changes are required.

7.3.6.2 Development of All Required Ordinances, Regulations, Standards and Intermunicipal Agreements

The Township will adopt and implement an ordinance for the Sewage Management Program within three (3) months of receiving plan approval (see Section 8.3). No other sewage-related ordinances are required.

7.3.6.3 Providing Rights-of-Way, Easements and Land Transfers

Rights-of-way and easements will be required for the Monocacy Interceptor. The Township will begin acquiring these during the late part of the engineering and design of the project, and expects to have those agreements in place by September 2004.

7.3.6.4 Adoption of Other Municipal Sewage Facilities Plans

This is not applicable.

7.3.6.5 Other Legal Documents

This is not applicable.

7.4 CHOSEN INSTITUTIONAL ALTERNATIVE

The Amity Township Board of Supervisors will implement the chosen alternative, which is construction of the Monocacy Creek Interceptor to provide sewer service to Bel Air Estates and the Valley Road area.

The Township is experienced at constructing, operating and maintaining sewage treatment facilities, including the treatment plant, and the collection and conveyance system. The following issues were considerations in the choice of the Monocacy Interceptor:

1. The Limekiln Interceptor (Option 1) would not have provided sewer service to the Valley Road area. The Township was concerned that the Sewage Management Program would identify a significant number of malfunctions in this area, and would require construction of the Monocacy Interceptor in addition to the Limekiln Interceptor. Also, the Limekiln Interceptor would require at least one pump station, and possibly a second one. The additional cost of the second pump station would have increased the cost to where both options were comparable in cost. Finally, the Township currently has six pump stations, and does not want to undertake the additional maintenance and operations costs of one or two more. The Monocacy Interceptor will be a gravity system.

2. The Township has no prior experience operating and maintaining package treatment plants, as proposed in Options 3 and 4. Also, the Township had concerns that constructing such a facility would set a precedent for additional facilities in areas of the Township not intended for growth.

3. Option 5, the construction of a community system at Bel Air Estates did not address the potential problems along Valley Road. Also, there were ownership and maintenance issues pertaining to the construction of the facility on what is a private, for-profit property.