


Sewage Facilities
Planning

Planning for Public Sewer:
Expect Anything and Everything




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**SEWER TREATMENT PLANTS
SERVE MUNICIPAL TOWNSHIP AND
THE LEHIGH COUNTY
AUTHORITY
WITH 80,000 GALLONS AND EMAILS
DAILY. THEY
PROVIDE 1300 GALLONS
WITH 100,000 GALLONS
OF YOU KNOW WHAT
A DAY!**

TELL THEM NO!


LEHIGH COUNTY AUTHORITY AND LEHIGH COUNTY
SEWER TREATMENT PLANTS ARE THE LEADERS IN THE
INDUSTRY OF SEWER TREATMENT
AND TREATMENT PLANTS. LEHIGH COUNTY AUTHORITY
AND LEHIGH COUNTY SEWER TREATMENT PLANTS
WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LEHIGH COUNTY
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PA Sewage Facilities Act – Act 537

- > Enacted in 1966 to correct existing problems and prevent future problems
- > All municipalities must develop and implement a plan
- > DEP reviews and approves the plans
- > Plans should be modified as new developments are proposed or when needs change

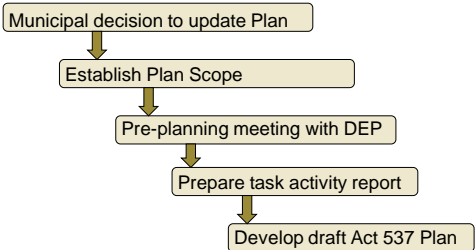


Act 537 Plan - Information to Include

- > Population figures and projections
- > Drinking water supplies
- > Waterways, soil types and geologic features
- > Sanitary survey results
- > Location, type and status of existing sewage facilities
- > Local Zoning
- > Estimates of future sewage disposal needs
- > Identification of potential problem solving alternatives
- > Cost estimates for alternatives
- > Selection of appropriate alternative




Act 537 Planning Process

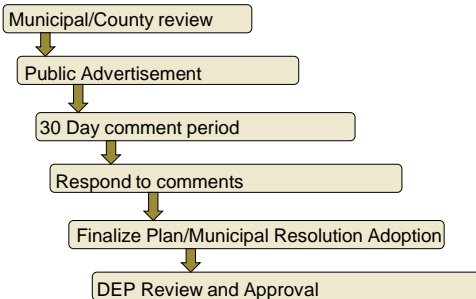


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graph TD
    A[Municipal decision to update Plan] --> B[Establish Plan Scope]
    B --> C[Pre-planning meeting with DEP]
    C --> D[Prepare task activity report]
    D --> E[Develop draft Act 537 Plan]
  
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Act 537 Planning Process




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graph TD
    A[Municipal/County review] --> B[Public Advertisement]
    B --> C[30 Day comment period]
    C --> D[Respond to comments]
    D --> E[Finalize Plan/Municipal Resolution Adoption]
    E --> F[DEP Review and Approval]
  
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Plan Changes

- › “Official Plan Revisions”
 - Result from new land development proposals
 - Completed using planning modules specific to the project
- › “Update Revisions”
 - Broad changes to the plan made by the municipality




Typical Issues that bring out the Public

- › Total Project Cost and Individual Costs
 - Project Funding Alternative
 - Initial Connection Fees
 - Rates for Service
- › Routing/Location of Facilities
 - Treatment Facility
 - Easements
 - NIMBY
- › Environmental Impact Concerns
 - Discharge Location
 - Crossing through HQ/EV watershed
 - Odor/Noise during construction and during operation




Typical Issues that bring out the Public

- › OLDS (On-Lot Disposal System) Management
 - Pumping and Maintenance Costs
 - Fines and Penalties
- › Management Structure
 - Township or Borough
 - Municipal Authority
 - Joint Municipal Authority



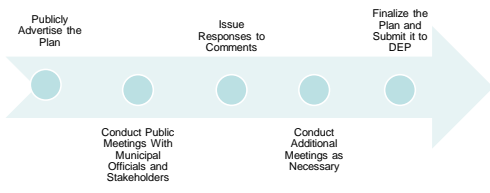

Enhanced Public Education and Outreach

- › Minimizing and Addressing Concerns
 - When Should the Public Be Involved?
 - Consider Scale and Complexity of Project
 - Involve the Participation of Those Impacted Together in the Planning Process
 - DEP
 - Municipal Officials
 - Homeowners
 - Landowners
 - Other Stakeholders



Enhanced Public Education and Outreach


› The Process

Enhanced Public Education

› Benefits of Joint Involvement

- Everyone Impacted Has a Better Understanding of the Project
- Ensures Minimal Misunderstandings and Subsequent Issues
- Allows for the Inclusion of All Concerns
- Reduction In Project Time and Cost
 - Fewer Revisions and Changes



A Tale of Two Plans

- > Northern Lehigh Multi-Municipal Act 537 Plan
- > Allentown – Lehigh County Authority Joint Act 537 Plan




A Tale of Two Plans Northern Lehigh Study Area



A Tale of Two Plans Northern Lehigh Study Area Preferred Alternative, 2007



A Tale of Two Plans
Northern Lehigh Study Area
Preferred Alternative, 2009



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A Tale of Two Plans

- › Allentown – Lehigh County Authority Joint Act 537 Plan
 - Service Area
 - Future Wastewater Treatment Capacity
 - Started as Joint Effort
 - Memorandum of Understanding
 - City Concession Interferes

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A Tale of Two Plans

- › Allentown – Lehigh County Authority Joint Act 537 Plan
- › Allentown Sewer Service Area Map



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