

CHAPTER 13

PUBLIC SANITARY SEWER AND WATER FACILITIES

INTRODUCTION

Public sanitary sewer and water facilities are discussed in a separate chapter from community facilities because of the significant role sanitary sewer and water facilities play in the shaping of development patterns, including location and the density. One of the major efforts of any comprehensive plan is to coordinate land use and utility planning so that future land use patterns reflect the availability of public sewer and water facilities, while assuring that sewer and water planning in the area are not be at odds with the goals for future land use reflected in the Future Land Use Plan. For instance, if areas are proposed for agriculture, it is not desirable to extend the public sewer and water service to those areas.

Public Sanitary Sewer Facilities

A small portion of the Borough of St. Lawrence is served by the Antietam Valley Municipal Authority, with a sewage treatment plant located in the Borough. The Authority also serves Mt. Penn Borough and a small portion of Exeter Township. The majority of Exeter Township is served by the Exeter Township Authority. The Authority's wastewater treatment plant, located in the southern portion of the Township, was expanded in the 1990's to accommodate residential growth and anticipated commercial and industrial customers through the year 2010. Most of the Borough is served by the St. Lawrence Borough Authority collection system and the Exeter treatment plant.

Amity Township is served by the Amity Township Municipal Authority. The system was designed to serve the Douglasville area, the Route 422 corridor and along Route 662. The treatment plant is located at Douglassville.

Amity Township has updated its Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan to expand the sewer service area throughout the southeastern portion of the Township, along the Route 422 corridor, and in portions of the north central portion of the Township. In addition, sewer lines could be extended to southwest portions of the Township to serve existing units with malfunctioning sewage disposal systems and cluster development in Rural Conservation areas with a low net density (two acres per unit). The Plan called for an expansion of the sewage treatment plant, increasing the treatment capacity by 37% to allow for serving more than 2,600 additional sewer units (EDU's).

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Sewer service areas and areas with severe limitations to on-site sewage disposal are shown on the enclosed map.

Soil Suitability for On-Site Sewage Disposal

The availability of public sanitary sewer facilities is important, and the use of such facilities should be encouraged when consistent with the Future Land Use Plan, because of the general unsuitability of soils in the St. Lawrence, Exeter and Amity area for on-site sewage disposal. These soils are considered unsuitable for on-site sewage disposal based on the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service rating of limitations for septic tank absorption fields. It should be noted that limestone soils are considered as having a hazard for on-site sewage disposal because of the potential of ground water contamination.

Public Water Supply

The Mt. Penn Borough Municipal Authority serves the Borough of St. Lawrence as well as Mt. Penn Borough, Lower Alsace Township, and a small portion of Exeter Township. Community wells are located between Hill Road and Spook Lane and between Friedensburg Road and Butter Lane in Lower Alsace Township. The Mt. Penn Borough Municipal Authority also maintains water storage facilities. These facilities are located adjacent and in close proximity to the Authority's wells between Hill Road and Spook Lane.

Most of Exeter Township and Amity Township are served by Pennsylvania-American Water Company.

Sewer Capacities

There is capacity available from the Antietam Valley Municipal Authority and the Exeter Township Municipal Authority to serve infill development in the Borough and additional development in Exeter Township. Eventually, Exeter will have to determine the need for additional sewage capacity through updated Act 537 planning. As noted above, Amity Township is expanding its existing sewer treatment plant to serve future development in the Township. Studies have been proposed to identify ultimate capacity at the treatment plant and compare this to ultimate need in the Township.

Water Capacities

Pennsylvania-American intends to satisfy domestic demand from within its service area. The Mt. Penn Borough Municipal Authority has also taken the position it will serve additional areas within its service area requesting service. Pennsylvania American has studied groundwater availability in Amity Township (see Appendix 6), and is

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comfortable supplies can be found to serve additional development. The situation is different in Exeter Township, where there are not adequate groundwater supplies and the Company has contracted with the Reading Area Water Authority to supply water from the Authority's Lake Ontelaunee source. There could be increased reliance upon Authority water in the future.

