

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act requires that every municipality within the Commonwealth develop and maintain an up-to-date sewage facilities plan. The West Hanover Township Board of Supervisors, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, authorized the preparation of this report to serve as its Official Sewage Facilities Plan. The planning area for this Act 537 update is the entire Township of West Hanover.

1.2 PREVIOUS WASTEWATER PLANNING

Several sewage facility planning activities for West Hanover Township have occurred since 1990. West Hanover Township completed a Township-wide Act 537 Plan in 1996. PMC3 Augmentation Plans were completed for two areas of the Township since the 1996 Plan: Fox Mill Road in 2000 and Sandy Hollow Road in 2001. Table 1-1 summarizes the applicable wastewater facility plans, year of completion, recommendations and resultant activities completed.

Table 1-1 Major Wastewater Facility Planning Conducted for West Hanover Township

Planning Study	Year Completed	Recommendations	Resultant Activities
West Hanover Township Act 537 Official Sewage Facilities Plan	1996	Construction of centralized sewage collection, conveyance and treatment system to serve areas of need in Township. Implementation of OLDS Management Program.	Adoption of OLDS Management Program providing for the inspection, maintenance and rehabilitation of Township OLDS. Initial construction of public sanitary sewers serving needs areas of the Township including construction of the West Hanover Township Water and Sewer Authority's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP).
Act 537 Augmentation Plan Fox Mill Road	2000	Conveyance of sewage from three Houses on Fox Mill Road to existing pump station on Jonestown Road using a low-pressure system.	Connection of properties on Fox Mill Road to public sewer with conveyance to West Hanover Township Water and Sewer Authority's WWTP.
Act 537 Augmentation Plan Sandy Hollow Road	2001	Phase I: Connect homes along Sandy Hollow Road to gravity sewer installed by developer. Phase II: Construction of public sewers along Terrann Drive, Hollow Road and Sandy Hollow Road.	Construction of sanitary sewers serving the needs areas with conveyance to West Hanover Township Water and Sewer Authority's WWTP.

The 1996 Act 537 Plan identified immediate sewerage needs areas in the Township as those areas where, because of development density, soils/geologic limitations, or identified septic tank malfunctions and/or well contamination, on-lot systems are no longer considered an appropriate means of providing for wastewater treatment and disposal. The Plan also identified areas of the Township contiguous to, or in the vicinity of, the immediate needs areas that should be considered for inclusion in a service area for planning purposes. The majority of the immediate needs areas of the Township identified in the 1996 Act 537 Plan have been connected to public sewer following the construction of the West Hanover Township Water and Sewer Authority's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP).

1.2.1 West Hanover Township On-lot Management Ordinance

The OLDS Management Ordinance for West Hanover Township was adopted in September 1993 to facilitate the inspection, maintenance and rehabilitation of the Township's on-lot systems and to further permit the Township to intervene in situations which are public nuisances or hazards to public health. The Ordinance establishes permitting requirements for construction and alteration of on-lot systems, empowers Township authorized personnel to conduct on-lot inspections at any time and establishes mandatory pumping of all Township on-lot systems at least once every four (4) years. A copy of the Township's On-lot Management Ordinance is included as Appendix F. Select items from the OLDS Management Ordinance include the following:

- No person shall install, construct or alter an individual sewage system or community sewage system without first obtaining a permit indicating that the site and the plans and specifications of such system are in compliance with the provisions of the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act.
- The Township may require applicants for sewage permits to notify the Township's SEO of the schedule for construction of the permitted on-lot system so that inspection may be scheduled and performed by the Township's SEO in addition to the final inspection required by Act 537.
- Any on-lot sewage disposal system may be inspected by the Township's Authorized Agent at any reasonable time. The inspection may include a physical tour of the property, the taking of samples from surface water, wells, the sampling of the contents of the sewage disposal system itself and/or the introduction of a traceable substance into the interior plumbing of the structure served to ascertain the path and ultimate destination of wastewater generated in the structure.
- The Township's Authorized Agent shall inspect systems known to be, or alleged to be, malfunctioning. Should said inspections reveal that the system is malfunctioning, the Township shall take action to require the correction of the malfunction.
- All Township on-lot systems shall have the tank pumped at least once every four (4) years. Receipts from the pumper/hauler shall be submitted to the Township.
- The required pumping frequency may be increased at the discretion of the Authorized Agent if the septic tank is undersized, if solids buildup in the tank is above average, if the hydraulic load on the system increases significantly above average, if a garbage grinder is used in the building, if the system malfunctions or for other good cause shown.
- Within seven (7) days of notification by the Township that a malfunction has been identified, the Owner shall make application to the Township's certified SEO for a permit to repair or replace the malfunctioning system.

1.3 WEST HANOVER TOWNSHIP COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Township has revised its original Comprehensive Plan, with the most recent update adopted in 2005. The Comprehensive Plan presents past and present characteristics of the Township and develops plans for achieving goals relative to land use, community facilities and services, and transportation. The Comprehensive Plan identifies the availability of sewage systems as having "a significant impact on the Township's rate of residential and commercial growth patterns." Recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan related to sewage facilities included the following:

- The Township should continue to proceed with the implementation of its approved Act 537 Plan.
- The Act 537 Plan should be used to coordinate the provision of wastewater treatment with the Township's Future Land Use Plan and the phasing of new growth and development in the Township.
- The Township should monitor sewage module activities in an effort to identify trends in development.

- The Township should strive to ensure the proper operation and maintenance of on-lot sewage disposal systems in rural low growth areas.
- The Township should explore the use of innovative and alternative wastewater disposal technologies and collection technologies.
- The Township should discourage the use of package treatment plants. In circumstances where package treatment plants are necessary, the facility should be owned and operated by the Township.

West Hanover Township's Comprehensive Plan is further detailed in Section 4.1.1. Land use recommendations and population projections developed for the Comprehensive Plan were used for this Act 537 Plan Update.