

ALLEGANY COUNTY WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE



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PURPOSE of PRESENTATION

- **To discuss the needs in Allegany County**
- **To discuss how the legislators can assist us to improve water quality**

Allegheny County Situation

- **Need for public awareness**
- **Aging Systems**
- **Need for Reinvestment**

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Water Is Life

An education program...

designed to inform and to motivate the general public, ratepayers, and elected officials to invest in water and wastewater infrastructure.

Promoted by WEF and AWWA

Target Audiences

- Allied Organizations / Professions
- Reporters
- Civic Leaders
- Business Leaders
- General Public / Ratepayers
- Water & Wastewater Utilities



The Problem...

National infrastructure investment has declined dramatically; community challenges continue:

- Aging systems
- Costly upgrades
- Inconsistent regulatory demands
- Growing populations



Celanese WWTP

ALLEGANY COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE

● DRINKING WATER:

- 175 Miles of Water Line
- 6 Storage Tanks
- 14 Districts
- 4,000 Customers

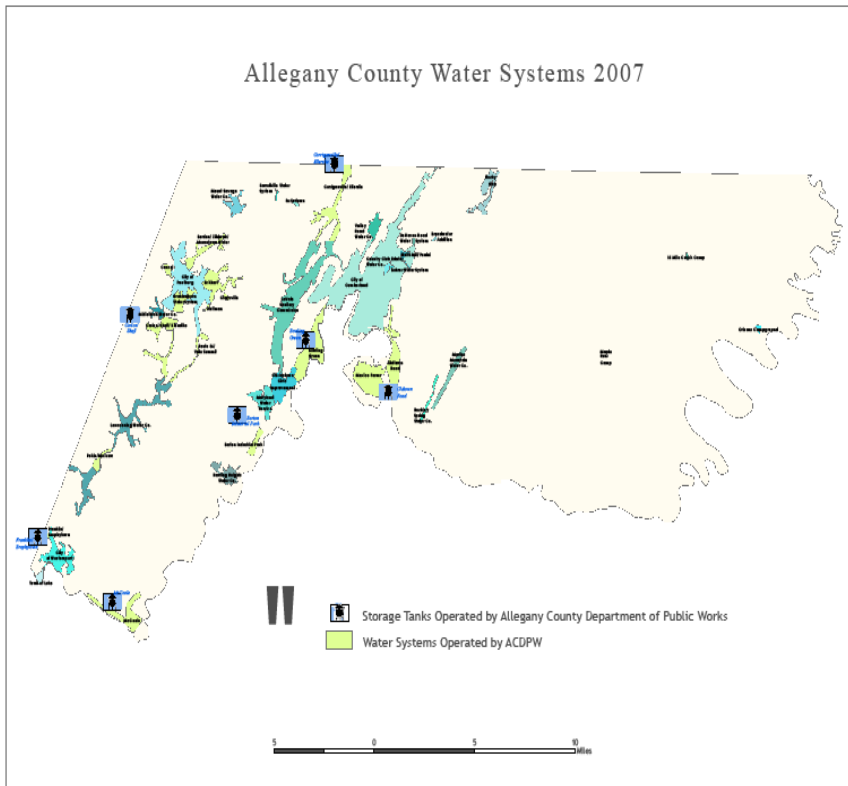


● WASTE WATER:

- 180 Miles of Sewer Line
- 6 Wastewater Treatment Plants
- 15 Districts
- 7,900 Customers



ALLEGANY COUNTY UTILITIES



24/7 Operation

25 Employees

6 Treatment Plants

355 Miles of

Water/Sewer Pipe

\$12M Annual Operations

Budget

INFRASTRUCTURE REPLACEMENT COSTS

- **Water Lines - \$46.2M @ \$50/ft.**
 - **Sewer Lines - \$47.5M @ \$50/ft.**
 - **WWTPS - \$40.0M**
 - **Total Infrastructure = \$133.7M**
-
- **Excludes pump stations, water tanks, and large valve vaults**



ALLEGANY COUNTY

- **Each year Allegany County treats 1.0B gallons of wastewater and removes over 1,600 tons of pollutants.**
- **For a rural county, we are heavily sewerred.**



Celanese
WWTP

Allegany County Infrastructure Selected Districts

Wastewater Collection:

Braddock Run	1964
Cresaptown	1964
Bedford Road	1966
Jennings Run/Wills Creek ...	1977
McCoole	1977
Flintstone	1982
Oldtown	1982
Franklin/Brophytown	1983
Georges Creek	1983
Mexico Farms	1994
Oldtown Rd. (Uhl Hwy.)	1997

Water Distribution:

Eckhart	1976
Bowling Green	1982
Ellerslie	1982
Mexico Farms	1994
Borden/Zihlman	1997
Carlos/Shaft	1998
McCoole	1999
Oldtown Road	2001

So What's the Problem?

Public law 92-500 created a construction boom of wastewater systems in the 1970's to early 1980's. Those facilities are now 30 years old and starting to wear out.

In 10 years, water pollution levels may deteriorate to those observed in the 1970s if we do not invest in our infrastructure.

(2004 Gap Analysis) U. S. Environmental Protection Agency



We need significant investments in our water and wastewater infrastructure!

Replacing and renewing....

- Is a big task
- Requires short-term and long-range planning
- Requires reinvestment
- Problem is looming and will not go away



“800 lb. Gorilla”

The Current Federal Role

- Financial Assistance
- Regulatory Requirements
- Federal Water Laws
 - Clean Water Act
 - Safe Drinking Water Act
- Most funding for drinking water and wastewater services comes from local ratepayers and taxpayers.



CURRENT STATE ROLE

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

**MDE – Bay Restoration Fee over \$18M
Grants Allocated to Allegany County
Utilities Wastewater Treatment
Plants**

**MDE – State Revolving Loan
Currently over \$9M
Over \$16M by 2008**

**MDE – Enforces EPA
Regulations and
Consent Orders**



Georges Creek WWTP

OUR CHALLENGE

- **Water distribution and wastewater collection systems do not last forever.**
- **Our I&I projects are a start but cannot keep pace with the need.**
- **Existing operations budget can not fund infrastructure replacement at required levels.**
- **Significant long term capital improvements are needed.**

OUR CHALLENGE (continued)

- **Sufficient grant money is not available.**
- **We are constantly faced with increased performance standards for both water and wastewater systems. Everyone wants cleaner water to drink and cleaner streams, but no one wants to support the rates necessary to achieve them. The smaller the system, the bigger the problem.**
- **Coping with inconsistent standards**

INCONSISTENCIES IN EPA SSO ENFORCEMENT

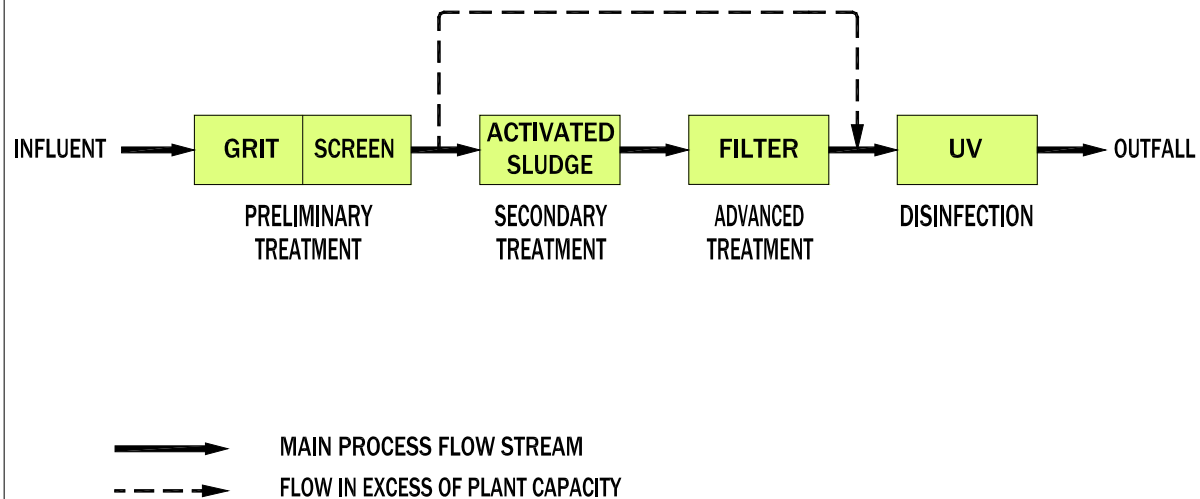
- Current MDE Consent Order – No SSO overflow; except in 20 yr. storm unwritten
- Position in Virginia – No overflow of SSO except over 2 yr. storm
- WEF presentation in Pennsylvania – overflow requirement varies – 2, 10 to 20 yr. storm
- Varies State to State and EPA Region to EPA Region
- Many municipalities believe total elimination of SSO is unattainable

INCONSISTENCY IN EPA ENFORCEMENT OF BLENDING

- **Blending**: The mixing of partially treated wastewater during a high flow storm event with fully treated wastewater
- **EPA**: Legislation under review – state interpretation varies, drastically affecting cost.

BLEND SCENARIO

TYPICAL BLEND SCENARIO AT A WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT



BLENDING

- In most cases a WWTP can meet its discharge limit during a high rainfall event with blending. The wastewater is very weak consisting mostly of rain water.

How Can Legislators Help?

- **Influence MDE to adopt consistent and reasonable standards for design rain storm**
- **Influence MDE to support and encourage reasonable blending standards with EPA**

How Can Everyone Help?

- **View our water and wastewater infrastructure as investments and community assets that need maintained and protected.**
- **Stay informed of the water and wastewater needs of your community.**
- **Support reinvestments as utility rates rise.**
- **Support capital replacement projects in every annual budget.**

For More Information

Visit...

www.gov.allconet.org

or call 301-777-5942 – Ext. 209