

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11/8/2023



CONTACT:

Susan Sampson

Lehigh County Authority | Communications Manager

610-398-2503 Ext. 164

Lehigh County Municipalities to Learn Details of Regional Sewer Plan

Projects envisioned for the next decade will require approximately \$600 million to address environmental challenges and meet current and future sewer service needs.

Allentown, PA – Beginning today, Lehigh County Authority (LCA) will be visiting officials in 15 municipalities in Lehigh County to discuss the future of sewer service in the region. These municipalities are interconnected through a decades-old network of nearly 1,000 miles of underground pipes that send the communities' wastewater to the Kline's Island Wastewater Treatment Plant in Allentown. Collectively, the system is referred to locally as the Kline's Island Sewer System.

Since 2007, federal and state regulators have been coordinating with the municipalities to develop solutions for the region's aging sewer infrastructure and dwindling system capacity that is needed to support economic growth. This lengthy planning process may be coming to a conclusion soon, and LCA is facilitating conversations with all municipalities about the projects that will be needed to address these system challenges. At its core, the plan will be focused on alleviating sanitary sewer overflows that occur during rain events and ensuring that both current and future citizens have access to reliable sewer service for the foreseeable future.

Solutions to address these sewer system challenges will be complex and expensive, with current cost estimates totaling approximately \$600 million over the next decade. To help shape the plan details, LCA will be seeking public input, which will start with meeting with each municipality involved in the program.

The municipalities connected to the Kline's Island Sewer System are:

City of Allentown

Borough of Emmaus

Borough of Macungie

Borough of Alburtis

Borough of Coplay*

Upper Macungie Township

Lower Macungie Township

South Whitehall Township

Salisbury Township

Whitehall Township*

Upper Milford Township
Hanover Township
North Whitehall Township*
Weisenberg Township
Lowhill Township

** The Borough of Coplay, Whitehall Township and North Whitehall Township receive sewer service through an agreement with the Coplay-Whitehall Sewer Authority.*

The sewage facilities plan, called an Act 537 Plan, is required by the Pa. Department of Environmental Protection due to the long-standing environmental and sewer capacity challenges in the region. Details of the plan are still under development, but LCA wants every municipality in the Kline's Island Sewer System to be involved in the planning process.

In the municipal meetings scheduled over the next month, LCA will review details about the Kline's Island Sewer System and the project concepts that are being developed. A more detailed financial analysis and review of sewer rates to support the plan will be presented in early 2024. A series of public input meetings will be held next year as well to ensure citizens can weigh in and learn more before the plan is finalized.

As the plan details are developed, information will be posted on a dedicated website, lehighcountysewer.org, along with opportunities for public input.

Upcoming municipal meetings that LCA is scheduled to attend are listed below, with other municipal meetings to be scheduled in December.

South Whitehall Township	11/8/2023	6 p.m.
Hanover Township	11/15/2023	6 p.m.
Coplay-Whitehall Sewer Authority	11/16/2023	7 p.m.
Borough of Emmaus	11/20/2023	6 p.m.
Salisbury Township	11/21/2023	7 p.m.
Lower Macungie Township	11/27/2023	6 p.m.
Borough of Alburtis	11/29/2023	7 p.m.
Upper Macungie Township	12/7/2023	7 p.m.

LCA is facilitating this effort as the regional municipal agency charged with providing service to all 15 municipalities. While LCA operates regional components of the Kline's Island Sewer System – large sewer interceptors, pump stations and treatment facilities – each municipality is responsible for maintaining their own sewer lines.

#

About [Lehigh County Authority](#): Lehigh County Authority (LCA) is a public water and wastewater utility committed to protecting public health and the environment by providing high-quality, safe, and reliable water and wastewater services, serving a population of approximately 270,000 people. A nonprofit, public agency, LCA was founded in 1966 by the County of Lehigh and is governed by a nine-member board of directors appointed by the County.