



Sewer System Overflows: Municipalities work together to solve a regional problem

Did you know that most communities in Lehigh County are interconnected through a regional sewer system? This sewer system serves 14 municipalities – townships, boroughs and the City of Allentown – and all sewage from homes and businesses in this area is transported through a large pipe network down to Allentown for treatment.

During rain storms in our region, rain water enters the sewer system through leaks in the pipes, customer sump pumps and roof leaders, unsealed manholes, etc. This excess water can overwhelm the system. Sometimes, sewage can overflow manholes and other facilities during rain events, allowing untreated sewage to enter our environment.

This is a community problem that we all need to work together to solve!

In 2009, the US EPA named LCA and all the connected municipalities in an “Administrative Order” to eliminate these overflows. So far, the communities and LCA have spent about \$25 Million to work on this problem, repairing leaking lines, sealing manholes, and studying wet-weather flows to determine the most important repairs to complete.

We’ve been working together to complete this important work, but more work is needed, and we need to balance that need with the impact to our customers’ sewer rates. In November, we will be asking EPA to grant us a time extension on this Administrative Order so that we can continue to plan responsibly and focus our efforts on eliminating sewer system overflows and protecting our precious water resources.

Learn More & Get Involved!

Public Meeting: Thursday, November 13, 2014 - 6:30 p.m.

Lehigh County Government Center - 17 S. 7th St, Allentown, PA

Street parking after 6 p.m. – free Park at lot across 7th Street – \$3.00*

Visit www.allentownparking.com for more parking options. Hope to see you there!

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www.lehighcountyauthority.org**