

**OPENING OF OFFICIAL COMMENT PERIOD
LONGSWAMP TOWNSHIP OFFICIAL ACT 537 PLAN**

On May 18, 2009, Longswamp Township officially opened its comment period concerning the Township's proposed Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan and the Social and Economic Justification for the proposed wastewater treatment plant discharge to the Toad Creek. The public comment period will be open for thirty (30) days, closing on June 18, 2009.

The Plan was previously authorized and adopted by the Township on December 27, 2005 after conclusion of the original comment period. No additional Study of Needs documents have been produced and the recommended alternatives have not changed since the initial evaluation.

After evaluation of non-discharge options, including spray irrigation, it is determined that non-discharge options are not feasible. All previous study documents are available for review at the Longswamp Township Municipal Office.

The Plan proposes the construction of public sanitary sewer collection and conveyance system and the construction of a public wastewater treatment plant utilizing a discharge to the Toad Creek. This treatment plant is to be constructed with a capacity of 300,000 gallons per day with planning for an expansion to 500,000 gallons per day. The amended estimated cost of these facilities is:

Collection System	\$ 6.3 million
Wastewater Treatment Plant	\$ 7.0 million
Total	\$13.3 million

The funding alternatives for the Plan have not been changed since the original submission to D.E.P. on January 26, 2006.

The Plan proposes amended funding amounts as follows:

· PENNVEST Loan	\$ 2.6 million
· PENNVEST/H ₂ O Grant	\$ 5.8 million
· Tapping Fee	\$ 0.6 million
· Connection Fee	\$ 0.3 million
· Developer Contribution	\$ 4.0 million
Total	\$13.3 million

The Plan proposes that the cost of these facilities would be paid for by those required to utilize these facilities. The typical Fees imposed on a single-family home or equivalent dwelling unit (EDU) are the same as previously advertised, that is a Connection Fee of \$800 and a Customer Facility Fee of \$150, except that the Tapping Fee could be reduced from \$4,200 to as low as \$1,500 if appropriate grant funding is acquired in the amount provided above.

These Fees would be first-year costs in addition to the plumbing cost the private property owner would incur with the construction of the building sewer from the edge of the street or

easement to the building. These private plumber costs vary depending upon the property owner's building location and sewer connection arrangement.

The Annual User Fee for a typical residential dwelling (EDU) is projected to remain at \$895. This would be charged at \$224/quarter.

The amended Implementation Schedule provided in the Plan is as follows:

1.	Township approval of the Act 537 Official Sewage Facilities Plan	June 23, 2009
2.	PA DEP approval of the Township Act 537 Official Sewage Facilities Plan	October 31, 2009
3.	Adoption of the Longswamp Township Sewage Management Program (Ordinance No. 238)	Completed December 12, 2006
4.	Design of collection system and wastewater treatment system	December 31, 2012
5.	PA DEP and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Permits	June 30, 2013
6.	Adoption of Rates, Rules, and Regulations for connection to and utilization of the public sanitary sewer	December 31, 2013
7.	Closing on project financing and start of construction	June 30, 2014
8.	Completion of construction and issuance of "Notice to Connect"	December 31, 2015

The Plan also includes a Social and Economic Justification which details additional funding analysis, environmental control criteria and summary of Township funding levels and sources.

Written comments during the comment period will be accepted at the Township Office located at 1112 State Street, Mertztown, Pennsylvania 19539-0037 during regular business hours.

Copies of the Township's proposed Amended Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan and Social and Economic Justification report are available for public inspection at the Township Office during regular business hours or by appointment.