

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 Strasburg Township Board of Supervisors, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, authorized the preparation of this report to serve as the Official Sewage Facilities Plan for Strasburg Township. The planning area for this Act 537 Plan will include all of Strasburg Township. Special Study Areas for the Act 537 Plan include the Refton Study Area, Creekview Study Area, and the Pennsylvania State Route (S.R.) 896 Designated Growth Area (DGA). Each of the Study Areas for this Act 537 Plan is further described in Chapters 2 and 3.

The purpose of this Act 537 Plan is to address the wastewater disposal needs of Strasburg Township based on anticipated growth within the Township and the operation of existing sewage disposal facilities. The need for improved wastewater facilities, or lack thereof, in each of the Study Areas will be evaluated in the following sections of this Plan. Attached as Appendix B is the Plan of Study and Task/Activity Report approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

This Act 537 Plan has been prepared in accordance with *The Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act – A Guide for Preparing Act 537 Update Revisions* and is organized based on DEP’s Act 537 Plan Content and Environmental Assessment Checklist, a completed copy of which is attached as Appendix L.

1.2 PREVIOUS WASTEWATER PLANNING

Several sewage facility planning efforts for Strasburg Township have occurred since the original Plan was completed in 1970. Strasburg Township completed a Township-wide Sewerage Feasibility Study in 1974. In 1988, the Township initiated the development of an Official Sewage Facilities Plan, evaluating the need for public sewer in the DGAs. The Township’s Official Sewage Facilities Plan is revised each time DEP Sewage Facilities Planning Modules are submitted and approved for OLDS and wastewater treatment and sewer extensions to serve new developments in the Township. These planning requirements are further defined in Strasburg Township’s Zoning Ordinance (1995). Table 1-1 summarizes the applicable wastewater facility plans, year of completion, recommendations, and resultant activities completed to date.

Table 1-1 Major Wastewater Facility Planning Conducted for Strasburg Township

Planning Study	Year Completed	Recommendations	Resultant Activities
Comprehensive Sewage Plan, Lancaster County	1970	Construction of public sewer service with collection, conveyance to regional wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) to serve areas of need in Township.	Regional treatment facility was never implemented as a result of financial considerations.
Sewerage Feasibility Study	1974	Continued use of OLDS if public sewer service is not feasible.	Public sewer service not feasible due to limited number of service connections in areas of need in Township.

Planning Study	Year Completed	Recommendations	Resultant Activities
Draft Official Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan	1989	Construction of wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and/or conveyance to City of Lancaster treatment system via the SLSA collection system to serve areas of need in Township. Continued use of OLDS if public sewer service is not feasible in Designated Growth Areas.	Completion of PA Route 741 Sanitary Sewer Extension Project for Strasburg Rail Road Company in 2007.
Draft Official Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Update	2002	Continued use of OLDS if public sewer service is not feasible in Designated Growth Areas. Implement Sewage Management Program.	This Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan supersedes this Draft Plan.

1.3 STRASBURG REGION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The update to the 1995 Strasburg Region Joint Comprehensive Plan was prepared in 2006. The *2006 Strasburg Region Comprehensive Plan* was adopted by the Strasburg Borough Council and the Strasburg Township Board of Supervisors on October 9, 2006, based on the recognition of the importance of emphasizing cooperative planning efforts between the two municipalities, identifying community goals, anticipating change, and articulating a strategy for development and land use, including preservation efforts in the region.

In relation to community facilities and services, the *2006 Strasburg Region Comprehensive Plan* indicates that the availability of public water service and public sewerage has been recognized as being critical for higher density development. This Plan and the Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan serve as the foundation for establishing the future sewer planning needs of the Township. Recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan related to sewage facilities included the following:

- The Region will support the provision of public sewerage through the Township's Act 537 Plan to those areas where it is needed within the Designated Growth Area (DGA) boundaries. The DGA includes the entirety of Strasburg Borough as well as portions of Strasburg Township that surround the Borough and are logical places for growth.
- Extending public sewerage to rural areas and to the agricultural security area will not be promoted.
- The municipalities will specifically evaluate the possibility of extending public sewerage into the portion of the Township along S.R. 741 between the Borough and the Strasburg Rail Road (Completed in 2007) as well as along the commercial strip along S.R. 896 between the Borough and East Lampeter Township.
- The Township will investigate means to provide safe sewage disposal to those areas where there are existing problems of malfunctioning OLDS. The preferred strategy for the rural areas is one that will address existing malfunctions without accommodating inappropriate development.

The future land use mapping and future growth projections (ten-year and twenty-year) presented in the Comprehensive Plan were considered in the determination of the need for public sewage facilities.

Strasburg Region 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.

1.4 LANCASTER COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan is comprised of three components: the *Policy Element*, the *Growth Management Element*, and the *Functional Elements*. The *Policy Element* was updated in 1999 to provide guidance for the growth and change that is occurring in Lancaster County. The *Growth Management Element* was updated in 2003 and represents the land use goals and objectives contained in the *Policy Element*. The *Functional Elements* are specialized planning documents designed to specifically address issues of concern. These address singular issues such as open space, housing, cultural resources, or transportation. One of the major cornerstones of the plan was its intention to set the stage for a well-integrated and balanced planning effort within the County.

The County has made an effort to make sure that the County Comprehensive plan serves as the backbone for any and all additional planning efforts and is slated to guide Lancaster County for the next 25 years. The Plan is designed to encourage residences to work to maintain the quality of life residents enjoy; implement smart growth principles to revitalize urban growth areas; and preserve the County's farmland, open space and unique cultural heritage.