

# PA DEP Small Drinking Water Systems Engineering Services Program (ESP) Case Study

Client Name: Oak Hall Water Association  
Location: Centre County, Pennsylvania  
Project Name: Water System Interconnection



## Background:

The Oak Hall Water Association (OHWA) Public Water System (PWS) served approximately 78 people through 31 interconnections using a surface water source.

## Public Health Challenges:

The surface water source, containing two (2) reservoirs, was unfiltered and did not comply with the PA Filter Rule. An alternative source or filtration of the existing source was necessary.

## Capacity Issues:

**Technical** – The surface source required a treatment system to comply with regulations, or an alternative source had to be developed.

**Managerial** – The OHWA could not effectively operate and maintain the system due to increased regulatory requirements and its small size.

**Financial** – The small customer base and the high user rates (highest in Centre County) did not allow the OHWA to increase rates and upgrade their existing system to achieve compliance.

## Actions:

- A Feasibility Study was completed to determine the most viable alternative to provide safe drinking water. An interconnection with the adjacent College Township Water Authority (CTWA; a viable PWS) was identified as the most feasible option.
- A 3,700 foot, 8-inch DIP main was designed, permitted, and constructed between OHWA and CTWA.

## Outcomes:

- The PADEP Consolidation Construction Grant Program was used to fund 75% of the interconnection construction, with the owner providing 25% through in-kind services and a cash contribution.
- Cooperative efforts of the federal, state, and local government entities contributed to the success of the project.
- The interconnection was completed providing potable water meeting all safe drinking water requirements to the OHWA customers.
- The project complied with the consolidation recommendation of the Centre County Small Water Systems Regionalization Study.
- CTWA now operates and maintains the system serving the OHWA customers. The OHWA is no longer a separate Community Water System.
- Customers in the community were not burdened with financing a large improvement project.

