

# Cranberry Township

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SENECA, PENNSYLVANIA

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May 30, 2008

Honorable Representative Scott E. Hutchinson  
Joint Conservation Committee  
PA House of Representatives  
House Box 202254  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-2254

Re: Cranberry Township, Venango County  
Wastewater Collection and Treatment Needs

Dear Representative Hutchinson:

The Township Supervisors and the General Authority members appreciate our Legislators, the Governor's and the Department of Environmental Protection's concern about the state of municipal potable water and sewerage systems. We were unable to attend the public hearing you and Senator White held on May 21, 2008 but present this letter as our comments to the Task Force.

Our Township completed a Sewer System Evaluation Report in 1996 to determine the needs of the sewerage system serving the Township. This report led to the Authority implementing a sewer system rehabilitation program that is on-going. In addition to this work the Township completed an Act 537 Plan in 2003 which addressed the sewerage need for an area of 117 homes that required municipal sewerage and for the expansion of a portion of the existing system to provide for economic growth. The Authority and Township have expended approximately \$2,100,000 since 1996 to address sewerage needs (approximately \$1,100,000 of this was funded through PENNVEST).

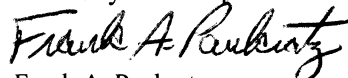
The aforementioned rehabilitation program is still underway and has led to the probable development of another Act 537 Plan update for other regions of the existing sewerage system. The Township's sewerage rates are in the mid \$30 per month, which overall may seem reasonable. The Township's wastewater is treated at the City of Oil City's treatment plant. The City has, itself, recently completed an Act 537 and CSO plan that has identified the need for major improvements over the next 5 to 20 years, all of which will affect the Township's sewerage costs. The City has projected a \$20 to \$30 per month increase in rates to complete their improvements.

The Township intends to meet with the regional office of the PADEP in the near future to discuss the aforementioned Act 537 Plan update and recently purchased a collection line internal inspection camera system to further investigate its collection system. The Township Supervisor's anticipate this investigation will identify rehabilitation needs, costs which will be determined in the future.

We respectfully request the Task Force advise the Governor and our Commonwealth Legislators the Township and Authority are willing to resolve any rehabilitation needs but with the escalation in materials, fuel and construction costs the need for financial assistance from the Commonwealth will most likely be necessary. So, please find a way to provide effective financial assistance to municipalities such as ours so that the Township and Commonwealth may continue to grow and prosper.

Please contact me directly if you require further information.

Sincerely,  
Cranberry Township



Frank A. Pankratz  
Secretary/Treasurer

C: Senator Mary Jo White  
Joseph P. Pacchioni, P.E., HRG

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MAY 30 2008

*Sandra L. Anderson, Chairman*

*William R. Felege, Vice-Chairman*

*Paul J. Pangratz, Supervisor*

May 23, 2008

Honorable Representative Scott E. Hutchinson  
Joint Conservation Committee  
PA House of Representatives  
House Box 202254  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-2254

Re: Girard Township, Erie County  
Wastewater Collection and Treatment Needs

Dear Representative Hutchinson:

The Township Supervisors appreciate our legislators concern about the state of municipal potable water and sewerage systems. Since 1999 our Township as been trying to complete an Act 537 Plan to address malfunctioning on-lot sewage systems and the need to abandon aged package treatment systems. One reason we have been unable to complete our Act 537 Plan is that it has proposed connecting to two adjoining municipal systems that have been identified as having excessive flows and needing improvements to plants that are between 20 and 60 years old. The Township did investigate the possibility of constructing its own municipal treatment plant but determined it would not be in the best interest of the primary receiving stream, Elk Creek, or Lake Erie (another possible direct discharge point).

The Township is now negotiating a Consent Order and Agreement with the PADEP to resolve its sewerage problems, a negotiation that contains the unresolved question as to the cost of treatment at the adjoining municipalities, one of which has implemented a five Corrective Action Plan.

The Township's overall project would provide service to approximately 700 existing residences and businesses. The current cost projection for this sewerage system, without any improvements to the adjoining municipal systems, is \$8,500,000. Allowing for a PENNVEST loan of 1% for 30 years the projected monthly fee range for the residents is \$90 to \$120 per month.

The Township will be proceeding with a phased implementation plan that is being driven by the aforementioned Consent Order and Agreement. This agreement requires the Township to abandon an existing operational treatment plant that service 393 residences and 12 businesses and to connect to the Borough's system even though it is hydraulically overloaded. The Township is now in the process of obtaining easements for the installation of the

sewerage system. The projected cost for this system is \$1,800,000 with an average monthly fee of \$70 to \$80 per residences (without grant funding). This system will serve an area that is primarily low income. As the committee can understand a monthly fee in this range to low income residents is excessive.

We respectfully request the Task Force advise the Governor and our Commonwealth Legislators the Township is willing to address its sewerage needs but the costs of construction along with operations and maintenance may make municipal sewerage system unaffordable. So, please find a way to provide effective financial assistance to municipalities such as ours so that we can mitigate our problems and promote growth within all regions of the Commonwealth.

Please contact me directly if you require further information.

Sincerely;

***The Girard Township Board of Supervisors***

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