

# REGIONAL CONVEYANCE FACILITIES OF THE INTERIM WET WEATHER PLAN



Act 537 Plan Special Study  
Companion Document

March 2022





**During rain events or snow melts, the sewer system becomes overloaded and causes diluted, untreated wastewater overflows into our region's rivers, streams, and creeks.**



**Every year, approximately nine billion gallons of sewage mixed with rainwater pollute our local waterways.**

**ALCOSAN's Clean Water Plan is a \$2 billion, 20-year plan for improving and protecting the quality of the region's waterways by reducing the volume of wet weather overflows by about seven billion gallons a year.**

# ALCOSAN'S CLEAN WATER PLAN



ALCOSAN has adopted the Clean Water Plan (CWP) to improve and protect the quality of the region's streams and rivers by controlling combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and eliminating sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). The CWP is part of the modified Federal Consent Decree to comply with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's CSO Control Policy.

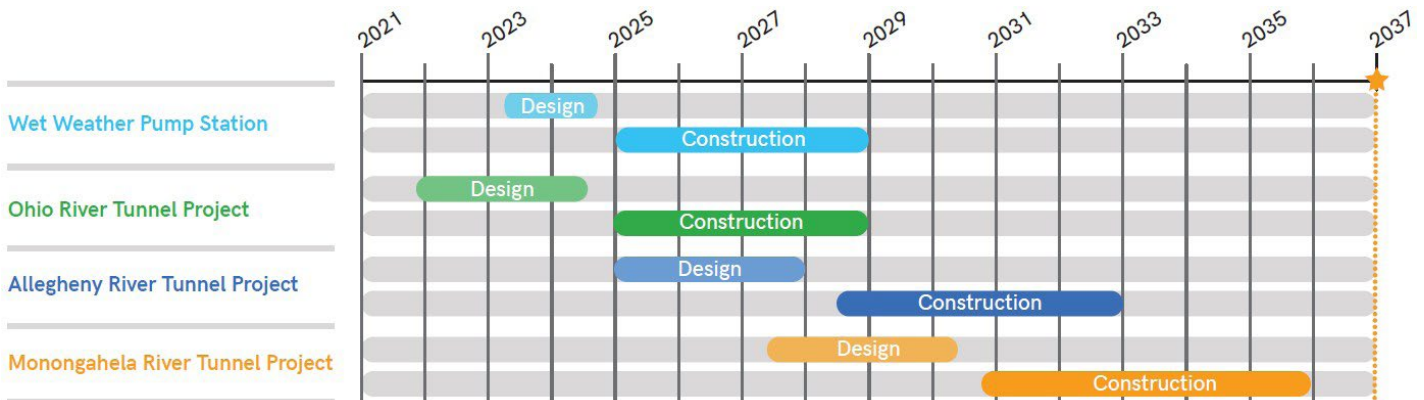
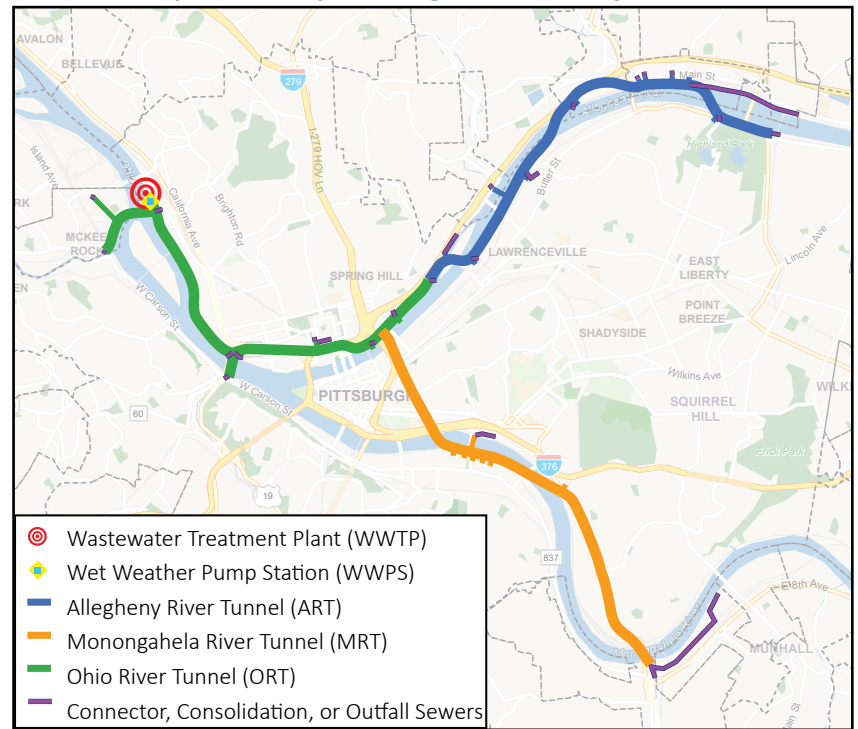
The CWP is made up of four components: preventing excess water from entering the sewer systems; expanding the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP); taking ownership of multi-municipal sewers; and **constructing a new regional tunnel system**, using the best data in future construction.

## The regional tunnel system will capture wet weather flows and move them to the WWTP for treatment.

The new regional tunnel system will consist of three major tunnel projects, including near surface facilities that will be operated together with a new wet weather pump station. The system will capture wet weather flows and move them to the WWTP for treatment. Implementation will start with the Ohio River Tunnel project.

The implementation of the proposed regional tunnel system coupled with the WWTP expansion and the other components of the CWP is anticipated to reduce the volume of wet weather overflows by approximately seven billion gallons per year by the end of 2036. This will help ALCOSAN meet the ultimate requirement of the consent decree to improve water quality through the reduction of overflows.

Overview Map of the Proposed Regional Tunnel System (subject to change)



## The Act 537 Plan Special Study is one of the first steps towards implementing the regional tunnel system.

The Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act (Act 537) was enacted to correct existing sewage disposal problems and prevent future problems. To meet this objective, the Act requires proper planning in all types of sewage disposal situations. PaDEP provides assistance and oversight to assist in fulfilling this responsibility.

Under Act 537, municipalities are required to develop and implement comprehensive official plans that provide for their current and future wastewater management needs. ALCOSAN's approved Act 537 Plan was developed on behalf of its 83 customer municipalities. It was amended in 2018 to address the expansion of the wet weather treatment capacity.

The current Special Study is a second amendment to the 537 Plan covering the Regional Conveyance Facilities included in ALCOSAN's Clean Water Plan. The Regional Conveyance Facilities consist of a 120 million gallon per day wet weather pump station and the new regional tunnel system. The study includes a comprehensive Uniform Environmental Review of the temporary and long-term environmental and community impacts of the new facilities. The Special Study is a key component of the permitting process that will allow ALCOSAN to proceed with the construction of the regional tunnel system as required by the Modified Consent Decree.

### 537 Plan Schedule

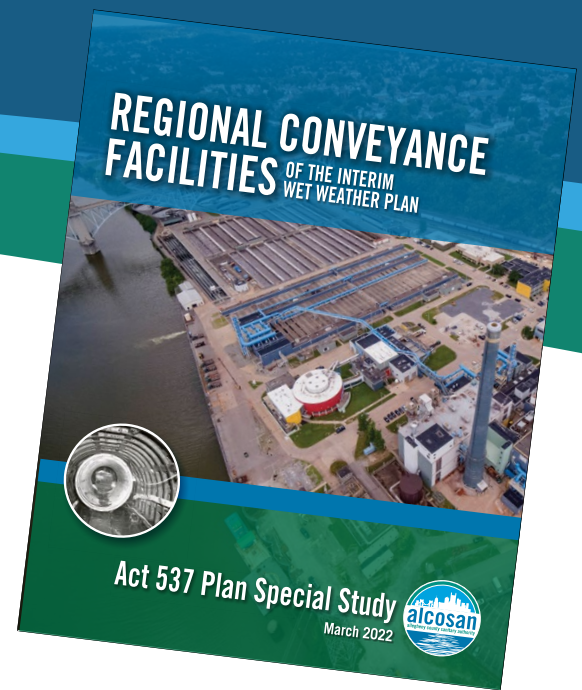
**November 2021-February 2022:** Present Act 537 Plan Special Study to municipalities.

**March 2022:** Release Act 537 Plan for public comment. Public outreach includes two virtual meetings, a 60-day local agency review period, and a 30-day public comment period on the Plan, including the Uniform Environmental Review.

**April 2022:** Collect municipal, local agency, and public comments and revise Plan to incorporate comments and responses.

**May 2022:** Collect signed municipal resolutions adopting the 537 Plan Special Study.

**June - July 2022:** Submit Plan to Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.



### What does the 537 Plan include?

- Previous Wastewater Planning
- Current Conditions
- ALCOSAN's Capital Improvement Program
- Service Population, Flow, and Loading Projections
- Alternatives Analysis and Proposed Facilities
- Environmental and Regulatory Consistency Review
- Financial & Institutional Evaluation
- Implementation Schedule
- Public and Stakeholder Participation

**ALCOSAN's 537 Plan was approved in 1996. The first amendment was in 2018, for the plant expansion. Now, a new special study is being produced for the regional tunnel system.**



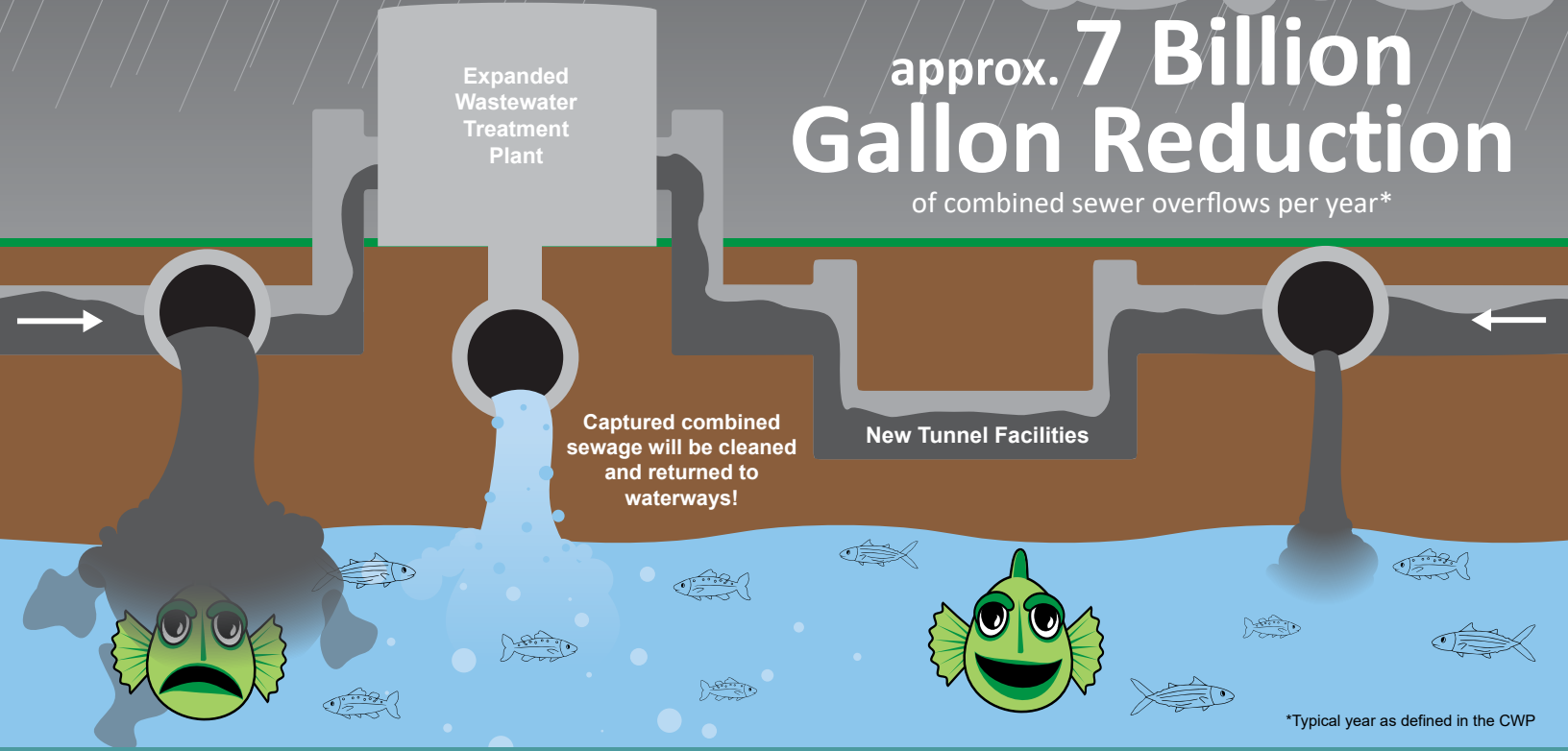
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The regional tunnel system, combined with other components of the CWP, will reduce wet weather combined sewer overflows.

Current Facilities

After Regional Tunnel System/CWP

approx. **7 Billion**  
**Gallon Reduction**  
of combined sewer overflows per year\*



\*Typical year as defined in the CWP

## How can I participate?

Provide your input on the 537 Plan and stay up-to-date on the progress of the CWP and regional tunnel system via:



Visit [ALCOSAN.org](https://alcosan.org) to fill out the 537 Plan input form, check for public meetings, and sign up for the newsletter



Email ALCOSAN at [public.relations@alcosan.org](mailto:public.relations@alcosan.org) with questions or comments



Mail comments directly to ALCOSAN at 3300 Preble Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15233



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