

Allegheny Basin

**Overflow Control Facilities Demonstration Project
Allegheny Basin Working Group
March 13, 2007**

Attendees

Paul Eiswerth, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
John Schombert, Three Rivers Wet Weather Demonstration Project
Tim Rogers, Shaler Township
Len Jesteadt, Millvale Marina
Grace Jesteadt, Millvale Marina
John Coyne, Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh
Virginia Heller, Boro of Millvale
Tom Baxter, Friends of the Riverfont
Michelle Buys, Allegheny County Health Department
Vince Cinski, Mayor, Millvale

Presenters:

ALCOSAN staff: Arletta Scott Williams
Dave Borneman
ALCOSAN consultant: Greg Heath, Metcalf & Eddy

Presentation Overview

- Arletta Scott Williams, Executive Director of ALCOSAN, welcomed the members of the Working Group, thanked them for their participation, and explained the purpose of the meeting. Ms. Williams invited participants to introduce themselves.
- David Borneman explained that ALCOSAN provides wastewater treatment services to 83 communities, including the City of Pittsburgh, serving a population of almost 900,000. Mr. Borneman outlined the wet weather sewage overflow issue. He explained that combined sewer systems carry both sewage and storm water. During wet weather, excess water overloads the sewer system and results in sewage overflows into area creeks, streams and rivers. Sewage overflow must be controlled to ensure rivers that are safe for recreation and attractive for development as well as to comply with State and Federal environmental regulations. Mr. Borneman described the Overflow Control Facility demonstration project area and presented a series of potential project sites identified by the technical team.

- Greg Heath, of Metcalf & Eddy, presented an overview of the Combined Sewer Overflow technologies:
 - Screening and disinfection facilities which control floatables and bacteria in overflows;
 - Swirl/vortex facilities which control floatables, solids, and bacteria in overflows;
 - Underground tanks which store and treat overflows; and
 - Ballasted floc facilities which control floatables, solids, and bacteria in overflows.

- Mr. Heath explained that the consultant team is in the process of developing facility alternatives. In order to propose treatment facilities, the team must analyze the fit between the range of technologies and the siting options. That analysis involves the following steps to:
 - Assemble data for sizing technologies, including peak flows, overflow volumes, range of storm sizes and design/sizing criteria;
 - Determine the size of the various technologies;
 - Develop layouts for the various technologies;
 - Determine if the layouts “fit” the sites;
 - Assess the vertical layout of the various technologies; and
 - Assemble preliminary site data such as land use, ownership, zoning, future use, Brownfield status, access and suitability for Overflow Control Facility use, and potential impact on nearby uses.

- In order to further explain the process of analyzing the fit between technology and site, Mr. Heath presented a case study of the analysis undertaken for the fit between a detention/treatment facility and the parking lot next to the recreation area. He presented a matrix showing a summary of the fit of the various technologies on the site relative to 0, 1, 2, 4, and 7 overflows per year. The matrix outlined whether, relative to those overflows, the technology would not fit, might fit, or probably would fit. Mr. Heath also presented a summary of all sites, their sizes, and their probability of fit with the various technologies.

- Before inviting comments and questions, Mr. Heath presented the next project steps. He explained that the next round of Working Group meetings would focus on the evaluation and comparison of alternatives.

Questions/Comments

- The green portion of site 5, on Washington’s Landing, is a parcel owned by the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh’s Industrial Development Corporation. That portion represents a future expansion site for building. The grey portion of the site is part of a parking lot that is under a long-term lease to

the marina. It also is loaded with utilities that were relocated there by the PennDOT.

- Site 6 is a parcel that is part of the Washington's Landing Redevelopment Plan, intended to be an off-parcel for marina usage. In addition there are contaminated materials in the soil (the site is a former salvage yard).
- Are the Millvale sites "etched in stone?"
- *No, not at all.*
- Will the facility be above ground or below ground?
- *It will most likely be a combination of above and below ground.*
- The recreation area has exceeded Millvale's expectations. Don't take our parking away!
- There is concern about the impact of the overflow control facility on Washington's Landing (odor, screening, etc.), even if the facility is across the channel from Washington's Landing.
- The widening of Route 28 may clip a portion of the parcel between A-62 and A-63, but it will still leave the west end of the site developable.
- Given that the parking lot would only accommodate the smallest facility, is it still "worth it?" At this time it is still an alternative and being evaluated.
- Does ALCOSAN have funding for the project?
- *We are always looking for funding, but, if this project goes forward, it is still a few years away from construction.*
- There is land available upstream in Girty's Run for a potential satellite treatment facility.
- *This whole concept is restricted to addressing the combined sewer overflow (CSO issue). If Girty's Run were the receiving stream for an overflow control facility discharge, we don't know what level of treatment would be required. If the facility is sited upstream of the CSO, it may defeat the purpose. We could, however, look at this as part of an overall regional solution.*
- Why can't the hazardous waste site be cleaned and then accommodate the overflow control facility?
- *Any facility on that site would have to be above ground. Excavation is not acceptable because it is a previously capped site.*
- The owner of the Millvale Marina expressed frustration over the situation of the sewage around his marina. He believes that there was a promise to provide a 600 foot long pipe to send the outfall further out into the river. A pipe of 100 feet

long was built. He believes that a 200 foot extension would solve the problem. He either wants the pipe extended or wants to have his property bought out.

- *ALCOSAN would not be surprised if the pipe had to go to the other bank to accomplish the moving of the outfall.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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