

**Overflow Control Facilities (OCF) Demonstration Project
Monongahela Basin Working Group Meeting
Monday, May 4, 2009
10:00 – 11:30 AM
Carnegie Library of Homestead**

Attendees

Rebecca Wehler, Munhall Borough
Dave Cornelius, Marcegaglia USA
Karl Sieg, West Homestead Engineer
Glen Guckes, West Homestead
Jim Hannan, West Mifflin Sanitary Sewer Municipal Authority
Paul Eiswerth, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Ray Bodnar, Munhall Borough
Patrick Earley, Allegheny County Economic Development
Michael Terrick, Munhall Municipal Authority
Donna Dreshman, Citizen
Bill Stasko, West Homestead Council
Richard Lassige, Whitaker Council
Megan Driscoll, Riverlife
Richard Votedian, Munhall Borough Council
Bob Macey, Allegheny County Council, District 9
Greg Scott, Chester Engineers/Munhall Borough
David Terrick, Marcegaglia USA
Peter Wray, Sierra Club
Dan Lloyd, Munhall Borough
Jean Warren, Whitaker Borough
John Findley, ALCOSAN
Dan Lockard, ALCOSAN
Nancy Barylak, ALCOSAN
Jim Bowser, Chester Engineers
Karen Brean, Brean Associates

Presenters:

ALCOSAN staff: Dave Borneman
ALCOSAN consultant: Greg Heath, AECOM

Presentation Overview

Dave Borneman welcomed the attendees and asked all to introduce themselves. By way of background, he explained that ALCOSAN's Long-term Wet Weather Control Concept Plan, developed about ten years ago, recognized the need for satellite treatment facilities. The Overflow Control Facilities Demonstration Project was developed to explore technologies and site issues. The two areas of Girty's Run and Munhall were selected for study for the demonstration project. He also outlined the purpose and goals of the project:

- Comply with combined sewer overflow (CSO) policy;
- Improve water quality;
- Control solid and floatable materials;
- Demonstrate effective technologies;
- Design a remote facility capable of intermittent operation; and
- Develop a facility that requires low maintenance.

Greg Heath presented an overview of the project and the study area. He stated that the project team had examined the system characterization and siting options, developed alternatives, and evaluated and compared alternatives. The project team distributed the Draft Recommended Plan and, following the comment period, will prepare the Final Recommended Plan.

Greg Heath explained that the development of alternatives involves examining the "fit" between the technologies, the level of control (ranging from zero to seven untreated overflows per year), and the potential sites. He explained that the range of technologies includes:

- Screening and disinfection;
- Swirl/vortex;
- Detention/treatment;
- Ballasted flocculation;
- Storage tank; and
- Storage tunnel.

Greg Heath described the site issues and the fit between technologies and the following sites:

- M2 – Ravine Street;
- M3 – West of Marcegaglia; and
- M5 – Carrie Furnace.

He also discussed the major cost factors, the non-monetary factors used to evaluate and compare the sites and technologies, and the cost/performance graphs, which provide another way to compare the alternatives. Based on the analysis, the recommended alternative is a facility for screening and disinfection, sized to provide a maximum of seven untreated overflows per year, located on site M3 – west of Marcegaglia.

Questions/Comments

Dave Borneman opened up the discussion by noting that the advancement of this project would depend not only on funding, but on the community's reception of it. He added that the project would have to be coordinated with other projects in Munhall to be successful. He fielded the following questions and comments from the Working Group members:

- Dave Terrick, of Marcegaglia USA asked about the square footage of the proposed facility?

Greg Heath noted that the numbers are in the report and he would locate them.

POST MEETING NOTE: *The footprint of the proposed facility is estimated to be 1.6 acres to accommodate 7 untreated overflows per year. The size of the facility could possibly be as large as 3 acres if the Munhall trunk sewer line is increased to further reduce CSO's.*

- Dave Terrick, of Marcegaglia USA, noted that Marcegaglia is opposed to the proposed facility being placed on their property. Although the area was described as west of their facility, it is, in fact, on their property. That location will hinder the company's ability to expand and create jobs.

Dave Borneman stated that ALCOSAN appreciated the comments and knew of Marcegaglia's opposition but was hopeful that they could work together. He noted that ALCOSAN was not aware of the details of Marcegaglia's expansion plans. He noted that one factor that results in the Marcegaglia site being favored is that it has space for an expansion of the OCF if needed in the future.

- Dave Terrick, of Marcegaglia USA, asked why the project team didn't look at unoccupied land for placement of the facility?

At the request made at a previous workshop, we had looked at the property across from Marcegaglia and believed it would be more expensive. There also was opposition voiced by the property owner. Dave Borneman explained that the project team explored this site because of its cost effectiveness. The team thought that the site could allow for both uses. However, if it is unworkable, ALCOSAN will revisit other, more expensive, sites. Mr. Borneman also noted that ALCOSAN owes its entire customer base an explanation of what is, and is not, feasible.

- Michael Terrick, of the Munhall Municipal Authority, stated that, although people in the community support the Marcegaglia location, he is concerned about taking taxable property and making it untaxable. He suggests, in general, avoiding taking waterfront property and recommends taking less valuable property that needs to be enhanced. He noted that Munhall supports the M-2 site and he stated that he would work with the community. He believes that people would be open to being compensated for their property.

Dave Borneman explained that the project team was concerned about potential adverse impact of displacing residential or commercial properties and the site's proximity to homes in terms of both providing an adequate buffer and the ability to expand in the future. Furthermore, even if there were a facility placed on the M-2 site, there would still be a need for a pump station on the Marceaglia site.

- Karl Sieg, West Homestead Engineer, asked about the ALCOSAN costs of the proposed facility versus the municipal costs.

Dave Borneman explained that the costs outlined for the facility are all ALCOSAN costs. Furthermore, the Overflow Control Facility needs the Munhall project to move forward. Finally, ALCOSAN is investigating stimulus funding.

- Peter Wray, of the Sierra Club, asked that, no matter where the site is located, that ALCOSAN consider making it a green facility.

Dave Borneman noted that ALCOSAN intends to incorporate LEED aspects of the project. When Peter Wray pressed to go for LEED certification, not just LEED aspects, Dave Borneman noted that ALCOSAN is presently going for LEED certification at a new building at the plant. He added that there may also be funding available for LEED certified facilities.

- Greg Scott, of Chester Engineers, representing Munhall Borough, gave an update on the Munhall project. He explained that there are three phases to the project:
 - The first phase, consisting of lining the sewer where the stream infiltrates, will be done in the summer of 2009.
 - The second phase, replacing the 24 inch line with a 30-36 inch line is in the design phase. Munhall is in the process of getting a permit from the Corps of Engineers for taking soil borings in the tunnel. Assuming that the permitting process goes smoothly, the work is anticipated to be undertaken in the summer of 2010. He also noted that the Department of Environmental Protection is now taking the position that the standard should be zero overflows per year.
 - The third phase, the tunnel work, is only in the conceptual phase. Working in the tunnel is hazardous and high risk. The plan is to build a parallel sewer, leaving the first one in place until the second tunnel is finished. Greg Scott also noted that the ownership of the 18 inch pipe from the tunnel to M49 needs to be determined relative to a possible cost-share. He added that there are currently no dollars appropriated to fix the line in the tunnel, although there is a \$1.3M line in the legislation. Stimulus dollars are not likely, but Homestead should hear soon whether the \$1.3M will be in next year's budget.

- Dave Borneman urged Marcegaglia to respond in writing to the presentation and draft report. He reiterated that ALCOSAN was hopeful that the overflow control facility could coexist with other Marcegaglia plans.
- Donna Dreshman asked how soon the project team would get answers to questions asked today.

Dave Borneman noted that the pump station size question could be answered within the next few weeks. He would also find out about the status of the Munhall tunnel ownership issue.

- Ray Bodnar asked what the drop dead date is for a decision about the location of the overflow control facility.

Dave Borneman answered that there is no ultimate deadline for the decision. The project will move forward as long as it's feasible. If not, the project will be "folded into" the regional wet weather plan which is due January, 2013.

Dan Lockard added that funding could impact the date, noting that ALCOSAN has worked diligently to get funding for Munhall's project.

Greg Heath added that the overflow control facility would be an ALCOSAN project at ALCOSAN's costs. Dave Borneman said this cost for a system project, like the overflow control facility, would be allocated across the entire service area based on past practices.