



THE GATEWAY ENGINEERS, INC.

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October 19, 2012  
C-34505

ALCOSAN  
3300 Preble Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15233

ATT: Dan Lockard, P.E.

RE: Comments to the ALCOSAN Wet Weather Report  
Ross Township

Dear Dan:

On behalf of Ross Township we have reviewed the ALCOSAN Wet Weather Report, and we have the following comments:

1. Section 1.3 Page 1-9 reads as follows – “This WWP addresses the elimination of sanitary sewer overflows and the control of combined sewer overflows from ALCOSAN’s Conveyance and Treatment Systems, including overflow structures located at the points of connection with the municipal collection systems. The Plan does not directly address the elimination or control of overflows within the municipal collection systems. However it provides for the hydraulic capacity to accept additional wet weather flows from the municipalities which may be conveyed to the ALCOSAN Conveyance and Treatment System pursuant to municipal feasibility studies to be complete under separate compliance orders”

Comment: The affordability analysis indicates that not all projects can be completed under the Selected Plan, and therefore not all connections from the municipal systems to the ALCOSAN system will be updated. How will additional flows sent to ALCOSAN be handled if the municipalities update their systems, but ALCOSAN does not?

2. Section 10.1 Page 10-2 reads as follows – “This 2026 Plan assumes municipalities will implement all of their planned improvements by 2026 to eliminate municipal SSOs and control municipal CSOs by 2026, bringing substantial improvement to local tributaries streams.”

Comment: The affordability analysis indicates that not all projects can be complete under the Selected Plan, and therefore not all SSOs will be eliminated in areas where no improvements are being made by ALCOSAN. How will these SSOs be handled? If every municipality decides to convey flows to ALCOSAN but no work is being completed in the basin, will new or increased SSOs be created?



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3. Section 11 indicates throughout that municipalities will start construction immediately following the approval of the Feasibility Plans.

Comment: If the municipalities complete their construction projects prior to ALCOSAN's projects, how will the additional flows be handled? If ALCOSAN's line cannot (due to not being constructed or not being part of the Recommended Plan) accept the flows, municipal flows could create new hydraulic issues to their systems or downstream municipalities.

4. We have reviewed the cost estimates and the residential indicator of 1.40%, and we do not see a major issue with this estimate. However, we will refine the cost estimates and user fee analysis under the Feasibility Study for Ross Township and will evaluate alternative financing methods to reduce the cost to rate payers.

If you have any questions, or need further clarification, do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,  
THE GATEWAY ENGINEERS, INC.

Richard D. Minsterman, P.E.  
Township Engineer

cc: Ross Township Board of Commissioners  
Debby Grass, Interim Township Manager