

The Scranton Sewer Authority (Authority) has recently launched an effort to update its Long Term Control Plan to meet Federal Clean Water Act requirements associated with discharges from its Combined Sewer System. The Authority's existing Long Term Control Plan was adopted in 2000 and is now outdated. A Long Term Control Plan establishes the approach selected by the Authority for the control of Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) to ultimately comply with federal and state water quality standards.

A CSO (or Combined Sewer Overflow), also known as a regulator is used primarily in sewer systems that not only take in wastewater but also take in storm water from the basins in the street. These types of systems are known as combined systems. In a heavy rain event a combined system can become surcharged. To reduce the excess flow in a rain event, regulators are designed to open at a predetermined level of flow and discharge the excess flow to the river or stream. Once the flow has reduced the regulator closes and all flow is directed back into the sanitary system. The Scranton Sewer Authority's collection system is over 66% a combined system and uses two different types of regulators. All CSO's in the Scranton Dunmore area have a sign near the discharge pipe to the river or stream that has the CSO number on it.

The Authority's schedule is to complete the update and submit the Plan to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for approval by June 2011. Information on the Long Term Control Plan is available from the EPA website <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/cso/ltplan.cfm>

The current Update of the Long Term Control Plan will include the following tasks:

1. Validation of existing model of the sewer system.
2. Updating the sewer system model for existing conditions.
3. Identification of technologies which may lesson or eliminate the overflow at CSO locations.
4. Estimate the cost of various control technologies.
5. Develop CSO Control Alternatives.
6. Evaluate CSO Control Alternatives.
7. Solicit and consider public comment.
8. Determine preferred CSO Control Approach.
9. Document the recommended plan.
10. Submit the recommended plan to EPA and DEP for review and approval.

The improvements to our public sewer system will take a number of years to complete. The good news is that we are under way with a good portion of our engineering work and environmental studies. With this work as a guide we are now ready to bring the residents of Scranton and Dunmore into the process. We all need to share our perspectives and understanding of how the system works and how we can work together to improve it.

Over the next year the Scranton Sewer Authority will be initiating a new public involvement and education program. We will be developing information materials like this message to inform our residents about various aspects of our work. We will be working in partnership with community organizations like the Lackawanna River

Corridor Association to design water quality education materials for distribution to homeowners and businesses. We will also be conducting information meetings to begin a dialogue with the public about our goals for clean water in our River and Streams. These are community goals and it will take the whole community to help us meet them.

There will be information on how each of us can help reduce and eliminate water pollution sources from our homes, business places, our driveways and garages, our streets and sidewalks. We will look at what our neighbors in other parts of the country are doing and we'll be bringing that information to share all across Scranton and Dunmore.

Your thoughts, ideas and concerns are an important part of this process. We want to hear from you.

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