

COMPLYING WITH THE CLEAN WATER ACT: WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA?

How is Western Pennsylvania Tackling the Challenges of its Water and Sewer Systems?

- ▶ 213 watersheds exist in Allegheny County.
- ▶ There are 11 counties with 595 municipalities, including 492 water and sewer entities.
- ▶ A mapping project has been developed, with 85,000 manholes mapped to this point at an estimated cost of \$2 million.
- ▶ A flow monitoring plan, implemented by ALCOSAN, is being developed. The data from the flow monitoring will help to develop a long range control plan.
- ▶ Senate Bill 176 is proposed. This would allow public funding to be used for private lateral repairs.

Alternatives to How We Are Currently Handling the Challenges

- ▶ Watershed and regional based solutions
- ▶ Regional financing
- ▶ Consolidating the sewer collection systems
- ▶ Addressing stormwater with low impact development (lot level development) and improved operations and maintenance practices.
- ▶ Adaptive Governance: Flexible government that is able to adjust to change

Tools of Adaptive Governance

- ▶ Conflict Assessment
- ▶ Policy Dialogue
- ▶ Negotiated Rulemaking
- ▶ Collaborative Planning
- ▶ Joint Fact Finding
- ▶ Mediated Participation
- ▶ Intergovernmental Coordination
- ▶ Science Juries
- ▶ Adaptive Management

Challenges to Adaptive Governance

- ▶ Decision Process Design
- ▶ Representation
- ▶ Scientific Learning
- ▶ Public Learning
- ▶ Problem Responsiveness

DID YOU KNOW THESE FACTS ABOUT WATER AND WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA?

75% of the earth's surface is water.

60% of the human body is water.

The population has increased in the United States, but the water demand has remained the same due to increased conservation efforts.

90% of Allegheny County's population gets their drinking water from streams and rivers that contain direct sewage discharges.

½ of the 138 day recreation season has advisories. An advisory is a daily river water quality report indicating an overflow has occurred in a combined sewer system, where the excess flow pollutes rivers and streams.

WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN
IMPROVE
OUR
WATER QUALITY



The information presented on this fact sheet was a summary of topics discussed at a conference given by the Local Government Academy on May 3, 2007. The topic of the conference was titled: "Going With The Flow: Governance Options for Clean Water Act Compliance."