

The Board of Supervisors is currently working on a 537 plan. A 537 plan is a planning document required by the Dept of Environmental Protection for sewage needs across the Township for the next 20 to 30 years. A portion of the plan involves what will be done when the Reinholds Sewer plant needs to be replaced. A sewer plant has a typical life span of 30 to 40 years. The current plant was built in the late 1980's, and is nearing the end of its life span. Consideration is being given to the possibility of expanding the size of the current plant to accommodate more users. Currently, there are 75 Equivalent Dwelling Unit's on the waiting list. Businesses in the area that currently have sewer cannot expand because there is no additional sewer capacity for them.

The Board has looked at sending the sewage to East Cocalico and Denver as an alternative to the new plant. Unfortunately, the cost of getting it there is prohibitive. They have considered expanding at the current site which is in a wetlands area. After meeting with DEP and US Fish and Wildlife, it was determined that they will not give us a permit to build at the current site due to the presence of wetlands, being in an existing floodplain and it being prime bog turtle habitat. The new plant needs to be located as close as possible to the old plant due to that fact that the current system is a gravity based system. All of the existing underground pipes are sloped towards the sewer plant. The Board is trying to keep the cost of the new plant as low as possible so digging up miles of pipe work to change the slope is not being considered. There are several sites being considered in the area close to the current plant. The Board wants to pick a cost effective site that is also going to have the least amount of impact on Township residents.

When the new sewer plant is built, it will look, sound and smell very different than the current plant as technology has changed significantly since the 1980's. It will be totally enclosed with sound proofing included in the building design and no open pits to spread the odor. In addition, we will completely screen the entire plant from view.

A bog turtle phase 2 study will be done in May and June. After the study is completed, the US Army Corps, US Fish and Wildlife and DEP will meet for an onsite visit to discuss permitting for the project. There will be no further planning done until this is completed. When the draft document has been completed receiving both the Board of Supervisors and the Authority's agreement, there will be a 30 day period for receiving public comment on what is being planned. The public is also welcome to attend Authority meetings to listen to discussions as they are working on the planning document. The Authority meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.