

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this Act 537 Plan is to address the wastewater disposal needs of Matamoras Borough, Milford Borough, and portions of Westfall Township. The planning area for this Act 537 Plan is Milford and Matamoras Boroughs in their entirety, and portions of Westfall Township, mainly the unsewered portions of the Township that are near Route 6/209. The Study Areas are shown on Map 1 in Appendix C. Milford Township formally withdrew from the Plan in July 2024, and as a result, Milford Township is not a participant in the Plan. The formal withdrawal letter is included in Appendix N.

An evaluation of existing on-lot disposal systems (OLDS) throughout the Planning Area indicated that there is a need for improved wastewater disposal in Matamoras Borough, Westfall Township, and Milford Borough. The results of these surveys are included in Chapter 3. The maps summarizing the results of the surveys are included in Appendix G. A complete summary of the results of the sanitary survey is presented in Appendix F.

The study areas were identified based on needs derived from the number of on-lot malfunctions, soil suitability, and commercial needs and growth. Structural alternatives for providing improved sewage facilities to these planning areas were evaluated on the basis of environmental soundness, cost-effectiveness and structural feasibility. Descriptions of each respective study area are presented in this Study.

Cost analyses were performed to estimate the costs of implementing each structural alternative. As part of the process, a financial analysis was performed. The grant and loan opportunities were explored for Pike County and detailed in Appendix P. The full cost analyses are included in Chapter 5. It was determined that the target grant amount would be a 45% grant.

The wastewater planning needs and recommendations of the plan are listed below.

The following summarizes the wastewater planning needs and recommendations of the Plan:

- 1. Public sewer service has been chosen for Matamoras Borough (Alternative No. 1B) along Pennsylvania Avenue and select municipal roads.**

The provision of public sewer service to Matamoras Borough along Pennsylvania Avenue (Alternative No. 1B) with a targeted 45% grant amount and USDA financing would be an estimated monthly cost of \$108/EDU. USDA is the primary financing source with PennVEST selected as the alternate financing source. Matamoras Borough shall pursue grants from Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) programs such as PA Small Water and Sewer as well as H2O PA- Water and Sewer as well as Local Share Account (LSA) for Monroe County and Statewide. A complete list of potential grant targets is included in Appendix P.

The structural alternatives evaluated in this Act 537 Plan to provide public sewer service to Matamoras Borough, represent technically feasible solutions for wastewater management in these areas, but not all of the solutions are cost effective as presented. Of the structural alternatives evaluated for Matamoras Borough, it is recommended that Matamoras Borough pursue Alternative No. 1B. Alternative No. 1B utilizes a low-pressure system that has the lowest estimated cost per user among the alternatives that serve all the immediate needs areas within the Borough. In Matamoras Borough, the Matamoras Municipal Authority will own and maintain

Matamoras' Collection System and be responsible for any tasks related to the upkeep of the system.

2. Public sewer service shall be provided for Westfall Township (Alternative 3B) along Route 6/209.

The provision of public sewer service to Westfall Township along Route 6/209 (Alternative No. 3B) with USDA financing would be an estimated monthly cost of \$64/EDU, which is nearly the same as the existing MATW user rate of \$60/EDU. For the Structural Alternatives Financial Estimates, the Westfall Authority reserve funds would be utilized for the project costs to lower the amount financed by debt.

The structural alternatives evaluated in this Act 537 Plan to extend public sewer service in Westfall Township, represent technically feasible solutions for wastewater management in Westfall Township, but not all of the solutions are cost effective as presented. Of the structural alternatives evaluated for Westfall Township, it is recommended that Westfall Township pursue Alternative No. 3B. Alternative No. 3B utilizes a low-pressure system that has the lowest estimated cost per user among the alternatives that serve all of the needs areas within Westfall Township, specifically the remainder of the commercial district.

In Westfall Township, the Municipal Authority of the Township of Westfall (MATW) will continue to be sewer authority for the Township and will be responsible for setting user fees, raising capital, implementing planning recommendations, maintaining constructed infrastructures, collection of user fees, and management of debt service. MATW shall also continue to be the institution responsible for owning and maintaining the MATW WWTP.

3. Public sewer service shall be provided for Milford Borough along Broad and Harford Street (Alternative No. 4B).

The provision of public sewer service to Milford Borough along Broad Street and Harford Street (Alternative No. 4B) with a targeted 45% grant and USDA financing would be an estimated monthly cost of \$99/EDU. USDA is the primary financing source with PennVEST selected as the alternate financing source. Milford Borough shall pursue grants from Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) programs such as PA Small Water and Sewer as well as H2O PA- Water and Sewer as well as Local Share Account (LSA) for Monroe County and Statewide. A complete list of potential grant options is included in Appendix P.

The structural alternatives evaluated in this Act 537 Plan to provide public sewer service to Milford Borough, represent technically feasible solutions for wastewater management in these areas, but not all of the solutions are cost effective as presented. Of the structural alternatives evaluated for Milford Borough, Milford Borough has selected Alternative No. 4B. Alternative No. 4B utilizes a low-pressure system that has the lowest estimated cost per user among the alternatives that serve all the needs areas within the Borough, in particular, the commercial district. Prior to connections for Alternative No. 4B, Alternative No. 3B (Westfall Township) would need to be completed.

Milford Water Authority will own and maintain the Sewer Collection System in Milford Borough as well as the transmission line through Milford Township and be responsible for any tasks related to the upkeep of the system. Milford Township shall not be responsible to bear any costs associated with the design, installation, and/or maintenance of the subject transmission line through their municipality. The transmission line refers to the proposed low pressure force main that runs through Route 6/209 In Milford Township to convey flow from Milford Borough to Westfall Township.

However, Milford Township is not a part of the Plan, so therefore, there are no planned connections from Milford Township and all future connections would require a separate and formal planning submission to the PADEP. In addition, since there are no planned connections, Milford Township shall not bear any future costs associated with any potential upgrades and/or repairs associated with the MATW WWTP.

4. Milford Borough, Westfall Township, and Matamoras Borough shall develop and adopt an Ordinance governing the management of on-lot disposal systems (OLDS) within the Study Areas.

Milford Borough, Westfall Township, and Matamoras Borough shall implement an OLDS management ordinance. As noted above, Milford Township is not a participant in the Plan, so Milford Township is not included in this recommendation. The Ordinance would provide requirements for the permitting, inspection, operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of OLDS within the Study Areas and throughout the municipalities. Recommended periodic pumping of OLDS would be included within the Ordinance. Successful implementation of such an Ordinance would be expected to have a positive impact on surface water and drinking water supplies in areas of the three Municipalities where OLDS systems are utilized. Periodic pumping of the tanks will provide for improved operation of the systems and will help to eliminate the occurrence of OLDS malfunctions. Currently, none of the municipalities have any ordinances or regulations requiring mandatory OLDS pumping. The implementation of an OLDS Management Ordinance would allow the Municipalities to further evaluate the need for improved sewage facilities after tank pumping activities have commenced for some period of time.

5. Milford Borough shall conduct a shallow groundwater study and submit an Act 537 Plan Special Study to DEP.

Milford Borough shall hire a hydrogeologist to prepare a Shallow Groundwater Study to evaluate the shallow groundwater (0 to 80 feet deep) in Milford Borough, especially in the residential areas. Monitoring wells will be drilled in the residential areas that are not a part of the proposed sewer service area in this Plan. The groundwater will be analyzed for contaminants such as nitrate levels to identify if there are any subsurface issues that could be associated with failing OLDS that are not apparent at the surface. Once the Groundwater Study is complete, an Act 537 Special Study shall be submitted to DEP.

The following activities shall be undertaken to ensure implementation of the selected alternatives within the specified timeframes.

Years from DEP Approval ⁽¹⁾	OLDS Sewage Management Ordinance Phase I
0	Develop Draft On-Lot Disposal System Management Ordinance
	Provide Public Education for On-Lot Disposal System Management Ordinance
1	Finalize and Adopt On-Lot Disposal System Management Ordinance
2	Implement On-Lot Disposal System Management Ordinance, Begin Pumping Cycles

Note (1): The Timeline for the implementation schedule begins on the Approval of the Act 537 Plan.

Years after DEP Approval ⁽¹⁾	Selected Alternatives Phase II
0	Finalize Inter-municipal Agreements with MATW
	Pursue Funding Opportunities for Construction of Alternative 1B, 3B, 4B Facilities
2	Design and Submit Part II WQM Permit for Alternative 1B, 3B, and 4B Facilities
3	Receive Part II WQM Permit Approval
3.5	Apply for and Obtain Project Financing
4	Bidding of Project
4.1	Finance Closing
4.5	Initiation of Construction
6.5	Substantial Completion
7	Construction Completion/ Final Restoration and connections

Note (1): The Timeline for the implementation schedule begins on the Approval of the Act 537 Plan.

Years from DEP Approval ⁽¹⁾	Milford Borough Groundwater Study/ Special Study Phase III
0-1	Pursue Grant Opportunities for Groundwater Study
2	Perform Shallow Groundwater Study
3	Submit Results to PADEP as a Special Study

Note (1): The Timeline for the implementation schedule begins on the Approval of the Act 537 Plan.