

Public Notification
North Union Township and East Union Township, Schuylkill County
Hazle Township and Black Creek Township, Luzerne County
Eagle Rock Area Act 537 Plan

In accordance with requirements of the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act No. 537, Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc. (Aqua) is preparing to submit to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) an Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Update (Plan Update). This notice has been published to allow the general public to review and comment on the proposed Plan Update.

The Plan Update is designed to evaluate both short-term and long-term wastewater management for the Eagle Rock Wastewater System (System). This system is located within the Eagle Rock Resort, which spans portions of four (4) townships and two (2) counties – North Union Township and East Union Township in Schuylkill County, and Hazle Township and Black Creek Township in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

The System is owned and operated by Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc. (Aqua). It consists of a collection system (gravity mains, grinder pumps, and low-pressure sewers) that collects sewage from residential properties within the Eagle Rock development. The collected sewage then enters a conveyance system consisting of 29 pump stations and various forcemains, after which it is treated at a central wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) located on Arapahoe Drive in North Union Township. The WWTP has a permitted capacity of 0.35 million gallons per day (MGD), before discharging the treated effluent to Tomhicken Creek (classified as cold-water fishes).

The project for Aqua's Eagle Rock sewer system aims to improve all three components: collection, conveyance, and treatment facilities. Aqua has voluntarily undertaken the preparation of an Act 537 Planning Special Study (Plan), which includes a 20-year planning period, prior to making any improvements of the System.

Aqua has prepared the Plan for the proposed improvements and upgrades to the System. Minimal growth is anticipated within the Eagle Rock System over the next 20 years. It is estimated that by 2025, there will be approximately 1,302 equivalent dwelling units (EDUs), which is about 14% build-out of Eagle Rock. By 2055, there will be approximately 2,322 EDUs, which is about 25% build-out of Eagle Rock.

The existing WWTP is subject to peak flows due to stormwater inflow during rainfall and runoff events. These events can periodically exceed the peak flow design capacity of the existing WWTP. According to Water Quality Management permit No. 5409403, the WWTP is currently approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for an average annual flow rate of 0.350 MGD. However, analysis of future growth and build-out indicates that the annual average flow is expected to exceed the current permitted capacity of the WWTP of 0.350 MGD by 2035, potentially reaching up to 0.522 MGD by 2055.

To reduce the potential risk of System failure due to capacity issues and aging infrastructure, Aqua proposes to upgrade the System by improving it as follows:

1. Gravity Sewer System Upsizing of approximately 5,000 feet of 8-inch and 10-inch gravity sewer main between Bellacoola Pump Station and Lake Susquehanna Pump Station to 12-inch diameter;
2. Gravity Sewer System Upsizing of approximately 3,000 feet of 12-inch gravity sewer main downstream of Arapahoe and Bellacoola Pump Stations to 15-inch diameter;
3. Upsize the Arapahoe pump station;
4. Upsize and relocate the Bellacoola pump station;

5. Reroute and Combine Pump Stations Alternative (upgrade one pump station and demolish five pump stations), including adding approximately 11,500 feet of new 6-inch forcemain, in the Summit Area;
6. Upgrade 22 Pump Stations Alternative (including capital improvements, O&M improvements and/or safety improvements – but not capacity increases); and
7. Upgrade Existing WWTP Alternative (construct a new, parallel third treatment train and upgrade the existing, two trains at the WWTP).

The project will be executed in phases. Phase 1 includes the construction of the WWTP over five (5) years. Phase 2 includes the construction of Pump Stations and Gravity Sewer over fifteen (15) years.

This Plan Update is designed to evaluate cost effective and implementable alternatives. The wastewater collection, conveyance, and treatment system are owned and operated by Aqua, which is regulated by the Public Utility Commission (PUC). Capital improvements to wastewater facilities that are necessary to facilitate existing maintenance and growth within Eagle Rock. The project will be funded through contributions from new users and developers who require wastewater service and will also be undertaken by Aqua in a measured approach to limit customer rate impact. These investments will be reflected in a future rate case study submitted to PUC, which will render a decision in regard to any rate increase which may be approved. The table below provides an overview of the expenses for all project alternatives, including both capital costs and operational & maintenance (O&M) costs.

Process Description / Upgrade	2025 Capital Cost	20 Year O&M Cost (Present Worth)	20 Year O&M Saving (Present Worth)
Gravity Sewer Alternative	\$7,696,936	\$2,084,318	N/A
PS Reroute and Combination Alternative A	\$3,983,330	\$99,253	\$496,266
PS Reroute and Combination Alternative B	\$4,218,240	\$595,520	N/A
Upgrade PS Alternative	\$603,208	\$2,084,318	N/A
Upgrade WWTP Alternative	\$5,227,513	\$99,253	N/A

A 30-day review and comment period has been established commencing on _____ to allow the general public to review and comment on the proposed Plan Update. The general public may review the proposed Plan Update during normal business hours at their local township offices.

- **North Union Township:** 185 Mahanoy St, Nuremberg, PA 18241
- **East Union Township:** 10 East Elm Street, P.O. Box 295, Sheppton, PA 18248
- **Hazle Township:** 101 W 27th Street, Hazle Township, PA 18202
- **Black Creek Township:** 1980 Tomhicken Road, Bloomsburg, PA 17815

The general public may forward written comments to Michael E. Bisignani, P.E. Aqua Pennsylvania, 1 Aqua Way, White Haven, PA 18661. All written comments must be received prior to the end of the 30-day public comment period. Aqua will address any written comments prior to submitting the Plan Update to PADEP.