

**ACT 537 SEWAGE FACILITIES PLAN
SPECIAL STUDY
FOR
EAST NORRITON TOWNSHIP**

JUNE 2020

PREPARED FOR:

**EAST NORRITON TOWNSHIP
2501 STANBRIDGE STREET
EAST NORRITON, PA 19401**



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1-1
2.0 BACKGROUND	2-1
3.0 SEWAGE DISPOSAL ALTERNATIVES & IMPLEMENTATION	3-1
4.0 INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATION	4-1

APPENDICES

Appendix A	East Norriton Township Sewer Service Area Map
Appendix B	East Norriton Township Sewer Flow Chart
Appendix C	Summary of Pump Stations
Appendix D	East Norriton Township Ordinance No. 581 – Authorizing the Execution of Assets Purchase Agreement
Appendix E	Assets Purchase Agreement
Appendix F	Wastewater Conveyance Agreements
Appendix G	Resolution for Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Revision – Plymouth Township
Appendix H	Resolution for Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Revision – East Norriton Township
Appendix I	Proof of Submission for Review, Review Comments and Comment Responses
Appendix J	Proof of Public Notice

SECTION 1.0 – INTRODUCTION

East Norriton Township (ENT) has entered into an Assets Purchase Agreement (Agreement) with AQUA Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc. (AQUA) for the purchase of ENT's municipal sanitary sewer system. This Act 537 Plan Special Study will update the Township's Official Plan, entitled East Norriton Township Act 537 Plan Update, adopted April of 2006. This Special Study will address ownership, operation and maintenance of the municipal sewer system by AQUA.

SECTION 2.0 – DESCRIPTION OF SEWER SYSTEM

2.1 Overview

East Norriton Township's municipal sewer system consists of approximately 60 miles of underground sewer lines ranging from 8 inches to 24 inches in diameter, with 1,486 sewer manholes. The system serves approximately 4,500 residential customers and 500 commercial customers. The majority of the Township is served with the exception of isolated pockets of land where on lot sewage disposal systems remain in use or where land is preserved or protected, as identified in the Act 537 Plan Update for East Norriton Township that was adopted in April of 2006. The current public sewer service area map is shown in Appendix A.

Wastewater is conveyed from the Township to the East Norriton-Plymouth-Whitpain Joint Sewer Authority's Sawmill Run Sewage Pump Station, located in the southeast corner of the Township along Johnson Highway. Treatment is provided at the East Norriton-Plymouth-Whitpain Joint Sewer Authority Wastewater Treatment Plant (ENPWJSA) located at 200 Ross Street in Plymouth Meeting, PA. Treated effluent is discharged to the Schuylkill River.

2.2 Existing Sewage Collection and Conveyance System Infrastructure

East Norriton's sewer system consists of four major interceptors and nine pump stations. Generally, the system can be subdivided into three major drainage areas: western, central and eastern segments. Flow progresses from west to central to east before discharging into a 21-inch interceptor in Dekalb Pike at Hartranft Avenue. The 21-inch interceptor flows south to Johnson Highway and then east on Johnson Highway to the ENPWJSA Sawmill Run Pump Station in the southeast corner of the Township. A generalized sewer system flow chart is provided in Appendix B. Each drainage area segment will be described below.

2.2.1 Western Segment – Stony Creek No. 3 Interceptor and Germantown Pump Station

The western segment of the Township includes the area bounded by the northern portion of Potshop Road (Township Line to Schultz Road), Trooper Road (from Schultz Road to Woodland Avenue), Green Ridge Drive, Pimlico Drive and Foundry Road to the west; Township Line Road to the north and Sunset Avenue, Whitehall Road (between Baker Drive and Heatherwood Drive), Crossing Circle and Cresswell Drive to the east. Flow is north to south, with all flow discharging into the Germantown Pump Station, which is located at 820 W. Germantown Pike. Stony Creek No. 3 Interceptor extends approximately 2600 feet upstream from the Germantown Pump Station in a northerly direction along what is referred to in the Township Act 537 Plan Update as the West Branch of Stony Creek (also referred to on NWI maps as an unnamed tributary to Kepner Creek), running parallel and east of Taft Road, originating at MH 781 in Woodland Road, just east of Taft Road.

Schultz Road Pump Station

The Schultz Road Pump Station is tributary to Stony Creek No. 3 Interceptor. Located at 1031 Schultz Road in the northwest corner of the Township, this is a submersible pump station with 2-15 Hp pumps and unmetered discharge through a 4-inch force main 850 feet to Manhole 952 at Woodland Avenue. The pump station is served by an 80 kW portable generator.

Burnside Avenue Pump Station

The Burnside Avenue Pump Station is tributary to the Germantown Pump Station through discharge into a gravity sewer branching from the Germantown Pump Station westward to Burnside Avenue. Located at 2071 Potshop Lane in the Norriton Business Campus, this is a Submersible pump station with 2-15 Hp pumps and unmetered discharge through a 6-inch force main 1,500 feet to Manhole 1624 at the intersection of W. Germantown Pike and Burnside Avenue. The pump station is served by a 50 kW generator.

Germantown Pump Station

The Germantown Pump Station transfers flow from Stony Creek No. 3 Interceptor and the Burnside Avenue Pump Station through a 12 inch HDPE lined cast iron force main, eastward approximately 4,900 feet to Sewer Manhole 1020A in Germantown Pike, which is located approximately 450 feet east of Richfield Road. This pump station is a wet well/dry well station with 3-100 HP VFD controlled pumps and a 250 kW emergency generator. During high flow periods, this pump station also discharges through a 6-inch ductile iron bypass force main approximately 930 feet east to an existing gravity sewer at the intersection of Sunset Avenue and W. Germantown Pike, ultimately discharging to the Einstein Pump Station, which is located at 675 W. Germantown Pike.

2.2.2 Central Segment – Stony Creek No. 1 Interceptor and Timberlake Pump Station

The central segment of the Township includes an area generally bounded by Whitehall Road, the southern portion of Sunset Drive (Marna Court to W. Germantown Pike) and Sandra Lane to the west; Township Line Road to the North and following Sycamore Lane, Penn Square Road, Germantown Pike (west of Swede Road), and Stanbridge Street to the east. Flow is received from Stony Creek No. 1 Interceptor, which extends from the Timberlake Pump Station, located at 2501 Stanbridge Street, upstream approximately 7,750 feet in a north/northwesterly direction to its beginning at North Wales Road. The Germantown Pump Station, which comprises the western segment of the Township, as described above, discharges into Stony Creek No. 1 Interceptor through the existing gravity sewer in Germantown Pike at MH 1033. Other pump stations that discharge into Stony Creek No. 1 Interceptor at various locations include the Sandra Lane Pump Station (tributary to the Einstein Pump Station), Einstein Pump Station, Felton Road Pump Station and Whitehall Road Pump Station.

Sandra Lane Pump Station

The Sandra Lane Pump Station, located at 525 Sandra Lane, is a submersible pump station with 2-31 Hp VFD controlled pumps and unmetered discharge through a 6” force main 1,900 feet to MH 1205A in Germantown Pike. Emergency power is provided through an 80 kW portable generator.

Einstein Pump Station

The Einstein Pump Station, located at 675 W. Germantown Pike, is a submersible pump station that receives flow from the Einstein Medical Center, the Sandra Lane Pump Station, occasional bypass flows from the Germantown Pump Station, and a gravity drainage area that flows from Sunset Drive, a portion of Whitehall Road and a portion of W. Germantown Pike, east of Sunset Drive. The pump station consists of 2-34 Hp pumps that discharge through a 6-inch ductile iron force main 2,400 feet east to MH 1020 in Germantown Pike. Emergency power is provided by a 125 kW emergency generator.

Einstein Emergency Storage Basin

Also, at the Einstein Pump Station, is a temporary emergency storage basin with a capacity of 281,000 gallons. This basin is filled by two 7.5 Hp submersible pumps that divert flow from the Einstein Pump Station based on SCADA feedback from the Timberlake Pump Station, when flows at the Timberlake Pump Station exceed 2400 gpm, or when high level alarms are activated at the Timberlake Pump station. Stored flow is gradually drained back to the pump station and discharged as capacity of the Timberlake Pump Station increases.

Whitehall Road Pump Station

The Whitehall Road Pump Station, located at 3120 N. Whitehall Road, is a two pot air ejector station with unmetered discharge through a 4-inch cast iron force main 1100 feet to MH 723 in Township Line Road. Emergency Power is provided by an 80 kW portable generator. Flow in Township Line Road ultimately enters Stony Creek Interceptor No. 1 at its beginning in North Wales Road at MH 381, located that the intersection of Township Line Road and Springhouse Lane.

Felton Road Pump Station

The Felton Road Pump Station, located at 2945 Felton Road, is a single pot air ejector pump station with unmetered discharge through a 4-inch cast iron force main approximately 400 feet south to MH 298 in Felton Road.

Timberlake Pump Station

The Timberlake Pump Station, located at 2501 Stanbridge Street, is a wet well/dry well station with 3-150 Hp VFD controlled pumps, which discharges through a 12" force main 2,130 feet east to MH 16 in Stanbridge Street at Dogwood Lane. Emergency power is supplied by a 300 kW emergency generator. All flow from the western and central drainage area segments of the Township is discharged through the Timberlake Pump Station.

2.2.3 Eastern Segment – Stony Creek No. 2 Interceptor and Norris City Pump Station

The eastern segment of the Township includes an area generally bounded by Swede Road, Dogwood Lane (south of Fairview Road) and the southern portion of Stanbridge Street to the west, Township Line Road to the north, and Arch Road (between Township Line Road and Germantown Pike) plus portions of Penn Crossing Drive, Brownstone Drive,

Carol Lane, Dekalb Pike and First Street to the east. The Norris City Pump Station receives all the flow from this segment, as well as all the flow from the western and central drainage areas through discharge from the Timberlake Pump Station.

Flow is also received from Stony Creek Interceptor No. 2, which extends from the Norris City Pump Station upstream in a northeasterly direction 9,500 feet to its beginning at Hanna Avenue. With the exception of flow from the Timberlake Pump Station, all flow is through gravity sewers.

Norris City Pump Station

The Norris City Pump Station, located at 528 Norris City Avenue, is a wet well/dry well station with 3-250 Hp VFD controlled pumps that discharges through 16-inch cast iron force main 3,500 feet east to MH 569 in Hartranft Blvd. Emergency power is supplied by a 500 kW generator.

2.3 Pump Stations

The above described pump stations are summarized below, in order of presentation within this section.

1. Schultz Road Pump Station
2. Burnside Pump Station
3. Germantown Pump Station
4. Sandra Lane Pump Station
5. Einstein Pump Station
6. Whitehall Road Pump Station
7. Felton Road Pump Station
8. Timberlake Pump Station
9. Norris City Pump Station

A summary of pump station capacities and PADEP Permit information is provided in Appendix C.

SECTION 3.0 – SEWAGE DISPOSAL ALTERNATIVES & IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 Sale of the Municipal Sewer System

Under this alternative, with the exception of one third ownership in the East Norriton–Plymouth–Whitpain Joint Sewer Authority (ENPWJSA) Wastewater Treatment Plant, East Norriton Township will transfer all municipal sewer system assets to AQUA Pennsylvania Wastewater Inc. (AQUA), as set forth in the Assets Purchase Agreement. A copy of the Agreement is contained in Appendix E.

Upon closing of the sale, AQUA will own the East Norriton Township municipal sewer system. AQUA will be responsible for operating and maintaining the sewer system including sewage pump stations. AQUA will also prepare Chapter 94 Municipal Wasteload Management Reports.

East Norriton Township will continue to be responsible for the enforcement of Township Ordinances related to plumbing, including building sewers. AQUA will be responsible for enforcement of oil and grease trap requirements associated with commercial and industrial developments, within limitations of Aqua’s PUC Tariff. The Township will also be responsible for future sewage facilities planning, whether by planning module or Act 537 Plan updates, but only with input from AQUA with regard to capacity of the collection and conveyance system within East Norriton Township. The Township will review and approve new land development proposals. However AQUA will enter into a separate agreement with the developer directly and oversee the design, construction, and dedication of the sanitary sewer system. AQUA will also continue to honor prior agreements between East Norriton Township and neighboring municipalities with respect to the transfer and transport of sewage into and out of the municipal sewer system to be owned by AQUA, as outlined in the Asset Purchase Agreement between the Township and AQUA.

3.2 Retention of Ownership of the Municipal Sewer System by East Norriton Township

Under this alternative, East Norriton Township would continue to own, operate and maintain the municipal sewer system. However, due to the increasing financial burden of sewer system maintenance and recent unexpected capital expenditures for which adequate capital reserve is not available, this alternative is not desirable.

3.4 Selected Alternative & Implementation

The selected alternative is the sale of the municipal sewer system to AQUA. East Norriton Township has enacted Ordinance No. 581, provided in Appendix D, authorizing the execution of an Assets Purchase Agreement. East Norriton Township and AQUA have executed an Assets Purchase Agreement, as noted in Section 3.1, and AQUA has filed an application with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) to acquire East Norriton’s sewer system. PUC approval is anticipated in May of 2020, with closing on the system expected in June of 2020.

SECTION 4.0 – INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATION

4.1 Municipal Authority

East Norriton Township has the responsibility and authority to maintain their sewer collection system as required under the October 5, 1959 Joint Treatment Agreement between East Norriton-Plymouth Joint Sewer Authority (AKA “Treatment Plant Authority”) and the partner communities/authorities, including East Norriton Township Municipal Authority, East Norriton Township, Plymouth Township Municipal Authority and Plymouth Township for construction of the Sewage Treatment Plant and shared collection system. More specific responsibilities of East Norriton Township with respect to their collection system were established under the Intermunicipal Sewage Treatment Service Agreement of August 14, 1991, which incorporates Whitpain Township along with the above municipalities and municipal authorities.

Supplement No. 1 to the August 14, 1991 Agreement, dated December 1, 2005. between East Norriton-Plymouth Joint Sewer Authority (Joint Sewer Authority), East Norriton Township, Plymouth Township and Whitpain Township, addresses cost share for proposed construction enlargements, additions, improvements and modifications to the Joint Sewer Authority WWTP.

Other agreements include:

- An agreement with Plymouth Township Municipal Authority, Plymouth Township, East Norriton Sewer Authority and East Norriton Board of Supervisors, dated August 13, 1991, with regard to sharing of collection facilities along common municipal borders.
- An agreement between East Norriton Township, Whitpain Township and John DiSanto, dated July 18, 1994, with regard to flow from four lots along Township Line Road in East Norriton Township into the sewage collection system owned by Whitpain Township.
- An agreement between East Norriton-Plymouth-Whitpain Joint Sewer Authority, East Norriton Township, Whitpain Township and Plymouth Township, dated November 12, 2003, with regard to exclusion of Burnside Reserve, a 9 lot subdivision located on Generals Drive, from the service area of the Joint Sewer Authority and instead directing sewer flow to West Norriton Township.

Copies of these agreements are provided in Appendix F.

Under the Assets Purchase Agreement between East Norriton Township and Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc. (“AQUA”), AQUA will be take over the responsibilities of East Norriton Township with respect to the Township’s sewer collection systems, which includes the interceptors, sewage pump stations, gravity sewers, sewage force mains and that portion of sewer laterals extending from the sewer main to the edge of the property line, easement, curb or right-of-way, whichever extends furthest from the sewer main. Per letters received from Plymouth and Whitpain Townships, the existing East Norriton customers connected into mains owned by

the adjacent municipalities are East Norriton customers and AQUA will be providing service to these customers through the lateral from the curb to the main, which AQUA will also maintain.

AQUA will also continue to honor prior agreements between East Norriton Township and neighboring municipalities with respect to the transfer and transport of sewage into and out of the municipal sewer system to be owned by AQUA, as outlined in the Asset Purchase Agreement between the Township and AQUA. Attached in Appendix G is a Resolution for Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Revision, which will be presented to Plymouth Township for adoption, along with this Act 537 Special Study. This Resolution for Plan Revision is necessary to address the continued implementation of the August 13, 1991 agreement referenced above.

4.2 Sewage Management Program

AQUA has a proven record for successful operation and maintenance of sanitary sewer systems. AQUA will be responding to planning modules and other planning/capacity related reviews in coordination with East Norriton Township.

4.3 Municipal Enforcement

The sale of these assets does not eliminate the need for continued enforcement of existing codes, ordinances, and policies by a variety of communities/authorities including East Norriton Township, Montgomery County Department of Health, Montgomery County Planning Commission, PADEP, and others.

AQUA will assume responsibility for preparing the annual Chapter 94 reports, industrial permitting and enforcement activities in accordance with AQUA's PUC Tariff, sanitary sewer overflow notifications, if any, to PADEP, review of Planning Modules for new connections and additional flows to the East Norriton-Plymouth-Whitpain Wastewater Treatment Plant, including related regulatory activities. East Norriton Township, through its local code enforcement staff, would continue to enforce building and plumbing codes, and other related enforcement activities.

4.4 East Norriton Township Code Affected by Sale of System

Portions of the Township Code that are affected by the sale of the Township Collection System to AQUA are presented below, with a discussion of changes, if any, that should be considered by the Township following the transfer of ownership.

4.4.1 Township Code, Chapter 18, § 18-11 – Tapping Fee: This section applies to the calculation of tapping fees collected on behalf the ENPWJSA. However, language referencing tapping fees collected by the Township that are indicated to be collection and capacity charges, shall be removed. The following language is proposed to be removed from this section of the Township Code.

and is in addition to the tapping fee for the collection and capacity charge imposed by the Township, in accordance with Act 57 of 2003, as follows:

[Amended 7-22-2008 by Ord. No. 507]

<i>Type</i>	<i>Fee</i>
<i>Residential (230 GPD)</i>	<i>\$920 per 230 GPD</i>
<i>Nonresidential (230 GPD)</i>	<i>\$1,107 per 230 GPD</i>
<i>Alternate nonhousehold method</i>	<i>\$4,027 per 200 GPD</i>
<i>Sewer connection inspection fee</i>	<i>\$440</i>

4.4.2 Township Code Chapter 18, § 18-15, Subsection D: Non Residential EDU Calculations based on use shall remain unchanged with respect to sewage facilities planning and assessment of EDUs for the purpose of establishing tapping fees for the East Norriton-Plymouth-Whitpain Joint Sewer Authority as presented in § 18-15, Subsection E.

4.4.3 Township Code Chapter 18, § 18-15, Subsection E: Alternate nonresidential tapping fee calculation. Under this section, *“the applicant may elect to enter into an alternate nonresidential tapping fee agreement with the Township, if the applicant can reasonably demonstrate, using flow data for a period of at least one year and any other supporting documentation supplied by the applicant and acceptable to the Township, that the above nonresidential EDU conversion schedule does not adequately reflect the volume of wastewater flow capacity to be reserved. The rules and regulations governing an applicant's right to utilize the alternate nonresidential tapping fee agreement shall be set forth in the alternate nonresidential tapping fee agreement. The Township reserves the right to revise the rules and regulations governing the alternate nonresidential tapping fee agreement EDU calculations from time to time.”*

This section of the Township Code should remain in effect for the purpose of establishing capacity requirements and tapping fees on behalf of the Joint Sewer Authority, but not on behalf of AQUA for the collection system. AQUA’s tariff does not provide for the collection of tapping fees.

The East Norriton Township Non-Residential Tapping Fee Permit Agreement that is referenced in this section should be modified to reference tapping fees being collected by the Township on behalf of the East Norriton-Plymouth-Whitpain Joint Sewer Authority.

4.4.4 Township Code Chapter 162, § 162-30.1: This section addresses the inspection/televising of private sewer laterals by the Township and requiring repair by the owner within 90 days of notification. This section shall still be implemented and enforced by the Township for that portion of the sewer lateral between the curb or Right-of-Way and the building being served. AQUA will own that portion of the sewer lateral from the curb/Right-of-Way line to the main line in the street. As such, AQUA will be responsible for ensuring that this section of the sewer lateral meets their design standards.

4.4.5 Township Code Chapter 162, § 162-31 B(4), states: *Installation, maintenance and repair of sanitary sewer mains, manholes and laterals from the main to the edge of the right-of-way, property line or four feet inside the curb, whichever is greater, shall be constructed in compliance with the document known as the "Standard Specifications for Construction of Sanitary Sewer Systems for East Norriton Township."*

[Amended 11-18-2014 by Ord. No. 558]

This section should be revised to indicate that the installation, maintenance and repair of sanitary sewer mains, manholes and that portion of sewer laterals extending from the edge of the right-of-way, easement, property line or curb, to the main (whichever is greater), shall be constructed in compliance with the design standards of Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc.

4.4.6 Township Code Chapter 162: Article VI, § 162-86 and § 162-89 through 93, as it relates to “Sewage Inspection Officer”. Since AQUA is only responsible for that portion of the sewer lateral owned by AQUA, the language regarding appointment of a Township Sewage Inspection Officer would still apply to the Township. Site specific inspections, and enforcement activities, including assessment of surcharges, issuance of notices and penalties associated with sewer lateral defects and commencement of legal action would still remain Township responsibilities.

4.4.7 Township Code Chapter 162: Article VII – Sewage Grinder Pumps

The following portions of the Township Code should be reviewed and revised to address the interests and responsibilities of AQUA.

- § 162-96 C: *The Township shall require that all grinder pumps and low-pressure sewer systems (and the installation, use, operation, maintenance, service, repair and replacement thereof) shall comply with the rules and regulations of the Township.*

The design standards of AQUA should be referenced in this section, since low pressure sewer force mains within public roadways will be the responsibility of AQUA.

- § 162-96 D: *The Township shall require that all grinder pumps and low-pressure sewer systems be connected to the Township's sewage collection and conveyance system in full compliance with the rules and regulations of the Township.*

Reference should be made to AQUA as the owner of the Township sewage collection and conveyance system. Compliance with AQUA’s design standards should be referenced as well.

- § 162-96 E: *The Township shall review the type of grinder pump used and ensure that the property owner has provided documentation that full service capacity is available locally, on short notice, in the event of malfunction.*

AQUA should be referenced as the reviewing agency.

4.4.8 Township Code Chapter 162, § 162-46 through § 162-60, relating to Joint Sewer Authority Industrial Pretreatment Regulations: All of the Township responsibilities to enforce and administer § 162-46 through § 162-59, financial or otherwise, will be

transferred over to AQUA as part of the APA and all of the Township responsibilities under the August 14, 1991 Intermunicipal Sewage Treatment Agreement will be transferred to AQUA under the APA (i.e. Article VI of with regard to enforcement, costs, penalties and surcharges associated with compliance with standards, Sampling Facilities, Special Treatment, Reimbursement for Damages from Improper Discharges, Discharge Limitations and Remedies in Section 2). The above responsibilities shall be within the limitations of AQUA’s PUC Tariff.

4.4.9 Township Code Chapter 175 (Subdivision and Land Development Article 5 Design Standards), § 175-28 A: This section references the “Township sanitary sewer system”, which should be defined as that portion within the Township that is owned by AQUA.

The following language shall be reviewed and revised as necessary to reflect ownership of the sewer collection system by AQUA and required compliance with AQUA’s design standards.

- § 175-28 A 6: *Sanitary sewers shall have a minimum inside diameter of eight inches and a minimum grade of 0.5% (1/2 of 1%).*
- § 175-28 A 7: *Manholes shall be located at intervals of 250 feet and at each change of line or grade. In exceptional cases, the interval may be extended to not more than 300 feet. Manhole appurtenances shall conform to current Township standards.*
- § 175-28 A 8: *Lateral connections to each lot shown on the final plan shall be installed to the right-of-way line of the street prior to paving. Each building shall have a separate connection to the Township sewer. The lowest fixture tying into the sanitary sewer line shall be at an elevation no less than one foot above the street level and/or the top of sanitary sewer manhole elevation.*
- § 175-28 A 9: *This section shall be applicable to all subdivisions and land developments, whether utilizing public or private streets or driveways serving as private streets, and, in the case of a subdivision or land development utilizing private streets, the subdivider or the applicant shall execute recordable covenants with the Township and/or Township authority that, for the purposes of sewer connections, assessments and rentals, the rights and liabilities of himself and his grantees, heirs, successors and assigns shall be the same as if his property abutted a public street.*
- § 175-28 A 10: *The specifications for the installation of a sanitary sewer and appurtenances required by this chapter shall be those set forth in Chapter 162, Sewers, Article III, Sewer Connection Regulations, § 162-31B(4), Materials and installation. (Chapter 162: § 162-31 B(4) Materials and Installation references Standard Specifications for Construction of Sanitary Sewer Systems for East Norriton Township (See Section 4.4.5 above).*

4.5 Assets Purchase Agreement (APA)

4.5.1 With respect to the APA and the Transfer of Reserved Capacity permitted to the Township in Section 4 of the 1991 Intermunicipal Sewer Agreement (page 8), although Aqua will have the right to the minimum Flow Capacity of the Township and any future allocations to the Township of additional flow capacity/EDUs in the Authority's treatment facilities (per Section 7.14 of the APA), the Township will still retain the right to rent out unused Reserved Capacity to another municipality as outlined in Section 4 of the 1991 Intermunicipal Agreement.