Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

CHRISTINA "TORI" MORGAN
Chair

JUDY HALDEMAN
Vice Chair

PHILLIPS ARMSTRONG
Treasurer

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

Planning for the Future of Lehigh and Northampton Counties at 615 Waterfront Drive, Suite 201, Allentown, PA 18102 ■ (610) 264-4544 ■ lvpc@lvpc.org ■ www.lvpc.org

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, November 17, 2026, 10:30 AM
AGENDA

THE MEETING CAN BE ACCESSED AT http://www.tinyurl.com/LVPC2026 OR VIA PHONE 610-477-5793 Conf ID: 947 550 319#

Roll Call

Courtesy of the Floor

Committee Business:

1. *ACTION ITEM:* Act 97 Review – Solid Waste Transfer Station Permit Renewal Application – East Penn Sanitation Inc. – Lower Nazareth Township (CR)
2. *ACTION ITEM:* Act 537 Plan Review – Lowhill Township Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Update (CR)

Next Environment Committee Meeting
Tuesday, December 15, 2026, at 10:30 AM

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November XX, 2026

Ms. Erika G. Bloxham, Facilities Specialist
Waste Management Program
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
2 Public Square
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701-1915

Re: Solid Waste Permit Renewal Application
East Penn Sanitation, Inc. Transfer Station
Application #101358-A261
Lower Nazareth Township, Northampton County

Dear Ms. Bloxham:

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC), at its regular monthly meeting on November 19, 2026, considered the above-referenced matter according to the requirements of Act 97, the Pennsylvania Solid Waste Management Act.

The purpose of the application is for East Penn Sanitation, Inc. to obtain a permit renewal from the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for its existing solid waste transfer station located at 4687 Hanoverville Road. The facility is permitted to accept up to 750 tons per day of municipal solid waste, construction/demolition and residual waste as well as recyclable materials for transferring and processing. The renewal application involves no changes to the permit. The transfer station permit is on a ten-year renewal cycle.

The transfer station is an existing, DEP-permitted facility. No changes to the facility or operations are proposed. The permit renewal application aligns with the *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* action to: "provide environmentally responsible and economical solid, electronic and hazardous waste disposal and recycling" (under Policy 3.2). The PA DEP performs the technical review of the application.

Sincerely,

Corinne Ruggiero

Corinne Ruggiero, SEO
Senior Environmental Planner

cc: Yvonne Plakotaris, General Manger, East Penn Sanitation Inc.
Lori Stauffer, Manager, Lower Nazareth Township

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November XX, 2026

Mr. Michael Siegel, Manager
Lowhill Township
7000 Herber Road
New Tripoli, Pennsylvania 18066

Re: Act 537 Review – Draft Sewage Facilities Plan Update for Lowhill Township

Dear Mr. Siegel:

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC), at its regular monthly meeting on November 19, 2026, reviewed the above-referenced plan according to the requirements of the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act (Act 537). Our review was based on the goals and policies of *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*. We offer the following comments.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection requires Act 537 planning to ensure the management of the sewage facilities meets the existing and future sewage needs of residents in the areas served by the facilities. The purpose of this plan update is to document the sewage disposal needs within the Township and identify alternatives to consider and address short- and long-term sewage needs.

Lowhill Township is a primarily agricultural and rural municipality, covering an area of approximately 14.1 square miles located in Lehigh County. The Township is bordered by Heidelberg Township to the north, Lynn Township to the northwest, Weisenberg Township to the southwest, Upper Macungie Township to the south, South Whitehall Township to the southeast and North Whitehall Township to the east. A small area of the southernmost part of the Township adjacent to Upper Macungie Township, specifically 43 subdivision lots or approximately 1%, are provided with public sewer and water service and wastewater from these lots are ultimately conveyed to and treated at the Kline's Island Wastewater Treatment Plant, operated by Lehigh County Authority. The plan update indicates that there is adequate wastewater treatment at the plant to meet the existing and future needs within the defined Township sewer service area. As a Klines Island Sewer System contributor, the Township has participated in regional wastewater planning and corrective-action undertaken in response to hydraulic-capacity and inflow and infiltration concerns within the regional system. Regional inflow and infiltration investigations, subsequent flow characterization and source reduction evaluations determined that because Lowhill Township's public sewer system is relatively small and exhibits very limited infiltration, no specific rehabilitation projects were identified for the Township's existing sanitary sewer collection system.

The majority of the Township is served by on-lot sewage disposal. The Township conducted both property owner mail-in surveys and field verification surveys as a part of the Sewage Needs Identification process. Of the 1,145 properties within Lowhill Township, 201 of these properties are currently vacant and 43 are served by public sewer. The remaining 901 properties are served by individual on-lot disposal systems (OLDS). Based on the results of the mail-in survey, more than 95% of properties utilize conventional OLDS, whereas the remaining lots utilize cesspools or privies. Per DEP requirements, Townships between 501-1,000 OLDS in their service area require field verification of 20% of the OLDS facilities. For Lowhill Township, this 20% equated to a minimum requirement of 180 properties for field verification. Properties

were randomly selected for field verification surveys by dividing the Township into eight geographical areas and then utilizing a randomizer selection tool to select a distributed number of properties within each area. In all, 182 of the 901 properties within the Township were field verified by Inspectors. Based on the assessment, none of the systems surveyed were confirmed malfunctions. However, 3 properties in the Township, which are located in distinctly separate areas of the Township were identified as having potential system malfunction and will require further investigation by the Township Sewage Enforcement Officer.

The plan update notes that over the next 5-year and 10-year planning periods, the Township's sewage planning needs and projected population growth should be satisfied with the installation, management and oversight of existing and future on-lot sewage disposal systems and should not require the expansion of public sewer infrastructure. The plan further notes that growth is anticipated incrementally rather than as a concentrated development build-out.

The plan update evaluates several potential alternatives for providing short- and long-term wastewater management in the Township. The selected alternative for Lowhill Township is the continued use of individual on-lot sewage disposal systems in the areas not presently served by public sewers and the Township plans to continue its existing sewage facilities planning, permitting, investigation and enforcement activities through the Township and its Sewage Enforcement Officer. Based upon the absence of any suspected or confirmed malfunctions during the required field verification surveys and the absence of any concentrated sewage needs area, implementation of a formal Township-wide Sewage Management Program is not proposed at this time. Therefore, the Township has selected a No-Action Alternative.

The LVPC recommends that the Township reconsider the implementation of a Sewage Management Program as these programs provide proactive and preventative safeguard measures for potential future on-lot sewage disposal system malfunctions and would help to 'protect the quality and quantity of surface water and groundwater" as well as 'minimize environmental impacts to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public' (of *FutureLV* Policy 3.2). The benefits and cost of regular pumping and cleanout maintenance versus the cost it would take to repair or replace a malfunctioning on-lot system should also be further evaluated and would align with the *FutureLV* action to 'promote use of cost-benefit analysis in planning, development and infrastructure decisions' (of Policy 4.6).

Please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Corinne Ruggiero

Corinne Ruggiero, SEO
Senior Environmental Planner

cc: Timothy Miller, PE, Keystone Consulting Engineers, Inc.
Amy Bellanca, PE, PA Department of Environmental Protection