



Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

DR. CHRISTOPHER R. AMATO
Chair

CHRISTINA V. MORGAN
Vice Chair

ARMANDO MORITZ-CHAPELLIQUEN
Treasurer

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING Tuesday, March 25th, 2025, 10:30 AM AGENDA

THE MEETING CAN BE ACCESSED AT <http://www.tinyurl.com/LVPC2025> OR VIA PHONE
610-477-5793 Conf ID: 651 626 091#.

Roll Call

Courtesy of the Floor

Committee Business:

1. *ACTION ITEM:* Act 97 Review - Hazardous Waste Permit Renewal Application – Bethlehem Apparatus Company, Inc. – Hellertown Borough (CR)
2. *ACTION ITEM:* Act 537 Review – Sewage Facilities Plan Update – North Branch Interceptor Extension Project – Upper Saucon Township (CR)
3. *ACTION ITEM:* Act 537 Review - Sewage Facilities Plan Update – Sheridan Drive Pump Station Elimination – Palmer Township (CR)
4. *INFORMATION ITEM:* Regional Climate Action Plan Update

Next Environment Committee Meeting
April 22nd, 2025, 10:30 AM



DR. CHRISTOPHER R. AMATO
Chair

CHRISTINA V. MORGAN
Vice Chair

ARMANDO MORITZ-CHAPELLIQUEN
Treasurer

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

March XX, 2025

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

**Re: Hazardous Waste Permit Renewal Application
Bethlehem Apparatus Company, Inc.
Application #PAD002390961-A251
Hellertown Borough, Northampton County**

Dear Ms. Bloxham:

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC), at its regular monthly meeting on March 27, 2025, considered the above-referenced matter according to the requirements of Act 97, the Pennsylvania Solid Waste Management Act. The purpose of the application is to renew the hazardous waste permit for the existing Bethlehem Apparatus Company facility. The facility is primarily used for a mercury recovery and reclamation operation and as a recycling facility for mercury-bearing materials. The Hellertown facility also manufactures mercury cleaning and glass blowing apparatus. No modifications to the facility are proposed with this renewal. The LVPC found that the renewal application is consistent with the *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* action to “provide environmentally responsible and economical solid, electronic and hazardous waste disposal and recycling” (of Policy 3.2). The LVPC did not conduct a technical review of the application, whereas the Department conducts such a review.

Sincerely,

Corinne Ruggiero
Environmental Planner

cc: Ms. Cathy Hartranft, Manager, Hellertown Borough
Ms. Alene Shafnisky, Clerk, Northampton County Council
Mr. Michael Rinker, Northampton County Emergency Management Services
Ms. Eve Metzger, President, Bethlehem Apparatus Company, Inc.
Mr. Joe Bobrowski, RT Environmental Services, Inc.



Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

DR. CHRISTOPHER R. AMATO
Chair

CHRISTINA V. MORGAN
Vice Chair

ARMANDO MORITZ-CHAPELLIQUEN
Treasurer

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

March XX, 2025

Mr. Andrew Bohl, PE
Hanover Engineering
252 Brodhead Road, Suite 100
Bethlehem, PA 18017-8944

**Re: Act 537 Review – Sewage Facilities Plan Update – North Branch Interceptor Extension
– Upper Saucon Township, Lehigh County**

Dear Mr. Bohl:

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC), at its regular monthly meeting on March 27, 2025, reviewed the above-referenced plan according to the requirements of the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act (Act 537). Our review was based on the goals, policies and actions 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 the proposed extension of the North Branch Interceptor within Upper Saucon Township to provide public sewage service for the areas adjacent to Ackerman’s Lane, Sunset Drive, Limeport Pike and St. Joseph’s Road. The service area will specifically include providing public sewage service to Mount Trexler Manor, Saint Michael Archangel School and Saint Joseph Catholic Church developments. In addition, the Mountain Greene Subdivision located north of the intersection of Limeport Pike and Chestnut Hill Road is also proposed to be serviced by public sewage disposal via the proposed North Branch Interceptor extension. There is no proposed development or future development within the planning area at this time.

The North Branch Interceptor currently extends to Chestnut Hill Road and transports sewage collected from the northern and western portions of the Township. The proposed extension would extend the interceptor from Chestnut Hill Road to the end of St. Joseph’s Road. The proposed interceptor extension would involve the construction of a pumping station on Limeport Pike, west of the Sunset Park Subdivision as well as the construction of a 6-inch diameter force main from the pump station to the intersection of Chestnut Hill Road and Wagner Road. All properties along the force main will be connected to the force main via individual grinder lift station. The North Branch Interceptor extension would then consist of an 8-inch diameter gravity sewer continuing from the pump station, paralleling Limeport Pike and terminating at the end of St. Joseph’s Road.

The proposed extension is within a service area of the Township which was designated to be served by public sewage disposal in the Township’s Act 537 plan revision in 2001. The approximately 122 properties within the service area for this proposed extension project are currently served by on-lot disposal systems. Based on a door-to-door survey that was conducted for this project, 31 property owners were surveyed (about 25% of the property owners in the project area) and the results revealed that there are two types of on-lot systems within the service area and most of those systems are either functional marginally and/or are ten years old or older. The replacement, repair or upgrading of the existing malfunctioning systems was considered, however, due to the age of the existing subdivisions and systems as well as the size of the lots, the selected alternative of the North Branch Interceptor extension was chosen.

Mr. Andrew Bohl, PE
Hanover Engineering
March XX, 2025
Page 2

Based on the information provided to the Upper Saucon Township Municipal Authority, there is sufficient conveyance capacity from the point of discharge to the Township's collection system to the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and no overload conditions are projected in the Township's conveyance system within the next 5 years. However, the Route 309 Bypass Sewer that was installed in 2012 has added additional peak flows to the North Branch Interceptor and as a result, there have been two sanitary sewer overflows during extreme wet weather events. The Township plans to continue their aggressive infiltration and inflow (I/I) remediation work and has purchased their own equipment to allow them to install fiberglass spot repair liners and has begun planning to address sources of I/I beyond the curblin in the individual lateral connections. In turn, it is anticipated that the I/I planning and remediation work the Township has conducted will continue to lower I/I contributions in the future. The Upper Saucon Township WWTP also has sufficient capacity to treat the projected flows from this interceptor extension and no overload conditions are projected at the WWTP within the next five years.

The proposed North Branch Interceptor extension project as well as the continued I/I remediation work and planning aligns with the *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* action to 'protect the quality and quantity of surface water and groundwater' (of Policy 3.2). The connection to the public sewer system will eliminate environmental and health impacts caused by the malfunctioning systems (of Policy 3.2) as well as supports the *FutureLV* action 'improve the utility and mobility infrastructure of the region' (of Policy 1.1). The North Branch Interceptor extension project is also consistent with the Township's Act 537 Plan Update of 2001.

Please call me if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,



Corinne Ruggiero, SEO
Environmental Planner

cc: Thomas Beil, Manager, Upper Saucon Township
Patricia Lang, AICP, Director of Community Development, Upper Saucon Township
Amy Bellanca, PE, PA Department of Environmental Protection



Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

DR. CHRISTOPHER R. AMATO
Chair

CHRISTINA V. MORGAN
Vice Chair

ARMANDO MORITZ-CHAPELLIQUEN
Treasurer

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

March XX, 2025

Ms. Mary B. Peters, PE
Entech Engineering, Inc.
239 South Mountain Boulevard, Suite 300
Mountaintop, PA 18707

Re: Act 537 Review – Sewage Facilities Plan Update – Sheridan Drive Pump Station Elimination – Palmer Township, Northampton County

Dear Ms. Peters:

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC), at its regular monthly meeting on March 27, 2025, reviewed the above-referenced plan according to the requirements of the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act (Act 537). Our review was based on the goals, policies and actions of *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*. We offer the following comments.

The purpose of this plan update is to consider the long-term wastewater management alternatives for Palmer Township, as identified and required by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP). Specifically, the planning area being evaluated for this plan update is the sewer service area/drainage basin to the Sheridan Drive Pump Station, which is located in Palmer Township, Northampton County.

The Sheridan Drive Pump Station facility was constructed in 1972 and serves 165 equivalent dwelling units (EDU's). The sanitary sewer collection system within the drainage area to the pump station includes approximately 8,600 linear feet of 8-inch gravity mains and 43 precast concrete manholes. The pump station utilizes two pumps and then discharges through 1,900 linear feet of 6-inch force main to a manhole along the South Interceptor, which then conveys wastewater to the Easton Authority Joint Sewer Authority (EAJSA) wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). The pump station as well as the force main have reached the end of their useful life, and they are both in need of rehabilitation/replacement. Due to the age of the equipment, operation of the pump station has required staff to visit the site frequently to repair/rehabilitate parts of the facility.

The chosen alternative to solve the problem of an aging pump station and force main proposed in this plan update is to construct a sewer extension to the Bethlehem Township collection and conveyance system, which is owned and operated by the Bethlehem Township Municipal Authority (BTMA). The plan is then for the wastewater to be further conveyed to the City of Bethlehem's WWTP for treatment and disposal. Per BTMA, the existing collection and conveyance system has the hydraulic capacity to accept the flow from the Sheridan Drive Pump Station service area. There is also adequate treatment capacity at the existing EAJSA and City of Bethlehem WWTPs to handle existing and future growth.

In this plan update, it states that wastewater flows will be redirected from the Sheridan Drive Pump Station to the BTMA system by constructing a sewer extension of approximately 200 linear feet of new 8-inch main within Embur Terrace. This selected alternative would also include reconstructing approximately 300 linear feet of 8-inch sewer main in Sheridan Drive and adding two new manholes.

Ms. Mary Peters, PE
Entech Engineering
March XX, 2025
Page 2

This proposed sewer extension will eliminate the Sheridan Drive Pump Station in its entirety, which in turn will alleviate the time, effort and cost required for maintaining and operating the existing pump station. It is also important to note that even with the continued growth within Palmer Township, the Sheridan Drive Pump Station service area has been fully developed with no remaining potential developable land or anticipated redevelopment within the planning area.

Revisions to existing intermunicipal agreements were required for the redirection of flow from the Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority (EAJSA) WWTP to the City of Bethlehem's WWTP via BTMA's collection and conveyance system. The necessary approvals and addendums to intermunicipal agreements were made prior to the submittal of this plan update.

The proposed sewer extension and elimination of the aging Sheridan Drive Pump Station aligns with the *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* actions to 'protect the quality and quantity of surface water and groundwater' (of Policy 3.2) and 'improve the utility and mobility infrastructure of the region' (of Policy 1.1). The revisions of intermunicipal agreements and coordination between Palmer Township, EAJSA, BTMA and the City of Bethlehem support the *FutureLV* action of 'expanding collaboration on planning and development between neighboring communities' (of Policy 4.6).

Please call me if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,



Corinne Ruggiero, SEO
Environmental Planner

cc: Robert Williams, Manager, Palmer Township
Phillip Godbout, Public Works Director, Palmer Township
David Thomsen, Chair, Bethlehem Township Municipal Authority
Robert Lammi, Chairman, Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority
Edward Boscola, Director of Water and Sewer Resources, City of Bethlehem
Amy Bellanca, PE, PA Department of Environmental Protection