



Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

CHRISTINA "TORI" MORGAN
Chair

JUDY HALDEMAN
Vice Chair

PHILLIPS ARMSTRONG
Treasurer

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING Tuesday, October 27, 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*: Delaware River Basin Commission Review – Application for Approval to Increase Permitted Capacity at Existing WWTP and Discharge and Approval of WWTP Upgrades– Parkland High School WWTP – South Whitehall Township (CR)
2. *INFORMATION ITEM*: Presentation by Amanda Khalil, DRBC Water Resource Scientist on DRBC's Surface Water Evaluation and Estimation Tool (SWEET)
3. *INFORMATION ITEM*: Northampton County Karst Geology Symposium Summary (SM)

Next Environment Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 10:30 AM



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October XX, 2026

Ms. Pamela Bush
Delaware River Basin Commission
P.O. Box 7360
West Trenton, NJ 08628-0360

**Re: DRBC Review – Application for Approval to Increase Permitted Capacity at Existing
WWTP and Discharge and Approval of WWTP Upgrades
South Whitehall Township, Lehigh County
Docket No. D-2013-007 CP-3**

Dear Ms. Bush:

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) at its regular monthly meeting on October 29, 2026, reviewed the above-referenced application. Our review was based on the adopted plans and policies of the LVPC. We offer the following comments.

The purpose of the application is to approve an increase to the permitted capacity of the existing Parkland High School wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and its discharge from 32,400 gallons per day to 55,000 gallons per day as well as approval of proposed upgrades to the WWTP. The wastewater treatment plant currently serves and will continue to serve Parkland High School located in South Whitehall Township, Lehigh County. The proposal to increase the permitted capacity is due to the WWTP not being able to meet its current National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit limits for total nitrogen due to an increased organic and hydraulic loading to the WWTP that exceeds the original design criteria. As for the proposed upgrades to the WWTP, the applicant is proposing the construction and conversion of treatment train equipment, specifically, by providing a high level of treatment through the construction of two new Sequencing Batch Reactor (SBR) basins that will provide both nitrification and denitrification of the treated effluent. The two existing SBR basins at the plant will be converted to aerobic digesters. Another proposed upgrade to the plant is the proposed installation of an ultraviolet disinfection system, which will further minimize the impact on the receiving stream. In turn, the existing sodium hypochlorite disinfection system will be abandoned once the new disinfection system is installed. A natural wastewater treatment systems alternatives analysis was performed to consider several alternatives to discharging treated wastewater into the existing receiving stream; however, all options including crop irrigation, drip irrigation and subsurface disposal were either technically and/or financially infeasible. Therefore, the above-referenced alternative was selected.

The applicant's wastewater treatment plant and the proposed increase to the permitted capacity will allow the WWTP to continue to serve the needs of Parkland High School, aligning with the *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* action to 'protect the quality and quantity of surface water and groundwater' (of Policy 3.2). The proposed upgrades to the treatment train equipment and the disinfection system of the wastewater treatment plant will 'improve the utility and mobility infrastructure of the region' as well as 'integrate efficiency measures and emerging technologies' (of Policy 1.1), which in turn, will also protect the quality

and quantity of surface water and groundwater. According to DRBC documentation, no substantial adverse impacts are anticipated with the proposed increased permitted capacity or proposed upgrades. In addition, DRBC may modify or suspend its approval or any permit condition to mitigate adverse impacts.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Corinne Ruggiero".

Corinne Ruggiero, SEO
Senior Environmental Planner