

# YORK WASTEWATER

**Acquisition produces economic stability, long-term infrastructure solution and provides \$235.3 million for the city**

Founded in 1741, the City of York has played an important role in our history. Serving as the nation's capital for nine months, this southcentral Pennsylvania municipality served as the birthplace of the Articles of Confederation and is where the name "The United States of America" was first used. As a manufacturing hub, over the years York saw significant population growth. According to the 2020 Census, the city is the 10th largest in Pennsylvania.

York's wastewater system serves more than 45,000 customer connections, including approximately 14,000 direct customers in the city and bulk service to indirect customers in the neighboring Townships of Spring Garden, Manchester, West Manchester, York and Springettsbury and the Boroughs of North York and West York.

## CHALLENGES

Continuing to provide safe, reliable wastewater service to its customers became increasingly challenging for the city due to a decline in its customer base, aging infrastructure, and lack of funding for maintenance. As a result, numerous permit violations led to a consent order by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Considerable investment into the wastewater system was necessary to make the upgrades needed to address these violations – investments that the city was not in a position to make.

The city, too, was facing financial hardship with a \$14 million deficit in its budget due to increasing pension and health care costs.

## SOLUTION FOUND

York began a proactive search for solutions to these challenges and agreed to sell its wastewater system for \$235.3 million to Pennsylvania American Water in April 2021, citing that the proposed sale was important to improve the city's infrastructure, provide for resilient and responsive municipal services, and support the city's future.

Pennsylvania American Water is the largest water service provider in the state, serving approximately 2.3 million people in 417 communities. Approximately 1,200 highly-skilled and experienced professionals carry out the company's foremost priority of providing safe, reliable water and wastewater service to its customers.

*Pictured above: Pennsylvania American Water President Justin Ladner and City of York Mayor Michael Helfrich.*



**For our residents and businesses who are proud to call York home, this sale brings stability and hope for our future.**

**Michael Helfrich**  
Mayor, City of York

## YORK WASTEWATER SYSTEM AT A GLANCE

- **CUSTOMERS SERVED**  
45,000+ direct and indirect customers
- **EMPLOYEES**  
31
- **TREATMENT FACILITIES**  
1 wastewater plant (26 MGD)
- **COLLECTION SYSTEM**  
103 miles of sewer pipe;  
1 lift station
- **MANHOLES**  
2,630

  
**PENNSYLVANIA  
AMERICAN WATER**

**WE KEEP LIFE FLOWING®**

## RESULTS

With the wastewater system acquisition, Pennsylvania American Water has been able to provide the following benefits to the City of York:

- \$235.3 million in proceeds to eliminate long-standing debts, avoid significant tax increases and build a reserve for ongoing fiscal health, public works and community resources.
- Strong community partnership and sponsorships with local businesses, schools, the parks and recreation, and other area nonprofit organizations and events.
- Retention of the 23 system employees with competitive pay and benefits package.
- Robust customer resources such as low-income grant and discount programs that previously had not been available.
- Online customer portal, MyWater, and several convenient billing and payment options.

## INVESTING IN PENNSYLVANIA

Across our Commonwealth, Pennsylvania, American Water is dedicated to investing in our system's resiliency, reliability, and quality. In 2024, Pennsylvania American Water invested more than \$675 million throughout its statewide service areas, which include 37 counties and 418 communities. Locally, we invested millions in the York wastewater system.

### Infrastructure Improvements

- Since acquiring the wastewater system, Pennsylvania American Water has invested more than \$13.7 million in upgrades and plans to invest more than \$60 million in the York wastewater system by 2030. This will include capital projects in the wastewater treatment plant facilities and the collection system.
- Investments in the York wastewater system have addressed critical deficiencies in the aging infrastructure, reduced system failures, created system redundancies and improved service reliability.

### Environmental Benefits

- Before being sold to Pennsylvania American Water, the wastewater system had numerous federal and state environmental violations, which were ordered to be addressed under a consent decree as part of the sale. As of the beginning of 2025, Pennsylvania American Water has begun 221 capital investment projects in part to address the 10 federal consent orders that were a condition of the sale of the system.
- Under Pennsylvania American Water's management, the system's compliance with federal and state environmental regulations has improved significantly. These upgrades have reduced environmental violations and supported regional sustainability efforts.



**At Pennsylvania American Water, we take pride in continuously maintaining and upgrading the infrastructure that helps keep life flowing for our customers. To provide high-quality, reliable water and wastewater services, we're committed to the proper planning, careful implementation, and of course, investment dollars, that are necessary to ensure our systems operate safely and efficiently**

**Justin Ladner**  
President  
Pennsylvania American Water

**SOLUTIONS. ONE MORE WAY WE KEEP LIFE FLOWING.**



## COMMUNITY PARTNER

**Pennsylvania American Water and the American Water Charitable Foundation have contributed more than \$125,000 to community partners and organizations in York since becoming the region's wastewater providers.**

Pennsylvania American Water has actively engaged with the York community, supporting local initiatives and fostering partnerships that address community needs. Local community partners include the Watershed Alliance of York, York County Veterans Outreach, Byrnes Health Education Center, York County Economic Alliance, York County Envirothon, Rainbow Rose Center, York Revolution, York County Food Bank, York City Police, DreamWrights Center, Junior Achievement, Big Brother Big Sister, and Keystone Kidspace, among others.

Separately, the American Water Charitable Foundation awarded a \$25,000 grant to the York City Parks Conservancy through an annual grant program to support its efforts to transform York's parks into safe, healthy destinations for residents to enjoy for generations.

## QUESTIONS?

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