

EXETER TOWNSHIP WASTEWATER

Pennsylvania American Water's \$66M investment in Exeter Township's wastewater system is helping Berks County grow while protecting Pennsylvania's rivers and streams



Communities across Pennsylvania all want the same thing – reliable, safe and affordable water services. Residents should be able to turn on the tap and expect high quality drinking water or flush the toilet and know that their community's wastewater is being managed in a way that protects Pennsylvania's treasured rivers and streams. Sadly, that's not always the case.

THE CHALLENGE: Aging Infrastructure

- The average age of most sewer systems and drinking water systems in Pennsylvania are approaching 75 years and 50 years old respectively.
- According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, Pennsylvania will require an investment of nearly \$20 billion in the state's water and wastewater infrastructure over the next ten years in order to maintain, modernize and address risks such as public health threats from contaminants known as 'forever chemicals,' called PFAS.
- Municipalities will have to finance necessary water and wastewater improvements to comply with more stringent regulatory requirements, while maintaining affordability.

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The plant and system were becoming an increasing burden on the township as federal and state regulations were becoming too difficult for the township to manage. The sale presents a unique opportunity to secure the finances of the township for residents who presently live here, while also planning for those who come later. We intend to use proceeds from the sale to eliminate all wastewater debt, make deposits into pension funds, and implement new tax exemptions – providing tax savings for all eligible residents.

John Granger, Former Exeter Township Manager

INVESTMENT SPOTLIGHTS



Pump Station Project – \$2M
(Completion by end of 2023)

Identified as a need before acquiring the system in 2019, we are replacing aging infrastructure to reduce employee health and safety issues at the Return Activated Sludge Pump Station, part of the wastewater treatment process.



Chlorine Conversion – \$1.9M
(Completed 2023)

To address safety concerns for employees and the nearby community, we replaced its gas chlorine system with a safer form of liquid sodium hypochlorite disinfection.



**Exeter Collection System
Evaluation – \$1.8M**
(Completed 2022)

We surveyed the entire system, evaluating manholes, inspecting sewer mains, and identifying deficiencies throughout the collection system. Additionally, we installed more flow meters in areas of concern. Flow monitors allow the team to monitor and react quickly if system improvements are needed.



**PENNSYLVANIA
AMERICAN WATER**

WE KEEP LIFE FLOWING®

4 million gallons of untreated sewage spill into Schuylkill River



THE CHALLENGE Aging Infrastructure

In 2018, Exeter Township faced competing budgetary challenges, delaying necessary upgrades to the Township's municipal wastewater infrastructure.



THE RESULT Local Governments' Budgets Spread Thin

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) placed the system under consent order, requiring a 3-year study on rain overflows and major upgrades to the treatment plant and collection system.



THE SOLUTION Major Ongoing Upgrades to Prevent Raw Sewage Discharge

In 2019, the Township sold the municipal system to Pennsylvania American Water and used the \$93.5M in proceeds to eliminate wastewater debt, pay pension funds and implement new tax exemptions for residents.

October 2018

After a major storm, Exeter Township's municipal wastewater system released 4M gallons of untreated sewage into the Schuylkill River, putting drinking water in Montgomery and Chester counties at risk.

October 2019

Exeter Township faced increasing burdens from federal and state regulations.

Since 2019 Acquisition

Pennsylvania American Water has invested \$20M and plans to invest an additional \$46M over the next 5 years to improve Exeter's wastewater infrastructure. The combined \$66M investment will support achieving environmental compliance, improve reliability and expand system capacity to accommodate heavy rains/growth of community.

LOOKING AHEAD: Continued Investment Will Benefit Berks County

With upgraded systems and new technologies, operations have drastically improved, resulting in significant benefits to Exeter, down-river communities, and the environment. Pennsylvania American Water's investment and expertise continues to benefit the community through:

- Water Quality.** In Pennsylvania, systems owned and operated by professional water companies like Pennsylvania American Water are 37.4 percent less likely to have a health-based Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) violation than government-run systems.
- Reliable Service.** Pennsylvania American Water's engineering and operations teams identify and address problem areas, upgrading systems and infrastructure for improved service reliability, water quality, and fire protection. Improving system resiliency is also a major focus to help protect water plants, underground systems, and other crucial infrastructure from extreme weather events, natural hazards and malevolent threats.
- Jobs.** Infrastructure upgrades not only serve as important investments in public health and safety, they also help support the economic health of a community. Studies show that 15 jobs are created for every \$1 million invested in water infrastructure. Pennsylvania American Water employs 1,200 people statewide, which supports our local community with family-sustaining jobs, career growth, and many other benefits.
- Consumer Protection and Transparency.** Professional water and wastewater companies that operate in the Commonwealth are highly regulated by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, which sets water rates, audits expenditures, and approves investment plans; and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).