

# BasinBriefs



A Periodic Update of Wet Weather News and Progress throughout the Eastern, Northern and Southern Basins of Allegheny County

January 2007

## Regional Flow Monitoring Plan Update

After two years of developing, reviewing and refining a cost-effective regional flow monitoring plan, the 3 Rivers Wet Weather (3RWW) Flow Monitoring Work Group (FMWG) submitted a detailed plan on behalf of the ALCOSAN communities to the regulatory agencies (DEP and ACHD) on June 1, 2006, the deadline outlined in the municipal consent orders. The FMWG comprises municipal engineers representing about 75 % of the ALCOSAN communities.

Since the plan submission, 3RWW has obtained ALCOSAN's commitment to fund and implement the flow monitoring plan on behalf of the municipalities. While ALCOSAN'S final consent decree has not yet been released, the Authority is working on the details of implementing the plan.

One of the first steps is the development of an inter-agency agreement between municipalities and ALCOSAN, which will ensure flow monitoring is conducted in accordance with the regional plan submitted, and it will give ALCOSAN contractors the right to install, maintain and track meters in the municipal collection system.

The agreement will also outline and confirm the role of the 3RWW Flow Monitoring Implementation Team (FMIT), a subcommittee of the FMWG. FMIT currently meets twice monthly to prepare for the implementation of the plan.

Once flow monitoring data has been collected (beginning in October 2007), the FMIT will review it for quality assurance and post it to the 3RWW Municipal Data Support web site for access by municipalities.

Because the administrative consent orders originally required a flow monitoring start date of June 2007, 3RWW has created a letter to formally request a change in the start date. Municipalities will need to sign and return this letter directly to their enforcing agency. After receiving the letter, DEP/ACHD will send an amendment to the administrative consent order to each municipality changing only deadlines directly related to the flow monitoring implementation plan. All other deadlines (CCTV, system assessment, repairs, etc.) will remain unchanged.

Data collection is slated to begin in October 2007, so flow meters will need to be installed throughout the collection system 45-60 days prior.

### 2007 Basin Group Meetings

3 Rivers Wet Weather plans to schedule at least two municipal official Basin Group meetings in 2007, tentatively one in spring/summer and one in the fall. If you are a designated Basin Group member, please watch for notification of these meetings as we will be providing important updates on current projects and our region's progress on the wet weather issue.

## 3RWW Receives \$4 million in State Funding

State Senator Jane Clare Orie, on behalf of the Allegheny County legislation, recently presented 3RWW with a \$4 million check to help communities comply with the administrative consent orders and to find a long-term solution to the region's wet weather problem.

Using half of the appropriation, 3RWW will coordinate the implementation of the regional flow monitoring plan.

The remaining \$2 million appropriation will be used by 3RWW to develop a strategy for consolidating the sewer collection system. 3RWW plans to create a template for consolidation, offering opportunities and alternatives for municipalities who no longer have the resources to operate and manage their sewer infrastructure.

A truly sustainable solution to the region's water quality challenges requires shifting ownership and operation of the sewer collection system to regional entities so the region will not be faced with the same problems in decades to come.

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