

BasinBriefs



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

June 2008

Regional Flow Monitoring Plan Implementation Underway

The Regional Collection System Flow Monitoring Plan (RCFMP), developed by 3 Rivers Wet Weather in conjunction with 79 of the 83 ALCOSAN communities, is now well underway. In February 2008, data collection began on more than 500 flow monitors installed throughout the sewer collection system. ALCOSAN is funding the implementation of the RCFMP to assure consistency and equal distribution of costs across the ratepayers. As a regional plan, it will save the municipalities and ratepayers millions of dollars.

As this data will be used to develop the regional long-term wet weather control plan (LTCP) required by the municipal consent orders and the ALCOSAN consent decree, the consistency and accuracy is essential to every municipality. With funding provided by the Allegheny County legislative delegation, 3RWW and its technical team led by Baker Engineers will be providing quality assurance and control processes to make sure that the data is reliable and consistent. Each community has the responsibility to provide additional review of the data to ensure the data is representative of their system. Reliable and consistent flow monitoring data will improve coordination between municipalities and ALCOSAN as the region moves forward on the development of the long-term wet weather control plan.

Cumulative flow monitoring data reports through March 2008

were recently distributed to municipalities and cumulative data reports through April 2008 will be distributed shortly.

What's Next?

Over the last several years, collection of quality mapping and system assessment data has been a priority in preparation for the development of a long-term wet weather control plan (LTCP), due September 12, 2012. This data will be used in conjunction with the flow monitoring data to analyze existing and future system capacities. The municipalities and ALCOSAN are required to cooperate on this plan, which will detail options for treatment plant expansion, collection system improvements and wet weather storage and treatment options.

In preparation for the LTCP development, ALCOSAN has begun its facility planning process. At the April basin group meetings, ALCOSAN introduced its Facility Planning Teams created in each of seven sewersheds encompassing its customer municipalities.

These teams will partner with the municipalities to exchange information, such as flow monitoring data and anticipated municipal flows to ALCOSAN; identify municipal priorities and concerns; develop control alternative options and ideas; and evaluate basin and municipal alternatives. Facilities planning will focus on the critical portions of the municipal collection system as defined by the consent decree. This makes up about eight percent of the total system--the pipes closest to the ALCOSAN interceptors.

Simultaneously, municipalities must begin their feasibility studies to establish the most cost-effective alternative(s) for control of wet weather flows from their municipality, such as source reduction or sewage facilities to retain, store and convey flow to ALCOSAN.

3 Rivers Wet Weather is currently developing the approach for a regional feasibility study that will help municipalities move forward on this important piece of the long-term planning process. **A regional feasibility study is the main topic of discussion for the June basin group meetings.**

Upcoming Basin Group Meetings

Eastern Basin Group:
June 30 and September 29

Northern Basin Group:
June 25 and September 24

Southern Basin Group:
June 26 and September 25

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