

ABOUT

3 Rivers Wet Weather Demonstration Program



Improving our region's water quality

The 3 Rivers Wet Weather Demonstration Program (3RWW) was created in 1998 to support 83 municipalities in Allegheny County in addressing the region's wet weather overflow problem. Founded jointly by the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) and the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (ALCOSAN), 3 Rivers Wet Weather is funded by federal, state and local resources.

The nonprofit organization is committed to improving the quality of Allegheny County's water resources by helping communities address untreated sewage and stormwater overflowing into the region's waterways. To promote the most cost-effective, long-term, sustainable solutions, 3RWW benchmarks sewer technology, provides financial grants, educates the public and advocates inter-municipal partnerships.

During nearly every rainfall or snow melt, excess water gets into municipal sewer systems, which results in untreated sewage and stormwater overflowing into our streams and rivers. These overflows not only violate the Environmental Protection Agency's federal Clean Water Act, but they cause a multitude of health and environmental concerns, including basement backups and



contamination of our primary source of drinking water. In addition, these overflows can result in limits on new sewer tap-ins, which inhibit our region's economic development.

Our region's challenge

In 2001, 3RWW organized municipal officials from each of the 83 ALCOSAN communities into three basin groups east, north and south of Pittsburgh's three rivers. The Eastern, Northern and Southern Basin Groups has since met regularly to learn about new regulations, share resources and begin developing strategies for cost-effective basin-wide solutions to sewer system rehabilitation. The Basin Groups are also charged with exploring regionalization options for managing and operating the municipal collection system in the future.

In early 2004, communities signed an Administrative Consent Order from the EPA identifying initial activities for correcting the sewage overflow problem. 3 Rivers Wet Weather helped facilitate the communication and process between these municipalities and the regulatory agencies, and will continue to help communities coordinate the assessment and evaluation activities outlined in the orders.

With the cooperation and involvement of communities throughout the ALCOSAN service area, 3 Rivers Wet Weather is committed to finding and implementing a regional solution to the wet weather overflow problem.

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