



**Municipality of Penn Hills
WPCD Debt Summary
July 8, 2019**

Prior to 1991 - Penn Hills violated terms and conditions of their National Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits.

- Multiple violations (overflows, discharge limit exceedances, etc.) at all of the 5 wastewater treatment plants
- Multiple overflows and backups in the sewer systems and pump stations
- Falsifying Discharge Monitoring Reports – one employee went to jail and another got community service

Preliminary Injunction Order, September 1991 – Identify all bypass (overflow) points in the sewer system and monitor flow rates. Have an independent contractor develop process control standard operating procedures for the wastewater plants and direct Penn Hills on proper operation. Prepare a long-term remedy report for sewage treatment plants.

Preliminary Injunction Order, September 1993 –

1. At all the Penn Hills Pump Stations –
 - a. Install telemetry and alarms
 - b. Increase staffing
 - c. Install portable generators at three pump stations and repair others
 - d. Prepare spare parts list
 - e. Increase pump station inspections
 - f. Install backup pump at Rodi Road pump station
 - g. Install ventilation systems
2. Install equalization tanks at three pump stations by February 1994
3. Install equalization tanks at three wastewater treatment plants by September 1994
4. Connect three wastewater plants into the ALCOSAN sewer system and convert treatment plants into equalization tanks
5. Close all bypass structures
6. Perform hydraulic study at two treatment plants,
7. Disinfect Sandy Creek bypass and combined outfall
8. Perform I/I identification, manhole inspections, flow monitoring, smoke and dye testing, TV inspections and perform I/I rehabilitation.

In order to connect into ALCOSAN, 10.96 miles of 10 inch to 27 inch diameter sewer had to be installed through Penn Hills, Wilkins, Monroeville, Churchill and Turtle Creek. ALCOSAN was paid a **\$7,470,000** Capital Fee (Tap Fee) as part of the agreement to allow Penn Hills to connect to their system.

Federal Consent Decree with the Federal Department of Justice, June 1998 – After years of no success with developing a Consent Order with ACHD and DEP, the Federal Department of Justice was called in to implement a Federal Consent Decree.

1. Penn Hills shall monitor all incidents of basement flooding and sewer overflows and submit semi-annual reports to the EPA with various provisions of reporting. This resulted in development of a complaint tracking system.
2. Track and report all equalization tank usage.



3. Establish an agreement with Plum Borough Municipal Authority. PBMA installed a separate interceptor into the treatment plant and installed an equalization tank. Submit a report on the Penn Hills Plum Creek Interceptor and treatment system analysis, this report resulted in the installation of the Penn Hills Plum Creek equalization tank and hydraulic corrections within the treatment plant.
4. Payment of civil penalties.

Complete supplemental “environmental projects”:

1. Create a GIS system for the sewer collection system.
2. Perform street sweeping operations.
3. Conduct a household hazardous waste collection and disposal project for five years.

Federal Consent Decree Terminated 2008

PA DEP Consent Order & Agreement (CO&A) - 2008

Required Penn Hills to:

- internally televise (CCTV) all of the sanitary sewer lines within 8 years (243 miles)
- physically inspect all manholes
- GIS mapping of the entire sewer system
- Dye test all structures (houses, buildings, etc.) and require removal of all illegal connections
- Perform a hydraulic design capacity evaluation of all sewer lines greater than 10”
- Repair all structurally deficient sewers identified in the CCTV inspections
- Complete nine major capital improvement projects at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, EQ Facilities, and sewer lines
- Submit a major Feasibility Study and semi-annual progress reports to the PA DEP.

Between 2008 and 2018 the Municipality has spent in excess of \$23 million complying with the requirements of the CO&A.

2008 DEP CO&A Terminated, 2016

DEP Phase I CO&A and First Amendment, 2016 – A new Consent Order to place Penn Hills on equal ground (requirements and schedule) with the other ALCOSAN customer communities.

The 2016 Phase I CO&A contains a “limited scope of obligations” that include: Conducting a Source Reduction Study identifying areas of excess sewage flow and what type of projects would effectively reduce this flow (by December 1, 2017); Performing a flow reduction demonstration project (sewer lining, storm water control, stream removal, or lateral testing by August 1, 2017); “Reasonably” cooperate with ALCOSAN to facilitate trunk sewer transfer, and cooperate with other Municipalities to reduce sewage flows. It required submittal of a progress report by December 1, 2016 and a final report by December 1, 2017.

DEP Phase I CO&A and First Amendment Terminated, June 2018

This pathway has resulted in approximately \$90 Million in debt, of which approximately \$60 Million is still owed through the year 2034.