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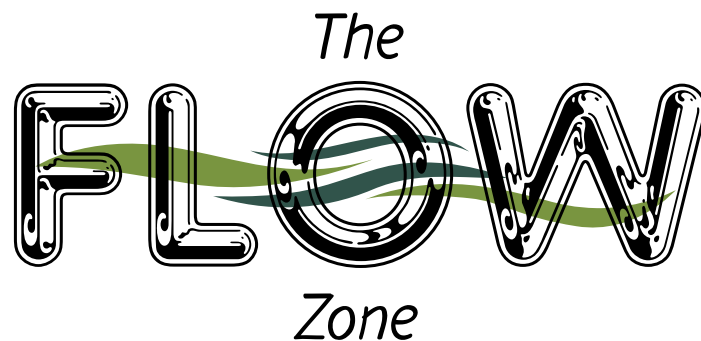
Flowing into the Future, Part II!

Pennsylvania is a large Commonwealth with 67 counties and 2,555 municipalities consisting of boroughs, townships, cities, and one town: Bloomsburg. Across the state, 700 wastewater treatment facilities play a vital role in treating sewage, protecting water quality, and safeguarding Pennsylvania's environmental resources.

These facilities are regulated and inspected by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP). CTA operates two treatment plants, staffed seven days a week by certified operators, along with eight remote pumping stations. The south plant is nearing completion of major upgrades to support the township's residential growth. In a future edition of *The Flow Zone*, we'll discuss these pumping (lift) stations and their engineered purpose.

Our engineers and staff recently submitted annual "Chapter 94 Reports" to the DEP, as required. Whenever you flush, shower, do laundry, or wash dishes, wastewater flows through underground pipes to pumping stations, then ultimately to one of our two treatment facilities. The incoming wastewater is the influent, and the treated water released back into the environment is the effluent.

Both plants use sequencing batch reactors (SBRs), a type of activated sludge treatment. Wastewater moves through an anaerobic digester where oxygen is bubbled in to reduce organic matter. Solids are separated and stored for properly permitted disposal. The resulting effluent is clear and safely discharged into Pennsylvania's surface waters.



This is an SBR basin. Raw sewage is pumped in here and treated via aeration, settling, and decanting. Clear water is skimmed off the top and treated, solids move to the SBR tank. It's a poop stew!

This process relies on large tanks, pumps, digesters, aeration systems, storage units, and other equipment that operate 24/7. Treatment is closely monitored to ensure environmental protection for Adams County, the Potomac River, and the Chesapeake Bay. Portions of Cumberland Township are also designated MS-4 (municipal separate storm sewer system) areas.

As with residential septic systems, anaerobic bacteria must thrive to convert material through denitrification. Every Pennsylvania municipality must maintain a comprehensive sewage facilities plan—long-range planning that benefits both municipalities and water/wastewater utilities.

Cumberland Township Authority is proud to serve nearly 2,000 customers. If you have questions, please contact us at 717-334-1526.

Ben Thomas, Jr. - Admin Manager

Did you know?

Wastewater Treatment Professionals are in High Demand!

If you're considering your first career or making a switch to a stable job with long-term growth, wastewater treatment may be one of the most rewarding and future-proof paths available. Behind every thriving community are skilled wastewater professionals who ensure clean water, protect public health, and support essential infrastructure. These roles are more in demand than ever.

Across the United States, the water and wastewater workforce is experiencing a significant shift. In Pennsylvania alone, 65% of wastewater operators are over the age of 50 and less than 3% are under the age of 30 (Meko, 2019). Our workforce is facing a struggle that could impact a vital service in our community.

While automation is growing within the industry, retirements and career changes far outpace technological replacement. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, an estimated 10,000 job openings per year remain available for operators. Even with automation gaining ground, the need for new operators remains strong and consistent.

Let's talk benefits! First up, job security. Public utilities must operate 24/7. No community can function without wastewater treatment. As neighborhoods continue to grow, systems are continually expanded and updated, maintaining the need for skilled workers.

A career in wastewater treatment also comes with competitive pay and benefits, opportunities for advancement, and a sense of fulfillment as you provide meaningful, community-centered service.

Sound good to you? Let's talk training! Becoming a wastewater operator starts with a high school diploma. After that, your training is on-the-job. That's right, you get paid while you learn and earn a professional licensure! You will also complete online or in-person classes through your choice of training programs. Organizations that provide training include PA DEP, PWEA (PA Water Environment Association), American Water College, & PRWA (PA Rural Water Association). In our previous edition of The Flow, we listed scholarship opportunities!

Wastewater treatment is an essential public service, and operators are the backbone of safe, sustainable communities. With strong job demand, reliable pay, meaningful work, and accessible training programs, now is the time for a career in wastewater!

Ref: Meko, Hurubie, (2019, April 6th). Aging workforce hits water plants especially hard. AP News.

Capital Improvements Corner

South Plant Improvements - Post Equalization, UV System & Digester Conversion: **Complete**

Biosolids Dewatering Evaluation: Applications for funding this project have been submitted and the Engineer has scheduled a pilot study for spring.

Herr's Ridge/Biglerville Road Extension: CTA is looking for ways to expand our service to more residents. If you reside in this area and would like to hook up to public sewer, or know a neighbor who might, send them our way.

Keep Things FLOW-ing!

Our Delinquent Account Process

Hey, we get it. Bills slip past, money gets tight, a million different things can pop up between you and our due dates. Our goal is not to penalize customers, but to ensure fairness for all ratepayers while giving every household multiple opportunities to stay caught up. We are happy to work with you to get things figured out.

We bill quarterly, which means you will get 4 bills per year. Those bills are due the following month on the same day. Hot tip...signing up for e-billing ensures you get your bill the day it is generated, without having to rely on the mail! We bill at a flat rate of \$143 per quarter. That breaks out to around \$48 a month for waste collection, treatment, and disposal. Not a bad deal!

If you happen to miss a payment. You will receive a reminder notice from us soon after the due date passes. We charge a late fee of \$14.30 and 1% interest if you are carrying a balance from the previous quarter.

If you miss 3 quarters in a row, and haven't made contact with the office, you will receive a Demand Letter from our collections office. Triggering a Demand Letter also triggers a legal fee that will be applied to your account. From here, each billing cycle that passes without payment progresses to a Lien, followed by a Writ of Scire Facias, ultimately putting your property at risk for a Sheriff Sale.

The good news is we can absolutely work with you to create a payment plan that suits your budget. The trick is to contact us at the first sign of trouble. We can split up your payments, create a new framework, whatever we need to ensure your success. We get it, we are all human. Reach out!

What is That?



This is the UV system you've been reading about in our Capital Improvements Corner. The two gray chambers contain the disinfecting lights. This is the final stop on the treatment journey.

Customer Service Corner

Upcoming Billing Dates:

Bills out - April 1 & Due May 1

Bills out - July 1 & Due August 1

Bills out - October 1 & Due November 1

Visit our customer portal at cta.authoritypay.com to sign up for autopay, e-billing, and to use a credit card. PAY-BY-PHONE! 717-837-5750

Bank Bill Pay Customers--Please update our address with your bank so your checks arrive on time.

Our payment drop box is located in front of our office suite at 1270 Fairfield Road, Suite 9. The west entrance to the complex, next to the post office box.

Who are They?

POWR: Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers

In our past newsletter editions, we explored two powerful forces for clean water: the Watershed Alliance of Adams County (WAAC), our local boots-on-the-ground watershed stewards; and Riverkeepers, a network of dedicated advocates who monitor, defend, and protect waterways across the country. Each of these organizations ensures our rivers have a voice. This time around we are expanding the lens to look at the statewide network that uplifts, connects, and empowers groups like the WAAC, The Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR).

Not just an excellent acronym, POWR is a statewide organization that provides tools, training, education, and resources to community watershed organizations across the state. Their mission is to make sure these groups have what they need to protect, restore, and advocate for the Commonwealth's rivers and streams.

POWR's support runs both upstream and downstream, providing tools, workshops, trainings, and conferences; maintaining an interactive map of Pennsylvania watershed organizations to help residents connect with their local groups; and offering grants, resources, and networking opportunities to strengthen collaboration and amplify watershed impact statewide.

In our previous article, we highlighted how the WAAC engages residents in hands-on conservation and monitoring efforts. WAAC is exactly the type of community-based group that benefits from POWR's statewide network of support.

Our feature on Riverkeepers showed how important it is to have strong advocacy groups grounded in sound science and community involvement. POWR shares that mission through programs supporting water-resource management, encouraging collaboration among watershed stewards, and adoption of science-based approaches to protecting rivers. Riverkeepers and Watershed Alliances are on the frontlines while POWR supports the mission.

How can YOU support the mission? Connect with adamswatersheds.org for volunteer opportunities and local events. Explore POWR's statewide resources map to see broader conservation efforts across the state and get involved. Contact your state and local reps to express your support for clean water and environmental initiatives. Lastly, keep an eye out for polluters and report it to your local riverkeeper or PA DEP (866-255-5158).

Community Corner



EARTH EXTRAVAGANZA! April 23 from 3-7pm at the Adams County Agricultural and Natural Resources Center, 670 Old Harrisburg Road.



Check out the PA Invasive Replace-ive Program (PAIR), a collaborative effort aiming to wipe out invasive trees and plants taking over PA.