



West Pikeland Township

Act 537 Plan Update

May 28, 2010

At the May 17th Board of Supervisor's meeting, David Linahan, PE, the township's consulting engineer for the Act 537 Plan, presented four alternatives to address the sewage disposal needs for the 64 existing homes in the Pickering Estates area of the Township. Pickering Estates is a 1960's development located southeast of Rt 113 between the Uwchlan Township Line and Hunt Club Lane.

Two of these alternatives propose collecting and conveying the sewage to the Little Washington Wastewater Company's Twin Hills Sewage Treatment Plant with drip disposal system at Pickering Meadow's. One of these alternatives proposed a traditional gravity sewer collection system and other alternative proposed a pressure sewer system with individual grinder pumps at each home. The other two alternatives propose two possible routings for a pressure sewer system conveying to the Windolph Knoll site for final treatment and disposal by a drip distribution system. For both of these alternatives the homes would be served by individual STEP systems.

The Board approved a motion to proceed with final preparation of the Act 537 Plan with the recommended alternative to serve the Pickering Estates community with individual STEP systems and a pressure sewer system, with final treatment and disposal at the Windolph Knoll site. The Board expects the plan to be complete for their review by the June meeting. After that meeting the plan will be available for public comment. The plan also needs to be submitted to the County Health Department, County Planning Commission and the Township Planning Commission before the Board can formally adopt the plan. The plan will ultimately require approval by the Pa Department of Environmental Protection, before the Township can apply for the permits to construct the recommended public sewer system.

The STEP system, (Septic Tank Effluent Pump) uses a tank and effluent pump very similar to many conventional septic systems, except that the effluent pump discharges to a common pressure sewer system located within the road right of way. The pressure sewer system conveys the collected effluent to another location for final treatment and disposal.

Last summer, the Township distributed a questionnaire to the property owners in the southeast portion of the Township. The Township's consultant and a representative of the County Health Department also performed a walking survey of the community. It was determined that the Pickering Estates area is in need of a public sewer system, as the existing lots lack suitable area for replacement systems and due to the overwhelming concern for public health in this neighborhood community.