

SCRANTON WASTEWATER

Commitment to Environmental Compliance and Solutions



In December 2016, Pennsylvania American Water acquired the wastewater system assets of Scranton Sewer Authority (SSA)—a Combined Sewer System that provides wastewater service to approximately 30,000 customers in Scranton and Dunmore. The transaction represented one of the largest wastewater acquisitions in the company’s history. Pennsylvania American Water was already the public water service provider for these communities and brought both the technical expertise and financial resources to meet SSA’s unique challenges, provide a long-term wastewater solution, and maintain reasonable rates for the customers. All 80 employees of SSA were integrated into the company and became employees of Pennsylvania American Water. The acquisition marked a significant milestone for Pennsylvania American Water and its employees due to the size and scope of this wastewater operation and the environmental challenges facing the system.

PRIOR TO THE ACQUISITION

In 2013, prior to the acquisition, Scranton Sewer Authority entered into a Consent Order and Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandating \$140 million in upgrades to the system to achieve environmental compliance. Under the agreement, SSA historically faced financial penalties for a number of violations ranging from reporting failures and air quality violations to effluent exceedances and dry weather overflows. Over the years, SSA paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines.

	Under SSA 2001 – 2016	Under Pennsylvania American Water 2017 – 2020
EPA Violations	15+	0
Fines	\$375,619	\$0



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

The Long Term Control Plan is a 25-year program of nearly 60 combined sewer overflow (CSO) improvement projects to control and significantly reduce the amount of wastewater discharged into the Lackawanna River and its tributaries. Prior to the acquisition, SSA often struggled with routine maintenance requirements outlined in the Consent Order. Lack of proper equipment, training, and a reactive response to improvements caused cleaning and inspection of catch basins and sewer lines to fall behind established goals.

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POST-ACQUISITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Zero NOVs and accomplished compliance with Consent Order and LTCP deadlines



Replaced more than 19,000 feet of sewer main, including numerous manholes and catch basins



Completed survey, assessment and GIS mapping of entire collection system



Established a culture of safety with employees, resulting in no recordable injuries for more than 650 days



More than \$8 million is being invested in the Scranton wastewater treatment plant headworks to improve performance and reliability.



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Currently, \$30 million in plant improvements have been completed or are underway. The company plans to invest another \$10 million in upgrades over the next five years.



Following the acquisition, Pennsylvania American Water assumed responsibility for the Consent Order and LTCP, completing all projects outlined in the first phase and accelerating second phase projects ahead of schedule. Using extensive hydraulic modeling and multi-sensor investigation technology, Pennsylvania American Water has improved on the Consent Order's mandated reduction in CSOs by nearly 30 percent through the first two phases of the LTCP, which were completed a year ahead of schedule. The company has begun the third phase of the plan to achieve further CSO reduction. The company has drawn from its team of GIS, Engineering, and other external resources to improve project delivery.

LONG TERM CONTROL PLAN SUCCESS UNDER PENNSYLVANIA AMERICAN WATER

Pennsylvania American Water leadership incorporated a focus on the company's core values of Safety, Trust, Environmental Leadership, Teamwork, and High Performance into a plan for Scranton Wastewater Operations. The company developed a Capital Plan to immediately identify and correct problem areas of the system and purchased new equipment and technologies that allowed employees to complete tasks more efficiently. The company implemented a focus on safety, including new personal protective equipment for all employees and extensive training programs, including OSHA compliance.

In early 2018, Pennsylvania American Water's Scranton Wastewater Operations team met with representatives from EPA and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection regarding its 2017 operations. Operations team members learned that, for the first time, Scranton Wastewater was not facing any penalties for 2017 operations. Since the acquisition, Scranton Wastewater operations underwent numerous inspections for air quality, lab, and NPDES permitting, all resulting in zero NOVs.

SOLUTIONS. ONE MORE WAY WE KEEP LIFE FLOWING.



A 120,000-gallon equalization system was installed to substantially reduce combined sewer overflows into the Lackawanna River. This is one of over 60 CSO reduction projects being completed as part of the long-term control plan.



Hydraulic capacity and treatment improvements were completed in 2020 to increase plant capacity and provide enhanced wastewater treatment prior to discharge into the Lackawanna River. The company is rebuilding the headworks facility in 2021 and plans to remove chlorine gas disinfection and rebuild the facility's sludge handling process in 2022.

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