APPENDIX R-II-1d

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Ted Bogosh, Sewer Committee Chairman

FROM: Ron Madison

CC: Board of Supervisors

DATE: May 31, 2011

PROJECT NAME: Act 537 Sewage Facility Plan Update **PROJECT NO.:** 08-03486-005

SUBJECT: Tamaqua Borough Sewer Authority Meeting

On Monday, May 18, 2011, we met with representatives of the Tamaqua Sewer Authority as a follow-up to their April 21, 2011 Preliminary WWTP Sewage Service Inquiry response letter. Those persons in attendance included: Kevin Steigerwalt, Borough Manager; Robert Jones, Public Works Director; Mark Malarich, Gannett Fleming engineering consultant; two (2) members of the Tamaqua Sewer Authority Board; Ted Bogosh and Ron Madison representing West Penn Township Sewer Committee.

After initial introductions, I gave an overview explanation of the West Penn and Walker Townships Act 537 Plan Update efforts, first with Ludgate in 2007 and then the status of RETTEW's evaluation. The new alternatives being considered include the possibility of sending sewage from the South Tamaqua and possibly the Clamtown/Reynolds Study Areas to Tamaqua Borough Waste Water Treatment Plant. The goal of this meeting was to further discuss the inquiry response items 3 and 4 regarding the Borough's tapping fee and expected operation and maintenance fees. I also wanted to gain any insight they may have in terms of a possible force main alignment.

I thanked them for their positive response to my inquiry letter dated March 25, 2011 and thanked them for providing a copy of the 1990 Rush Township – Tamaqua Sewage Authority Agreement. They indicated that the current flows from Rush Township are significantly less than planned for in the 1990 Agreement, due to loss of manufacturing facilities in Rush Township. In addition, they stated that a new agreement with West Penn Township may be similar to The Rush Agreement but revisions will be necessary. Currently, the annual operations and maintenance costs are estimated prior to the calendar year and pro-rated quarterly based upon tributary EDUs. At the end of the year the O&M costs are audited and corrected accordingly. They anticipate the same arrangement with West Penn Township as a bulk customer. Based upon 63,000 gallons per day (gpd) the current estimated O&M charge to West Penn and Walker Townships would be approximately $48,000. Based upon a total of 210 EDUs, the annual cost per EDU would be approximately $229 for treatment. This would be in addition to any new system debt service and local O&M costs. Tamaqua also suggested an approximate 3% annual increase in these O&M fees.

The current Tamaqua Borough Authority tapping fee is $2,000 per EDU and they do not anticipate an increase in the near future. Based upon 210 EDUs, the West Penn - Walker Townships tapping fee could be $420,000. However, the Authority wishes to work with the Townships and will spread this fee over several years. If the tapping fee were to be spread over 20 years the cost impact would be $100 per EDU annually.

I asked the Tamaqua Borough Authority if they would consider operating sewage facilities in the Townships as a way of reducing administrative costs. The Public Works Director stated that they are not interested in working beyond their municipal borders. However, Tamaqua WWTP could provide service for solids treatment.

We discussed possible sewer force main right-of way and the possibility of utilizing the existing rail to trail alignment. The Public Works Director informed me that the rail to trail alignment is owned by Service Electric Cable TV and that the Borough Water Main was constructed down the center of the 10-foot wide old rail bed. Directional drilling or co-locating a sewer force main would not be possible. He also stated that getting permission to co-locate from the Reading Blue Mountain Northern Railroad Company would be near impossible based upon their past experience. They suggested utilizing the river side shoulder of State Route 309 which should be fill material and not rock. This would require PennDOT permit approval, but is the best bet. Directional drilling will make this proposal more acceptable by PennDOT.

The Tamaqua engineering consultant asked several questions regarding our other alternatives and our schedule for submission to PA DEP. The Authority asked to be copied on the executive summary of the Act 537 Plan Update when it is ready for public review. We agreed and will keep communications open.

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