APPENDIX R-II-1c

320 East Broad Street

Borough of Tamaqua
Tamaqua, Pennsylvania 18252

Phone 570-668-3444 or 668-0300

April 21, 2011

RECEIVED
APR 27 2011
RETTEW ASSOCIATES

Mr. Ronald B. Madison, PE
Rettew Associates
950 E. Main Street, suite 220
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

RE: West Penn & Walker Townships Act 537 Plan Update
Preliminary WWTP Sewage Service Inquiry

Dear Mr. Madison,

The Borough received your letter, dated March 25, 2011, regarding the above-referenced subject, and your request was discussed at the Tamaqua Borough Authority (Authority) meeting on April 18, 2011.

Your letter contained five (5) questions regarding potential treatment of sewage from West Penn and Walker Townships at the Tamaqua Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Based on the discussions at the Authority meeting and information provided by our consulting engineer, Gannett Fleming, Inc., we are providing the following responses to your questions. Your questions are indicated below in italic font and our responses are provided in regular font.

1. *Based upon the recently completed 2010 Chapter 94 Report, does the Tamaqua WWTP have sufficient 5-year projected hydraulic and organic capacity for an additional 210 EDUs or 63,000 gpd?*

   The Tamaqua WWTP has sufficient excess hydraulic and organic capacity to treat 63,000 gpd of flow from West Penn and Walker Townships.

2. *Based upon the recently completed 2010 Chapter 94 Report, does the Tamaqua Owl Creek Pumping Station have sufficient 5-year projected conveyance capacity for an additional 210 EDUs or 63,000 gpd?*

The Owl Creek Pumping Station (Pumping Station No. 1) may have sufficient capacity available, depending on the magnitude of the peak flow from West Penn and Walker Townships. We believe that only minor improvements to Pumping Station No. 1 would be needed unless the peak flow from West Penn and Walker Townships exceeds the existing Pumping Station No.1 excess capacity.

3. *What is the current tapping or connection fee per EDU for Tamaqua sewage customers? If West Penn and Walker Townships create an Authority, what would be the anticipated connection cost as a single bulk customer, based upon the above estimated flow?*

   Tamaqua Borough's existing tapping fee was established in 2001 at $2,000. It is expected that the maximum fee, if updated to 2011 facility values, could be about $2,800, although no update of the tapping fee is currently planned. Tamaqua Borough and the Authority are willing to work with West Penn and Walker Townships to establish a mechanism for recovering costs that is affordable to Township residents and equitable to existing sewer system customers. We suggest that representatives of the Borough, the Authority, and the Townships meet to discuss this matter further.

4. *What are the current conveyance and treatment charges per EDU for Tamaqua customers on a monthly or quarterly basis? If West Penn and Walker Townships create an Authority, what would be the anticipated conveyance and treatment charges as a single bulk customer, based upon the above estimated flow?*

   Tamaqua Borough sewer customers are assessed user fees each quarter based on metered water consumption. The average fee for a Tamaqua residential customer is about $300 per year. If West Penn and Walker Townships connect to the Tamaqua sewer system and contribute 63,000 gpd, the estimated annual operation and maintenance charge is expected to be about $48,000 as a single bulk customer, based on 2011 budget amounts.

5. *Are any significant capital projects currently being considered by the Tamaqua Borough or the Authority which may increase the above listed fees or charges?*

   The Tamaqua WWTP was originally constructed in 1963 and was last upgraded in 1990. Minor projects have been completed since 1990, on an as-needed basis, to rehabilitate existing facilities. Costs for rehabilitation projects are typically distributed to sewer customers on the basis of flow percentage. Based on our engineer's most recent inspection report, the following rehabilitation projects are expected over the next 5 years:
   a. Replace primary clarifier drives and metal superstructures
   b. Replace control building roof

We trust this information is adequate for you to continue with your evaluation of options for meeting the wastewater treatment needs of West Penn and Walker Townships. As noted above, we suggest that representatives of the Borough, Authority, and the Townships meet to discuss the issues in more detail so that an approach that is acceptable to all parties can be developed. I look forward to speaking with you to arrange a meeting if connection to the Tamaqua WWTP remains a viable option for the Townships.

Sincerely,

Kevin A. Steigerwalt
Borough Manager

cc: Brian Connely, Chairman, Tamaqua Borough Authority
Mark Malarich, Gannett Fleming, Inc.