SEWAGE FREE STREETS AND RIVERS

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# Perth Amboy's Sewer System: What's at Stake

## What's Happening:

Perth Amboy is considering different options for improving its outdated sewer system. Decisions that can affect your neighborhood will be made between now and June 1, 2020. Get the facts by attending local meetings on solutions to reduce stormwater runoff and sewer overflows. Then contact your elected officials with your preferences. Sign up for the Sewage-Free Streets and Rivers campaign for updates on local meetings and other ways to get involved.

Cities like Perth Amboy were required by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to evaluate options for reducing CSOs by July 2019. Perth Amboy's evaluation of potential strategies has been published online as a draft "Development and Evaluation of Alternatives Report." After further review, Perth Amboy will select and commit to a combination of some of the proposed strategies by June 1, 2020, the deadline for the city's official CSO Long Term Control Plan.

**Each option will cost millions of dollars and will impact neighborhoods for decades.**

## CSO permittees are required to review all of these options to reduce CSOs:

- **Green infrastructure** - Nature-based solutions that capture rain where it falls, before it enters and overwhelms the combined sewer system. Examples include street trees, rain gardens, and bioswales.
- **Storage capacity within the existing system** - Using existing pipes to store stormwater.
- **Additional storage capacity in the city and/or at the treatment plant** - New storage tanks within the city or at the wastewater treatment plant.
- **Reduction of inflow and infiltration** - Fixing pipes so water does not come in or seep out through cracks.
- **Sewer separation** - Adding a pipe for stormwater to divert rain from the combined sewer system, reducing how often it overflows.
- **Treatment of CSO discharge** - Constructing a mini wastewater treatment plant at the end of the pipe.
- **CSO-related bypass of the secondary treatment portion of the sewage treatment plant** - Creating more capacity at the sewage treatment plant by bypassing the secondary treatment process of cleaning the mixture of sewage and stormwater.

## Additional options Perth Amboy is considering:

Regulator modifications. This is intended to reduce CSO flows within the interceptor system, which is a large pipe used to transport flow to the sewer treatment plant, by removing inflow sources, increasing the use of existing interceptor capacity and pipeline storage, and/or optimizing performance of the collection system.

## Summary of Perth Amboy's "Development and Evaluation of Alternatives Report"

### Ownership and Management of CSO System Serving Perth Amboy

- The City of Perth Amboy owns the sewage collection system.
- Middlesex County Utilities Authority (MCUA) treats the sewage.
- The City of Perth Amboy and MCUA submitted a joint report.
- Number of combined sewer overflow pipes that discharge into the Raritan River and Arthur Kill : **16**
- Average annual number of systemwide combined sewer overflow events: **61**

**Perth Amboy selected these priority alternatives for reducing combined sewer overflows based on projected cost and the estimated reduction of overflows by volume or the number of overflows per year:**

| Options Considered | Projected Costs and CSO Reductions |
|---|---|
| • Increase the amount of flow from 2nd Street Pump Station from 13 million gallons per day (mgd) to 42 to the sewer treatment plant.<br>• Additional storage capacity and/or treatment of CSO discharge | • Spending $396 million would reduce the number of overflows per year on average from 61 CSOs per year to 0 overflows into the Raritan River and 20 overflows into the Arthur Kill. |
| • Increase the amount of flow from the 2nd Street Pump Station from 13 to 54 mgd<br>• Additional storage capacity and/or treatment of CSO discharge | • Spending $383.5 million would reduce the number of CSOs on average from 61 annually to 0 overflows into the Raritan River and 20 overflows into the Arthur Kill. |
| • Increase the amount of flow from the 2nd Street Pump Station from 13 to 54 mgd by building a new force main<br>• Additional storage capacity and/or treatment of CSO discharge<br>• Manage 10% of hard surface with green infrastructure | • Spending $375.5 million would reduce the number of CSOs from 61 events annually to 0 overflows into the Raritan River and 20 into the Arthur Kill. |

## Community input gathered:

The report included a few comments from the Supplemental CSO Team:

- Any new infrastructure should be as unobtrusive as possible.
- The City of Perth Amboy consider up to 15-20% reductions in impervious area throughout the City.
- New infrastructure implemented as part of the Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) should be resilient as required by NJDEP and code requirements and designed for the impacts of climate change.
- Integrate the planning for the LTCP into the City's Redevelopment Plan so the two plans are coordinated.

## For more information:

- Download the full report at: https://www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/cso.htm
- To see a map of Perth Amboy's outfalls, go to: bit.ly/2kpvpAg
- Perth Amboy's CSO contact: Luis Perez Jimenez, Director of Operations, Middlesex County Utilities Authority; lperez@middlesexwater.com
- PVSC website on CSO Plan: https://www.njcleanwaterways.com/
- Visit SewageFreeNJ.org to sign up for our newsletter