



SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA WASTEWATER CASE STUDY

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. Pennsylvania American Water had provided drinking water services for these communities for decades and brought both the technical expertise and financial resources to meet SSA’s unique challenges while maintaining reasonable rates for customers. All 80 employees of SSA were integrated into the company and became employees of Pennsylvania American Water.

BEFORE 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) that mandated \$140 million in upgrades to the system to achieve environmental compliance. SSA historically faced financial penalties for a number of environmental 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.

“Without this deal, the city wouldn’t have been able to survive, financially anyway,” Mayor William Courtright said... on the sewer utility sale.”

(Reuters, 3/29/16)

“The deal is expected to save the city \$350 million over 30 years, plus another \$140 million the authority must spend on environmental mediation under a consent decree.”

(Reuters, 3/29/16)

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

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

The LTCP 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.

Following the acquisition, Pennsylvania American Water assumed responsibility for the Consent Order and LTCP. The company completed all projects outlined in the first phase of the plan and accelerated 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% 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, drawing from its team of GIS, engineering, and other external resources to achieve further CSO reduction.

LONG-TERM CONTROL PLAN SUCCESS UNDER PENNSYLVANIA AMERICAN WATER

Pennsylvania American Water implemented a Capital Plan to immediately identify and correct problem areas 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.

Since the acquisition, Pennsylvania American’s wastewater operations in Scranton underwent numerous inspections for air quality, lab and NPDES permitting, all resulting in zero Notice of Violations (NOVs) from EPA.

POST-ACQUISITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS					
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	Zero NOVs and accomplished compliance with Consent Order and LTCP deadlines	Installed a 120,000-gallon equalization system to reduce CSOs into the Lackawanna	Hydraulic capacity and treatment improvements increased plant capacity and provide enhanced wastewater treatment