

01/5/05

Bethel Township Municipal Authority
Monthly Report for January '05

1. As part of the ongoing permitting process (Village of Frystown), we received notification from the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service that indicates the project area contains bog turtle habitat. The Fish & Wildlife Service explained that any impacts to wetlands will require Phase bog turtle habitat surveys.
2. The wetlands survey work has been completed (Village of Frystown). We evaluated the results (identified wetland areas) with respect to the proposed improvements and the recent Fish and Wildlife determinations (bog turtle habitats). After reviewing these concerns it was decided to revise the sewer layout in order to minimize the wetland impacts which actually may be a less expensive alternative.
3. The final revisions with the PADEP (ACT 537 plan revisions) have been completed and distributed to Berks County Planning Commission and the Bethel Township Planning Commission for their comments. No comments have been received to date. Once comments are received we will schedule the public hearing and finalize these revisions.
4. A task activity report was submitted to PADEP for the anticipated revisions to the ACT 537 plan (village of Bethel). Once the final decisions are made (service area limits & Treatment Plant location) we will proceed with the necessary plan revision process for Bethel.
5. Our office met with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (Bureau for Historic Preservation) staff to evaluate specific concerns they had with the project. After discussing the project with the Bureau staff they relayed their concerns and requirements of Phase 1 Archaeological surveys being completed on the project. These concerns and requirements helped further justify the revised sewer layout (wetlands impact areas) which should minimize any Archaeological survey requirements along with associated impacts and delays this may create.
6. As a follow up to our meeting with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission staff, we have prepared a request for proposals for the completion of the required Archaeological surveys. These proposals will be submitted for your further consideration at next month's meeting. Basically, the Bureau is requiring the Archaeological survey be completed for all areas of disturbance outside of paved portion of the roadways (or alongside of the roadways). The Phase I survey generally requires field reconnaissance and hand dug probes (test holes) being dug within the limits of the site disturbance to verify or purge the location of any specific concerns. The results of this survey will be used for any further requirements in this regard.

Should there be any questions, please feel free to contact me.

John K. Roche, P.E.