

CHAPTER 10
UTILITIES PLAN
AND
WATER SUPPLY PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The proper facilitation of sewage, water, and energy in the township are necessary to maintain a high quality of life. However, if these tools are missapplied, they have the potential to lead to disorderly growth, in a manner inconsistent with the Township's character, needs, and future well being. The comprehensive planning process examines the presence of these utilities and how to adequately meet the needs of residents while achieving the Township's broader goals that contribute to quality of life. In essence, this means a disciplined balance of the application of utilities and the community's future vision.

UTILITIES INVENTORY

Electricity

Since 1996, Pennsylvania's consumers of electricity have had the opportunity to select their provider from a variety of providers. However, individual lines in the Township are still maintained by specifically dedicated utilities. These utilities are charged with meter readings in the area regardless of the provider from whom the consumer purchases electricity. PECO Energy maintains service in the Township.

In addition to direct provision of electricity, utilities also transmit across the Township. Within the Township are two substations, one dropping 230KV lines to 39KV, and a second which steps down power from 39KV to 4KV.

Sewage

The majority of the Township is served by On-Lot Disposal Systems (OLDS). Kemblesville Elementary School, is one of two notable exceptions, utilizing a small sewage facility. However, with the school currently being unused, little waste is being collected. The second exception is a community system serving the Heritage Village Apartments on Gypsy Hill Road. The system located on Hickory Hill Road is currently 14 years old, and serves 36 apartment units.

The majority of the Township's soils are suitable for OLDS. The soil conditions are adequate for the use of OLDS with maximum densities in all of the current zoning districts with the exception of the High Density Residential (HDR), Commercial (C), and Limited Industrial (LI) districts. Due to narrower lots in the village area, installing new systems in the area is not an appropriate option. To address these problems, the Township, through its Act 537 Plan, is exploring various public sewer options in Kemblesville. If a future use is determined for the school, its sewage collection system would need to be readdressed.

Water

The overwhelming majority of the Township is served by on-site wells. The aquifers in the Township are adequate for groundwater to be the primary source of water. With this in mind, the Township has adopted a strong water ordinance that requires the use of ground water for both public and private systems. With the majority of the area served by OLDS, water from local wells provides a far better water balance in the Township, by ensuring that aquifers are not only drained, but also recharged.

A small area near Kemblesville is served by the Pennsylvania division of Aqua America (formerly Philadelphia Suburban Water Company), and a few homes receive service from the Chester Water Authority, which also sells wholesale to retail purveyors of water in the vicinity of Franklin Township. The Artesian Water Company also has nearby facilities, but is not providing service to customers at present.

Telephone and Cable Television

Land-based telephone service in Franklin Township is provided by Verizon. Cable television is provided by Comcast. Both networks also provide for the provision of Internet service to the Township's residents.

Pipelines

Two pipelines traverse the Township, for purposes of transport only (no local utility provision). The first, operated by Chesapeake/Eastern Shore, carries natural gas, and runs between a major line outside of Parkesburg to the north and points south in Delaware. Additionally, Colonial operates a multi-fuel liquid pipeline through the township, running parallel to US-1, roughly 5 miles to its south. The pipeline enters Chester County from Maryland roughly 10 miles east of the Octoraro Creek, and follows the Pennsylvania side of the arcing border with Delaware.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The future provision of utilities must be tied to the Future Land Use Plan (Figure 5-2) of this Comprehensive Plan, directing utilities to future growth areas in and adjoining Kemblesville in the Kemblesville Village and Moderate Intensity Use Areas.
2. Discourages a patchwork of multiple water providers for future subdivisions. (Such a provision of water would encourage haphazard development, and threaten the Township's rural character.)
3. Revise the Township's cluster ordinance to discourage the use of community water systems from outside of the Township. As lines extend to new subdivisions, they provide a convenient path for new development, which may not always be in the Township's interest.
4. Monitor and enforce OLDS management regulations, requiring more regular pumping of systems, and periodic well monitoring in troubled areas.
5. Take a proactive approach towards septic system management (given the fact that the vast majority of Township residents use on-lot wells and OLDS). To this end, make septic system education a priority. This is particularly important for residents unfamiliar with these

systems.

6. Explore contracting with a local waste disposal company to handle septic maintenance. This would reduce the risk of system malfunctions and with proper negotiation, would provide lower pumping fees.
7. The preservation of natural features such as environmentally sensitive areas and steep slopes, and farmland preservation to temper the haphazard utility application.
8. The Township should explore local interest in high-speed internet options via T-1 networks. This would be particularly beneficial to individuals working out of their homes.
9. Promote the use of spray systems over drip systems in OLDS.