



County of Berks South Campus | 400 E. Wyomissing Ave., Suite D, Box 2 | Mohnnton, PA 19540
Phone: 610.478.6300 | Email: planning@berkspa.gov

*Glenn R. Knoblauch, Chair | Sarah Phillips, Vice-Chair | David Mattes, Secretary
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Thomas C. McKeon, AICP, CEcD | Ashley Showers, Executive Director | David N. Peris, Assistant County Solicitor*

October 14, 2026

Albany Township
Board of Supervisors
P.O. Box 197
Kempton, PA 19529

RE: Albany Township
Act 537 Plan Update

Dear Supervisors:

The Berks County Planning Commission has reviewed the aforementioned Act 537 Plan Update. The Commission offers the following comments for your consideration:

1. Albany Township has decided to pursue a Sewage Management Program and maintain on-lot sewage disposal for all residents. This program specifies inspections at least every three years with pumping required after the results of these inspections. This is consistent with the Berks County 2030 Comprehensive Plan as well as the 2011 Berks County Sewer and Water Regionalization Study Update.
2. The Township should be sure that residents are properly educated regarding the mandatory inspections, septic tank pumping schedules as set forth by the inspections as well as other special requirements present when living in this type of area.

The Berks County Planning Commission thanks you for the opportunity to review this Act 537 Plan Addendum and we request that a copy of the PaDEP approved final Act 537 Plan be filed with our office.

The Berks County Planning Commission does not undertake a technical or engineering review of the project nor does it address compliance with all municipal plans, ordinances or regulations; as such issues are the responsibility of the local municipal official.

Should you need any more information or have any questions regarding our review please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Glenn R. Knoblauch
Chairman
BERKS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

JLP

cc: Alfred Benesch and Company, David L. Horst, Albany Township Engineer
Albany Township Planning Commission, PA DEP Central Office, PA DEP Local Office



MEMORANDUM

(610) 478-6300

Berks County Planning Commission
Berks County South Campus
400 E Wyomissing Ave.
Suite D, Box 2
Mohnton, PA 19540

TO: Berks County Planning Commission

FROM: Jamie L. Passon, Planner II

RE: Albany Township Act 537 Update

DATE: October 9, 2026

The Berks County Planning Commission is in receipt of correspondence from Alfred Benesch & Company concerning an Act 537 Plan update for Albany Township, Berks County.

Project Description:

The intention of this plan is determining what method will effectively treat the wastewater generated by the residents of Albany Township.

Project Findings:

The Berks County Master Water and Sewer Plan dated May 1970 is the official Act 537 Plan for Albany Township. A preliminary feasibility report was prepared in 1976 and it was recommended that an 8" gravity sewer main to serve the village of Kempton be constructed. The study was never developed into an official Act 537 Plan submission.

Albany Township has approximately 649 occupied properties (2020 Census) that are served by individual on lot wastewater treatment systems. Many of these were built before 1972 and predate the PA state design standards that were put in place then. A door-to-door survey was conducted and there were 155 participants which surpassed the DEP required 151 participants. There were 6 confirmed malfunctions, 10 suspected malfunctions, 37 potential malfunctions and 102 properties with no malfunctions.

The following 3 alternatives were considered.

- Gravity system for Kempton and Stony Run Areas with package WWTPs, Sewage Management Program for remainder of the Township.
- Low Pressure Sewer for Kempton and Stony Run Areas with package WWTPs Sewage Management for remainder of the Township.
- Low Pressure STEP (Septic Tank Effluent Pumping) sewer for Kempton AND Stony Run areas with package WWTPs, Sewage Management Program for remainder of the Township.

The costs for these alternatives range from \$2,135,613 to \$3,083,766. This equates from \$50,838 to \$73,423 per edu. This was deemed too expensive and therefore it was decided that a Sewage Management Program for the Township be implemented. This includes septic tank inspections at least every 3 years and pumping required after the results of these inspections.

The proposed Act 537 Plan is consistent with the Northeastern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan as well as the Berks County Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use which calls for some growth that is consistent with on-lot Sewage Disposal Systems.

Staff Recommendations

Staff recommend that the Township educate the property owners that will be part of the Sewage Management Program. Staff also recommend that the Township continue pursuing funding opportunities for future wastewater treatment needs.