

Borough of Conshohocken Authority Wastewater Treatment Plant

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Odors:

1. What is the source of odors at the plant?

Odors are caused by sulfur gases, mercaptans and organic amines. Odors that are predominantly detected are hydrogen sulfide (H₂S).

2. What causes odors to worsen?

The Authority is carrying out \$2.3 million in state-of-the-art improvements to dramatically reduce odors at the plant. The work that is in progress, unfortunately, causes odors to worsen temporarily as we work to improve the odors long-term.

3. Why did the Authority decide to start this project during warmer months?

Temperature plays a vital role in the material being used to protect the treatment tanks from corrosion. The manufacturer suggests that when applying its product, outside temperature should be above 65 degrees for optimal application. This left the Authority without additional options.

4. When will the project be completed?

While we all hope that the project will be promptly completed by spring 2017, we are unable to predict what may or may not transpire in the future that could potentially impede the project.

5. What led to the Authority's decision to mitigate odors?

The Authority had a national engineering company perform an odor control study in 2014. With recommendations from Webster Environmental Associates, the Board of Directors unanimously approved a state-of-the-art odor control system that will provide odor mitigation for years to come.

6. Will odors be eliminated entirely after the new project is completed?

While odors will be reduced with the new odor control system, eliminating odors entirely at a wastewater treatment plant is not realistic. The modern design technology of the odor control system will capture and treat 99% of the odor coming from the plant.

7. Odors from the Conshohocken Authority seems to be worse than everywhere else. Why?

Odors are highly subjective and every individual can be more or less sensitive than another when presented with the same concentration of a given odor-causing compound. The Authority is situated within close proximity to the surrounding community, which is different from other treatment plants. While the treatment plant cannot be relocated, the Authority is working to address odors and minimize them to the greatest extent that technology will allow.

8. What are the highest levels of H₂S generated by the plant?

The Authority purchased H₂S monitoring equipment several years ago and during the spring and summer months, staff hang H₂S monitors at the plant and install a low range monitor within a 2 to 3 block radius of the plant. The highest recorded H₂S reading from the property line of the plant was 3 parts per million or 3,000 ppb, well below limits that would cause nose and throat irritation.

9. How can I stay updated on this project?

Visit our Website at <http://www.conshohockensa.com/> for the latest news and sign up for e-alerts for updated information.