



Great Swamp Watershed Association

The Passaic River WATERKEEPER • ALLIANCE Affiliate

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October 24, 2017

Dear editor:

As Executive Director of Great Swamp Watershed Association, I have been asked by many people to comment on the proposed sale of the Long Hill wastewater treatment facility to New Jersey American Water.

Most recently, in May 2017, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) notified Long Hill that it has exceeded 95% of permitted flow for the 12 consecutive month average. DEP requires a plan for remediation and the ability to implement the plan. I believe the sale of the system will provide the most efficient and effective method to accomplish this.

Unfortunately, Long Hill's wastewater treatment facility has frequent capacity exceedances which by-pass the system's filters and result in discharge of partially untreated effluent into the Passaic River. In lay terms, polluted water is intentionally discharged into the Passaic.

Additionally, expanding sewer capacity will enable an additional seven percent of the town's residences to transfer from private septic systems to the public sewer system. Most of the impacted homes have old, poorly functioning septic systems in areas with high water tables. These systems may contaminate the environment.

The sale of the wastewater treatment system will facilitate improvements to old infrastructure which will reduce stormwater inflow and infiltration and improve reliability of the system, reducing contamination of our rivers and environment.

Sally

Sally Rubin

Executive Director, Great Swamp Watershed Association



Protecting our water and land for over 35 years