

Chapter 1

Goals and Focus of the Plan

1.1 Goals for Eastgate's New AWQMP

Goals for the original 208 plan were developed based on the need to collect and treat municipal wastewater. Since the late 1970's, water quality improved with the development of several wastewater treatment plants, leaving new goals to be established addressing current water quality management needs. The following goals were created for continual development and update of the AWQMP:

- Utilize a regional watershed approach to protect the region's surface waters and the watersheds that feed into them by coordinating resource agency efforts as the basis for management planning;
- Optimize use of the existing infrastructure for development prior to investing public monies in new infrastructure;
- Protect the environmental gains our region has achieved and continue to reinforce the benefits of such gains by promoting the further protection of the planning area's critical resources;
- Incorporate and reinforce protective measures utilized by governing agencies and outline additional measures to assure the region's water resources achieve state attainment standards;
- Serve as an educational tool for local officials and the public on regional water quality management issues.

1.2 Focus of the AWQMP

The plan update centers around restoring the region's watersheds to full attainment and addressing existing water quality threats posed by sprawling development patterns. In turn, attention shifts from establishing wastewater treatment facilities and addressing point source pollution to sanitary sewer planning, improved management of home sewage treatment systems and the semi-public sewage disposal systems, controlling nonpoint sources of pollution, and protecting the region's critical resources.

The AWQMP contains two forms of guidance: recommendations and policies. Recommendations include proposed regional actions for local and/or state agencies to implement the plan under current authorities of state law. They also include words of support for initiatives underway in our countries and encourage the continuation of such efforts in the region. Policies are established water quality management responsibilities of the designated areawide planning agency.

The plan represents a vision of the region's future to balance development and economic growth with a sustainable high quality of the water environment. The plan is a challenge to public officials and the public to undertake protective water quality actions for the next generation and sets an agenda for continuing water quality management planning in the Mahoning Valley.