

GENERAL COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS
RELATED TO DVRPC PLANS

February 27, 2020

Comment:

From: John L Butler

County: N/A

Zip Code: N/A

Date Received: 02/16/2020

Comment/Question: While the sale is not on the agenda, I have a concern about Aqua's plan to divert sewerage now going to the digester plant at the airport from Delaware County to the Chester plant where it will be incinerated and the impact it may have on the air quality in Chester. Also there is the loss of renewable energy that is produced in Philadelphia. There was a study done by Practical Energy for Delaware County that talked about using sewage sludge for producing energy as part of their climate plan several years ago. Do believe there should be a regional plan to treat sewage treatment.

Response: Thank you for your comment. Your original comment was forwarded to the DVRPC Planning Department.

Aqua's plan does not come before DVRPC for review, so we have not seen it and cannot specifically respond to it. However, the intersection of sewage, GHG emissions reductions and energy is something we think about in our planning for the region. For example, DVRPC's [Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory](#) accounts for emissions from wastewater treatment plants, whether they are directly emitting methane, collecting that methane and using it to generate energy, or other waste handling methods. DVRPC's [long range plan](#) for future growth and development, Connections 2045, sets a target of reducing GHG emissions by 60% from 2005 levels by 2045. We support cost effective opportunities to reduce GHG emissions to achieve these goals, and opportunities/concerns such as you bring up may also be addressed through local climate action planning at the county or municipal level. More broadly, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's 2019 Climate Action Plan calls for "methane capture and recovery" from waste management facilities, and a similar recommendation is expected to be in the next PA Climate Action Plan.

Examples of DVRPC's climate change and energy initiatives can be found [here](#). We suggest [contacting PA DEP to express your concerns](#) about the Aqua plan.