



**Lehigh County Authority**

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## FAST FACTS ABOUT LEHIGH COUNTY AUTHORITY

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### Overview

Lehigh County Authority (LCA) is a public water and wastewater utility committed to providing unparalleled service to residents and businesses in all our service areas. Our 39 employees strive to meet this commitment through an unwavering focus on our customers' needs and offering a high level of professionalism, quality and flexibility. We provide water service to about 18,000 residential and commercial properties throughout Lehigh and Northampton counties. We also provide municipal-level and customer-level sewer service in many areas of western and northern Lehigh County.

LCA was founded in 1966 by the County of Lehigh and is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors appointed by the County. LCA is a nonprofit, public agency. Our activities and services are funded solely through revenues from our water and wastewater customers, and our rate-making practices are governed by the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Act.

### About LCA Water Systems

- LCA operates 12 water systems that provide service in 13 municipalities in two counties.
- The Central Lehigh Division, LCA's largest system, serves more than 15,000 residential and commercial properties, primarily in Upper and Lower Macungie townships.
- A residential customer using 20,000 gallons per quarter will pay a quarterly water bill of \$50.10.
- In most areas, LCA's water is drawn from wells and is not fluoridated.
- 2009 Water Operating Budget: \$7,445,000

### About LCA Wastewater Systems

- LCA's Western Lehigh Interceptor system provides wastewater transportation service for 10 municipalities. Through this system, all wastewater is transported to the City of Allentown's wastewater treatment plant.
- LCA provides direct wastewater service to roughly 1,700 individual customers in Upper Milford, Weisenberg, North Whitehall, Washington and Heidelberg townships.
- LCA operates small wastewater treatment plants in Heidelberg, Weisenberg and North Whitehall townships, where collection systems are too distant from the Western Lehigh Interceptor system to be interconnected.
- LCA's industrial wastewater pretreatment plant serves commercial properties in the Fogelsville area.
- Wastewater rates are developed on a system-by-system, cost-of-service basis.
- 2009 Wastewater Operating Budget: \$12,445,000

### Issues of Importance to LCA

As a water and wastewater utility, LCA takes its responsibilities to its customers very seriously. Providing safe, reliable drinking water and wastewater services at a reasonable price to thousands of residents and businesses requires LCA to stay on top of a variety of environmental and regulatory issues. Some specific topics of interest to LCA include:

- Environmental laws and regulations
- Public education and youth outreach on environmental issues
- Water supply issues including droughts, water quality and long-term sustainability of supplies
- Municipal financing and long-term infrastructure needs
- Regionalization and/or privatization of utility services and the impacts on Lehigh Valley residents
- Achieving service economies and efficiency through joint ventures with other systems and municipalities

**Every drop matters. Every customer counts.**