

Laurel Mountain Borough Sewer

Infrastructure Ownership:

- The system will be owned and maintained by LTMA (Ligonier Township Municipal Authority).

Funding Alternatives:

- **PENNVEST (Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority):**
This project may qualify under the "**White Knight Scenario**," a designation that allows the use of Laurel Mountain Borough's demographics to strengthen the application and potentially secure more favorable funding terms or rates.
- **USDA/RUS (United States Department of Agriculture / Rural Utilities Service):**
This funding option was not specifically investigated in depth, as the current USDA/RUS offerings do not provide the most competitive funding package when compared to alternatives like PENNVEST.
- Additional funding opportunities will be explored as appropriate.

Cost of Pursuing a Full PENNVEST Project:

- PENNVEST may subsidize project costs which exceeds an average residential rate of approximately **\$75/month**.
- LTMA's current average residential rate is **\$81.50/month** (based on 3,000 gallons/month).
- The project is potentially 100% grant eligible under PENNVEST criteria, depending on availability of funds.
- Project costs not funded by grant would be funded by a low interest loan for a term of 20-30 years.

Ligonier Township Municipal Authority (LTMA) Sewer Connection Summary:

System & Equipment:

- This project would involve a low-pressure sewer system being installed in conjunction with the Waterline Project.
- Each connected property will be equipped with a grinder pump to move wastewater into the public system.

Grinder Pump Ownership & Maintenance:

- The **grinder pump will be owned and maintained by LTMA**. Residents are not responsible for routine maintenance.
- **Pump Lifespan:**
Grinder pumps have an **expected life span of 7 to 15 years**, depending on usage and conditions.
- **Power Source:**
The grinder pump will use the **resident's electrical supply**; the average monthly electrical cost is approximately \$2–\$3/month for a single-family household. Electrical supply for the grinder pump requires a 240-Volt hookup. Backup power during outages is the responsibility of the homeowner.

Pump Placement

- The location of the grinder pump on the property is determined through discussion between the property owner, LTMA and the installation contractor, based on site conditions and accessibility.

Connection to Existing Lateral

- The proposed system will be connected to the homeowner's existing lateral (the pipe that carries wastewater from the house to the existing septic system), where feasible and appropriate.
- LTMA requires the customer's lateral be tested prior to connection.

Connection Requirements

- **Mandatory Connection:**
All residents located within 150 feet of the sewer line are **required to tap in**, per municipal code.
- **Property Owner Responsibility:**
LTMA is responsible up to the grinder pump. Beyond that, **the homeowner is responsible** for maintenance and repairs of the lateral sewer line on their property.

Costs & Financial Assistance

- **Tap-in Fee:**
A **\$4,000.00 tap-in fee** is required for all properties connecting to the system. This is a one-time fee.
- **Financing Options:**
 - **Low-interest loans** are available through approved financial partners to assist with connection and installation costs.
 - **Grants** may be available for qualifying low-income households, subject to availability of funding.