



STORIES OF PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING HEALTHY WATERS

EPA Region 3 Water Protection Division

Key Milestone Reached in Record Clean Water Project Reading, Pennsylvania – May 23, 2018

The region's largest-ever clean water infrastructure project – major upgrades to the Reading, Pennsylvania wastewater treatment plant – has marked a key milestone.

Officials recently celebrated the opening of two buildings on the Fritz Island site and announced they were nearing the halfway point in project completion.

The upgrades will contribute to local economic growth and lead to cleaner plant discharges to the Schuylkill River, where [concerted efforts](#) along the waterway are improving a drinking water source for more than 1.5 million people.

Then-Acting Water Protection Division Director Kate McManus represented EPA at the event, telling the audience gathered under a large tent that the project is the result of a strong federal, state and local partnership.

“When we work together, good things happen,” she said.

For EPA, it was the largest amount of water infrastructure funding ever applied to a single project in the Mid-Atlantic region – nearly \$150 million.

The record sum of low-interest financing from EPA's [Clean Water State Revolving Fund](#) (CWSRF) was provided to Reading through actions of the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority, or PENNVEST.

The improvements to the plant, designed to comply with an EPA consent order, will allow for growth in the system that now treats sewage for about 200,000 residents in Reading and a dozen suburban communities.

The overall project includes upgrades to the liquid and solids treatment facilities to achieve cleaner effluent and meet pollutant discharge limits.

The plant upgrades are targeted for completion by the end of 2019.



Progress continues at site of Reading wastewater treatment plant.

AT A GLANCE

- *Project will lead to cleaner river, economic growth*
- *CWSRF record sum for EPA's Mid-Atlantic Region*
- *Construction to comply with EPA consent order*

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
EPA Region 3 Water Protection Division
Philadelphia, PA

For additional information contact:

Maggie Cunningham, cunningham.magdalene@epa.gov
EPA Mid-Atlantic Region Water Protection Division
Office of Infrastructure and Assistance
Brion Johnson, bjohnson@pa.gov
PENNVEST