

Executive Summary

In 2004, the Oxford Area Sewer Authority (OASA) imposed a moratorium on any additional sewer connections, stalling local development. After trying for some time to finalize an Act 537 Plan that would propose upgrades to meet growing capacity, the organization hired RETTEW.

After guiding the completion of the plan, RETTEW redesigned, permitted, completed construction bidding, and provided construction oversight for the new treated effluent storage lagoon. Concurrently, RETTEW completed the design, permitting, and construction oversight for new spray fields. Following the completion of the new 39.8-million-gallon spray lagoon, the spray fields became operational. In 2014, the moratorium was lifted. The spray fields allow for the discharge of an additional 405,000 gallons of treated effluent to local agricultural fields instead of releasing the nutrients into local waterways, which could harm the Chesapeake Bay.

The project included securing funding for the large upgrades, incorporating energy-saving technology, and navigating unexpected challenges during design and construction. RETTEW's engineers educated the public about the positive benefits of the spray fields and worked closely with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to stay on schedule while meeting regulatory requirements. Our oversight significantly reduced costs, and OASA's planning has protected agricultural land and the Chesapeake Bay.

The surrounding community has received an economic boost, now able to approve commercial and residential developments and improvements. The environment and local water table benefit from the spray fields, and the community can continue to thrive because of the successful upgrades.