



CASE STUDY

Wastewater Treatment Plant | Conneaut Lake Pennsylvania.

BILCO Products Support Upgrade To Pennsylvania Wastewater Treatment Station

While there has been improvement over the past five years, the American Society of Civil Engineers finds the nation's infrastructure still needs serious investment.

Wastewater infrastructure, according to the ASCE, is one of the country's most pressing challenges. In a 2025 report, the organization assigned a D grade to wastewater infrastructure. Transit infrastructure achieved the same grade, the lowest among the 18 categories evaluated.

The report stated the annual capital needs for wastewater and stormwater was \$99 billion but faced a \$69 billion funding gap. "Assuming the combined wastewater and stormwater sector continues along the same path," the report stated, "the gap will grow to more than \$690 billion by 2044."

In wake of the alarming news, some communities have prioritized treatment upgrades. In Pennsylvania, the Conneaut Lake Joint Municipal Authority (CLJMA) took a major step toward improving its facilities to upgrade equipment that had been in service for more than 60 years.

The two-year, \$15 million upgrade of a 1.1 MGD treatment facility includes a new influent pump station, 2,500 linear feet of HDEP force main, removal of the Conneaut Lake Borough pump station and refurbishment of an existing pump station. A second phase will focus on designing a system for advanced water treatment to lower CBOD (Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand).

The CLJMA prevents the discharge of untreated sewage and manages sewer lines for portions of Sadsbury and Summit Townships. The service area includes a three-mile-long lake that is facing mounting challenges such as pollution, invasive species and harmful algal blooms.

"The project was intended to improve performance and meet future demand," said Jim Protin, associate for Rosewood Tower Consulting, which designed the project for the Authority. "The upgrades will reduce nutrient loading into the lake, helping to maintain its ecological balance and protect the rare and endangered species that depend on it."

Rosewood and the general contractor for the project, The Gildea Group, faced the additional challenge of designing and constructing a system in a tight footprint while also meeting the needs of a flexible population.



The project includes multiple pieces of equipment from BILCO. Workers installed three floor doors that are reinforced for AASHTO H-20-wheel loading. The doors include a channel frame for use in exterior applications where there is a concern of water or other liquids entering through the access opening. They also include a debris gasket.

Four additional doors were also included in the project and allow access to pumps and other equipment for service, repair and replacement. All of the doors include the company's fall protection grating.

An 8-feet x 8-foot roof hatch allowed for the installation of a large pump. V.O. George Group, BILCO's manufacturers' representative in the region, procured the equipment for Gildea.

"The floor doors allow operators to easily access the press and pumps that are in the station," Protin said. "We have familiarity with the BILCO products, and we are confident in their quality. In particular, our design engineer, Diane Altland, has had a great relationship with them and she specifies them as often as she can."



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