

Support industries of equal to or less than 50 persons make up a substantial part of the economic climate in Elk County. There are approximately 56 industries employing between one (1) and ten (10) persons. Total employment is approximately 335 persons.

There are approximately 34 industries employing between eleven (11) and twenty five (25) persons. Total employment is approximately 630 persons.

There are approximately 24 industries employing between twenty six (26) and fifty (50) persons. Total employment is approximately 900 persons.

Support industries include for example; metal finishing, tool and die and secondary machining, which support local primary metal industries and provide an important base for new industrial development opportunities such as ceramics and plastics.

Economy and Forest Products

Local forest product employment profiles document the areas' local saw and planing mills. These mills produce and process large annual volumes of one of the highest value woods in America, Black Cherry. Only small volumes are used in the local production of furniture or other final products.

The region's export of timber resources to be processed out of the area is resulting in loss of realizing full potential for employment and economic volume in Elk County.

Additionally, the economic potential for forest resources to serve as a tourist resource is not being realized in Elk County. Development of commercial accommodations, such as bed and breakfast facilities may augment the areas' ability to draw a tourist base to Elk County and to the County's State and Federally owned forest lands. Efforts such as the proposed Lumber Heritage Region will foster tourism as an industry and also promote secondary manufacturing of wood products and supporting industries.

As discussed in Section A.10, Forest Resources, on page IA-15, the local economy surrounding forest products and forest resources is pending the direction taken for future management. In 1991 the Allegheny National Forest began to see an increased interest from environmental groups in the management practices being conducted in the forest. Since then, participation in management decisions has steadily increased through written/verbal comments, Project Appeals, and Court Litigation, with the goal of these groups being no cutting in the forest. Allegheny hardwood ecosystems in the Allegheny National Forest suffered the adverse impacts associated with a series of defoliations, droughts, and disease outbreaks over the past decade. Widespread tree mortality is occurring. Approximately 11,000 acres of the affected 90,000 acres were identified for intensive reforestation treatments to replace dead and dying trees, and to harvest and salvage green timber. The harvest of green trees was proposed to increase favorable regeneration conditions.

The Decision Notice for the Mortality I Environmental Assessment (June 1995) approved

reforestation on 5,203 acres and timber harvest on 4,874 acres. The Decision Notice for the Mortality II Environmental assessment (February 1997) approved reforestation and timber harvest on 5,131 acres and reforestation only (no timber harvest) on an additional 988 acres. An Environmental Assessment (EA) reviewed the impacts of reforestation treatments proposed in the mortality areas. The objective is to establish a new forest in these mortality areas for future generations.

In 1997, opposing environmental groups were successful in halting the Mortality II project by winning a court decision. The judge found that the Forest Service prepared inadequate documentation to support this project and that further, more intensive study in the form of an environmental impact statement would be required. At about this time, the Forest Products Industry began to be more active in management in the National Forest, making timber and forest products industry point of view known. They support sustained yield management in the Forest which they believe would allow harvesting to continue into the future. This conflict between the two groups will continue to be a controversy in the Elk County area for the foreseeable future with almost every management decision being closely scrutinized by both sides and most likely by the judicial system. Forest managers, scientists and people who value National Forests must work together to arrive at a consensus for sustaining the forest for today and future uses.

Economy and Carbon Industries

With primary manufacturing industries experiencing some decline in employment during the 1990's, consideration should be given to broadening the variety of local industry, such that the economy is not solely dependant on carbon and metal products. It is again noted, that monetarily, manufacturing industries are thriving. Other industry types with real economic potential may include fine quality wood products, for example, development of tourism as an industry, and overall augmentation of the area's well established carbon products industries.

E. PUBLIC UTILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

E.1 Introduction

One of the many goals of local and County governments is to provide essential facilities such as water and sewage to the community for the common good of the private sector. These facilities are public infrastructure (water, sewage, waste disposal and other utilities). Careful planning of such facilities is a major factor in attracting and retaining residents, business, and industries. The following evaluation of existing facilities will establish the framework to develop specific recommendations for the Comprehensive Plan. (Part II of this document).

E.2 Utility Companies (Electric, Gas, Cable, and Telephone)

a. Electric:

Allegheny Power Company
P.O. Box 1392
Fairrmonste, WV 26555
1-800-255-3443

Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association
P.O. Box 1266
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1266
(717) 233-5704

United Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Unilec)
Route 80 & 255
DuBois, PA 15801
1-800-262-8959

Willamette Industries
100 Center Street
Johnsonburg, PA 15845
(814) 965-2521

b. Gas:

National Fuel Gas
One Relief Street
Oil City, PA 16301
1-800-444-3130

Columbia Gas of PA
P.O. Box 910
Smithfield, PA 15478
1-800-942-2204

North Penn Gas Company
P.O. Box 508
Lock Haven, PA 17745
1-800-622-4347

c. Cable: (Primary)

TCI of Pennsylvania
12 South Mill
Ridgway, PA 15853
(814) 772-8703

Others include:

St. Marys Television
314 S. Michael Street
St. Marys, PA 15857
(814) 781-1466

Keystone-Wilcox Cable TV
P.O. Box 134
Ridgway, PA 15853
(814) 929-5965

c. Cable: (continued)
Others include:

Johnsonburg Community TV
c/o Johnsonburg News Agency
547 Market Street
Johnsonburg, PA 15845
(814) 965-4888
(814) 965-2367

d. Telephone: (Primary) Others include:

ALLTEL Pennsylvania, Inc.
320 Main Street
Ridgway, PA 15853
(814) 776-6160

AT&T Communications or PA, Inc. - 1-800-247-7000
Bell-Atlantic, PA, Inc. 1-800-660-7111
Brookville Telephone Co (ALLTEL) 1-800-255-8357
MCI Telecommunications- 1-800-873-6248

E.3 Water Resources

In Elk County, nine (9) public water supply entities serve approximately 80 percent of the population. Private wells or springs serve the rest. The public supplies are from reservoirs, springs, and wells. They are used at a rate of about 4.8 million gallons per day.

Public and domestic water use is met primarily by ground water sources. Wells located in valleys generally produce higher yields than those located on the upper slopes and on hilltops. Geologic structures, such as bedrock fractures, folds, faults, and dips, also influence ground-water yields.

Water quality is generally suitable with some treatment required for iron and manganese content.

Public /Community Water Supplies

Public water supplies serving Elk County include:

A. Horton Township (population 1665)

Population is served by:

Table 31: Public Water Supplies Serving - Horton Township

PWS I.D. #	6330002	6240002	6420001
Water Suppliers	Brockway Borough Municipal Authority	Horton Township Mun. Auth/Brandy Camp Homes	Elbon Home Owners Assoc.
Population Served	792	160	70 est
Percent Served	46.1 %	9.1 %	4.2 %
Use (gallons/day)	82,000	7,990	3,400 est

B. Jones Township (population 1870)

Population is served by:

Table 32: Public Water Supplies Serving - Jones Township

PWS I.D. #	6240019	6240020
Water Supplier	Joy Gardens Mobile Home Park	Wilcox Water Company, Inc.
Population Served	23	549
Percent Served	1.2%	29.4%
Use (gallons/day) estimated	2,000	38,400

C. City of St. Marys (population 14,020)

Population is served by:

Table 33: Public Water Supply Serving - The City of St. Marys

PWS I.D. #	6240016
Water Supplier	St. Marys Area Joint Water Authority
Population Served	14,020
Percent Served	94%
Use (gallons/day)	2,817,000

D. Ridgway Township (population 2,617)

Population is served by:

Table 34: Public Water Supplies Serving - Ridgway Township

PWS I.D. #	6240022	6240007
Water Suppliers	Ridgway Township Municipal Authority	Johnsonburg Municipal Authority
Population Served	1,407	118
Percent Served	53.8%	4.5%
Use (gallons/day)	193,000	18,300

E. Johnsonburg Borough (population 3,350)

Population is served by:

Table 35: Public Water Supply Serving - Johnsonburg Borough

PWS I.D. #	6240007
Water Supplier	Johnsonburg Municipal Authority
Population Served	3,350
Percent Served	100%
Use (gallons/day)	521,000

F. Ridgway Borough (population 4,793)

Population is served by:

Table 36: Public Water Supply Serving - Ridgway Borough

PWS I.D. #	6240012
Water Supplier	Ridgway Borough Water Works
Population Served	4,793
Percent Served	100%
Use (gallons/day)	1,060,000

G. Fox Township (population 3,392)

Population is served by:

Table 37: Public Water Supplies Serving - Fox Township

P.W.S. I.D. #	6240008	6240016
Water Suppliers	Fox Township Municipal Authority	St. Mary's Area Joint Authority
Population Served	362	3053
Percent Served	10.7%	90%
Use (gallons/day)	20,900	533,000

H. Jay Township (population 2,087)

Population is served by:

Table 38: Public Water Supply Serving - Jay Township

PWS I.D. #	6240005	6240016
Water Supplier	Jay Township Water Authority	St. Marys Area Joint Sewer Authority
Population Served	1671	16
Percent Served	80%	1%
Use (gallon/day)	21,100	1,600

Source: Clarion River Basin Study (1997) and N.W. Regional D.E.P. and Warren District Office, D.E.P.

I. Highland Township (population 551)

Population is served by:

Table 39: Public Water Supply Serving - Highland Township

PWS I.D. #	6240006
Water Supplier	Highland Township Municipal Authority
Population Served	235
Percent Served	42.6%
Use (gallons/day)	12,501

No public water services is available in Benezette, Spring Creek, and Millstone Townships. Planned water system improvements include:

- The **Borough of Johnsonburg** is planning to build a 500,000-gallon water storage tank along Silver Creek and furnishing water to a substantial area of the Borough. The Powers Run plant may need to be replaced over the next 10-20 year period.
- The **Borough of Ridgway** plans to make improvements to the dam that controls the flow of Mill Creek into the reservoir.
- **Horton Township** is preparing a feasibility study provision of public water service to an area along the Route 219 between Brandy Camp and Brockport including the area of the Village of Elbon.

- **Ridgway Township** is still in need of adequate fire protection in some areas. Some grant funds are being directed toward this endeavor. Also, it is planned to extend service along Boot Jack to Horton Township.
- The **Joy Gardens Mobile Home Park** system is a monitored system. Permitting requirements will need to be completed if the number of services connections remains over 15. The number of connections currently is 17.
- The **Elbon Home Owners Association** system is also a monitored system. The Association needs to either complete permitting requirements for a public water supply, or extend the system for approximately one mile to interconnect to the Horton Township Municipal Authority System.
- The **City of St. Marys** plans to replace old antiquated water lines in older sections of the City to provide improved water pressure. Additionally, the city is giving consideration to the development of a new reservoir near Rosely Road off of Bucktail Road.
- **James City** in Highland Township, is working to upgrade their water source.

E.4 Sewage Facilities (Public Sewage and On-lot Sewage)

■ **Introduction (The Role of Sewage Facilities Planning in Community Development)**

The collection of wastewater and its treatment is a vital function in community planning. Regardless of whether a community desires development or wishes to discourage development, provision for adequate sewage facilities is essential and required. Without proper planning, sewage facilities are sometimes not sized adequately to accommodate future growth and development.

The Comprehensive Sewer and Water Plan 1968 - Elk County, Pennsylvania is broad based and does not give site specific recommendations for needed sewage improvements. Municipalities with more up to date sewage facilities plans (Act 537 Plans) include:

Highland Township	1992
Borough of Ridgway	1991
Jones Township	1996
Fox Township	1998
City of St. Marys Update (Iron Run Interceptor)	1995
City of St. Marys Update (Plant expansion)	Currently Pending
Jay Township	1997
Horton Township	1998

Those with older plans (1970's and 80's) include:

The Borough of Johnsonburg
Ridgway Township

Those relying on the 1968 County plan include:

Spring Creek Township
Millstone Township
Benzette Township

Refer to Section IA-6 for discussion on soils and on-lot sewage disposal (Section A.6. in Background). No County wide or Joint Municipal Sewage Association presently exist in Elk County. Currently five (5) independently contracted/hired Sewage Enforcement Officers serve the County's on-lot sewage permitting needs.

The 1990 U.S. Census indicates that approximately 52% of Elk County housing units are served by public sewers. The remaining 48% have on-lot septic disposal systems, cesspools, or other means of disposal.

There are currently seven (7) public sewage treatment facilities in Elk County. They are: