

WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY IN MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP

New Water Storage Tank to Improve Fire Safety and the Public Water Supply

The North Wales Water Authority (NWWA) is currently overseeing the construction of a long-awaited and much-needed water storage tank to be located near the intersection of North Wales Road and General Hancock Boulevard – near an existing quarry and behind the Airport Square Shopping Center.

According to Robert C. Bender, during his 2015 presentation to the Montgomery Township Board of Supervisors when this project was first introduced, the additional 4.2 million gallon water storage facility is needed to enhance the reliability of water service in the Montgomery County community, as well as providing a much-improved fire protection water supply.

Bender noted an additional benefit, explaining that once the tank is in operation, the Authority will be able to temporarily drain, inspect, and then repaint two older water tanks. These tanks are located along Route 202 at the Water Tower Square Shopping Center and at the Highpoint Athletic Club, near Upper State and County Line Roads. Both tanks are over 20 years old and supply water to Montgomery Township and nearby communities.

Expected to be completed in 2022 at the cost of approximately Nine Million Dollars, the finished tank will reach an elevation needed to equal the overflow elevations of the other two tanks, an engineering necessity in a gravity flow water system.

The Montgomery site was chosen first due to its high ground elevation, thereby reducing the height of the pedestal required to reach the requisite water elevation. Additionally, the new tank site is now surrounded by vacant land, an existing shopping center, a former quarry, and other commercial uses across North Wales Road – as opposed to being located within or directly adjacent to an existing residential neighborhood.

Observers may be awed by the temporary presence of a large crane now being used at the site to lift and place the tank components into place. Upon project completion, the new tank will be cleaned and painted and will ultimately resemble the Highpoint Tank. To finalize the project, the NWWA will be installing berms, landscaping, and buffer plantings around the facility.

Questions about the new tank should be directed to Bradley S. Fisher, P.E., NWWA Director of Engineering and Operations, at 215-699-4836.

North Wales Water Authority,

Robert C. Bender

Executive Director