

#613 PLANNING BASICS

The Official Plan

2



CHAPTER OBJECTIVES:

After completing this chapter, you will be able to . . .

- Describe what a sewage facilities official plan is and the type of information that must be included in the plan.
- Explain the difference between an official plan and a comprehensive plan.
- Explain who is responsible for an official plan and when the plan needs to go through an update revision or be revised.
- Describe the difference between an official plan update revision and an official plan revision.



TEACHING METHOD:

- Self-study



ESTIMATED TIME:

- 45 minutes



MATERIALS / RESOURCES:

- Computer with Internet access—www.seotraining.org
- Chapter Materials—All chapter materials are available at www.seotraining.org, Cont. Ed. Course Material, Courses, #613, Chapter 2.
 - ✓ Chapter Study Materials
 - Self-study guide (viewed on the Internet)
 - Workbook (print book)
 - Answer key (viewed on the Internet)
 - ✓ Chapter Resources
 - Sewage Facilities Act (Act 537 at www.library.dep.state.pa.us/dsweb/Get/Document-70481/3800-BK-DEP1416.pdf)
 - Title 25 regulations (book or at www.pacode.com/secure/data/025/025toc.html)
 - Act 247



CHECKLISTS

The checklists below are to help you organize your training activities. All the listed activities should be completed prior to moving to the next chapter.



WORKBOOK ACTIVITIES:

- _____ 2-1: Official vs. Comprehensive Plans
- _____ 2-2: Official Plan Approval

ANSWER KEY:

The workbook activity answers can be found at www.seotraining.org, Cont. Ed. Course Material, Courses, #613, Chapter 2, Chapter Study Materials, Answer Key.



TESTING:

(www.seotraining.org, Cont. Ed. Material, Courses, #613, Course Quiz)

When you complete all the chapters, you may take the online course quiz. To successfully complete the self-study portion of Course #613, you must complete the course quiz. There is no minimum passing score. The score will be for your reference to measure your knowledge of the content.

NAVIGATING THE COURSE MATERIAL:

Don't close out of the PDF documents when you want to go get another file. Instead, use the back arrow in the navigation bar at the top of the screen. It is also helpful to open two separate windows: one with the self-study guide and one with the resources. This way you won't have to close the self-study guide to access the resources.



Go to the www.seotraining.org, Cont. Ed. Material, Courses, #613, Chapter 2, Chapter Study Materials, **Self-Study Guide**. The guide will tell you when you need to return to this workbook to complete exercises or activities.

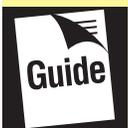


EXERCISE 2-1: Official Plans vs. Comprehensive Plans

Fill in the following blanks from the word bank below, based on what you have just learned.

municipal	official	comprehensive	requires
247	537	294	optional
support	supersede	mandatory	addresses

- 1) The official plan _____ sewage planning in a municipality.
- 2) The _____ plan addresses overall planning, including land use, transportation, facilities, and utilities.
- 3) Act _____, which is called the Sewage Facilities Act, governs how municipalities prepare the official plan.
- 4) Act 537 _____ municipalities to develop an official plan.
- 5) The Municipalities Planning Code (Act _____) governs how a municipality does comprehensive planning.
- 6) Comprehensive planning, which takes the form of subdivision and zoning ordinances, is _____ for a municipality.
- 7) The official plan should _____ other municipal land use planning and zoning.



Return to the **Chapter 2 Self-Study Guide**.



EXERCISE 2-2: Official Plan Approval

Go to Title 25, Chapter 71. Review the approval process for official plans in Section 71.31, and use this information to fill in the following blanks.

71.31. Municipal responsibility to review, adopt and implement official plans.

(a) A municipality shall develop and evaluate _____ in official plans and official plan revisions and shall determine, _____ to adopting the plan, which technical and administrative alternatives are proposed to be implemented.

(b) A municipality shall _____, review and consider _____ by appropriate official planning agencies of a municipality, including a planning agency with areawide jurisdiction if one exists, under the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (53 P. S. § § 10101—11202) and the existing county or joint county department of health. Evidence that the official plan has been before these agencies for _____ days without comment is sufficient to satisfy the requirements of this subsection.

(c) A municipality shall submit evidence that documents the publication of the proposed plan adoption action at least once in a _____ of general circulation in the municipality. The notice shall contain a summary _____ of the nature, scope and location of the _____ including the antidegradation classification of the receiving water where a discharge to a body of water designated as high quality or exceptional value is proposed and the plan's major recommendations, including a list of the sewage facilities alternatives considered. A _____-day public comment period shall be provided. A copy of written comments received, and the municipal response to each comment, shall be submitted to the Department with the plan.

(d) An implementation _____ shall be submitted as part of the official plan. This schedule shall designate the time periods within which the specific _____ of the facilities or program will be completed and the methods and _____ of _____ each phase.

(e) When an official plan or official plan revision identifies a _____ between a proposed alternative and the consistency requirements contained in Title 25, Section 71.21(a)(5)(i)–(iii) (relating to content of official plans), the municipality shall submit written documentation that the appropriate agency has received, reviewed and concurred with the method proposed to _____ identified _____.

(f) The municipality shall adopt the official plan by _____, with specific reference to the alternatives of choice and a commitment to _____ the plan within the _____ _____ established in an implementation schedule.



To view the answers for the exercises in this workbook, go to www.seotraining.org, Continuing Education Course Material, Courses, #613, **Chapter 2**, Chapter Study Materials, **Answer Key**.



Return to the **Chapter 2 Self-Study Guide**.



KEY POINTS

- Every municipality in the state is **required** by Act 537 to have an official plan. This plan addresses the current and future sewage facility needs of a municipality.
- The Municipal Planning Code (Act 247) gives municipalities the **option** to develop a comprehensive plan. A comprehensive plan addresses overall planning, including land use, transportation, facilities, and utilities.
- A municipality's comprehensive plan should support the municipality's official plan.
- The elected municipal officials are responsible for keeping an official plan up-to-date.
- The official plan must undergo an **update revision** any time the plan (or any part of the plan) is deemed to be inadequate.
- The official plan must be **revised** any time it is considered inadequate, new development is proposed, or a department-issued permit is required.