



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL RECOMMENDS A MORE REGIONAL
APPROACH TO STORMWATER AND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT IN
ALLEGHENY COUNTY**

**ALCOSAN AND ALLEGHENY CONFERENCE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
RELEASE PANEL CONCLUSIONS**

(PITTSBURGH – March 15, 2013) – An independent review panel convened by the Allegheny Conference on Community Development at the request of ALCOSAN has concluded that a more regional approach to stormwater and wastewater management would provide better service and water quality for residents, businesses and communities. The panel released its findings today after evaluating the wastewater and stormwater infrastructure within the 83 community ALCOSAN service area.

The 34 member committee, chaired by Carnegie Mellon University President Jared Cohon, included members representing local government, foundations, academia, legal, environmental, water & sewer authorities, non-profit and private organizations. Formed in September 2011, the panel developed and evaluated regionalization options, benchmarking national best practices according to detailed assessment criteria.

"Developing a stronger regional partnership between ALCOSAN and its 83 municipal sewage collection systems is an important step towards aligning our resources and capacity to improve water quality," said Dr. Cohon. "The review panel's recommendations for broader-based decision making, integrated day-to-day operations, incentivizing wastewater flow reduction, and comprehensive wastewater planning will make a decisive contribution to carrying out ALCOSAN's Wet Weather Plan."

ALCOSAN owns and operates 90 miles of interceptor lines and a 250 million gallon a day wastewater treatment plant. There are more than 4,000 miles of municipal sewer lines with each municipality ALCOSAN serves owning and operating the wastewater and stormwater systems in their communities.

The Review Panel identified the following action steps:

- Governance Changes to Reflect the Multi-Jurisdictional Interests in ALCOSAN Decision-Making and Performance
- Transfer of Intermunicipal Conveyance Lines and Wet Weather Control Facilities to ALCOSAN

- Financial Incentives to Promote Municipal Flow Control
- Consolidation of Municipal Wastewater Collection Systems
- Consolidation of Municipal Stormwater Collection Systems
- Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Planning

“I applaud ALCOSAN for taking a leadership role in this effort and convening this illustrious group to talk about options that are available to our region to address this issue,” said Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald. “Now is the time for our municipal partners to thoughtfully consider these recommendations and to consider how we can move forward in a regional, collaborative way that enables us to provide better services and water quality for our residents, businesses and communities.”

"The report identifies a true regional approach to wastewater and storm water management that will be welcomed by municipalities throughout Allegheny County," said Patricia Schaefer, president, Edgewood Borough Council. "The suggested changes in governance, will empower all stakeholders to work together to develop more cost-effective approaches."

The entire report and a list of communities ALCOSAN serves can be viewed at www.alcosan.org.

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Located along the Ohio River on Pittsburgh’s Northside, **ALCOSAN** treats an average of 200 million gallons of wastewater daily representing treatment service from 320,000 customers in 83 communities including the City of Pittsburgh. ALCOSAN is not a county agency but a joint city-county authority operating under state guidelines receiving no tax monies with revenues generated solely by rates.

The **Allegheny Conference on Community Development** and its affiliates, the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, the Pennsylvania Economy League of Greater Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance, work in collaboration with public and private sector partners to improve the economy and the quality of life in southwestern Pennsylvania. Learn more at www.alleghenyconference.org.