ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE CENTER

Nanty Glo Water Authority: A Collaborative Approach to Protecting and Treating Drinking Water

CAMBRIA COUNTY, PA | DRINKING WATER | 2023-2026

COMMUNITY NEEDS

Nanty Glo Water Authority provides drinking water services to 3,500 people in Cambria County, Pennsylvania. Its service area includes Nanty Glo Borough, Revloc Village, and portions of Cambria, Jackson, and Blacklick Townships.

The Authority's sole water source, the Williams Run Reservoir, has experienced a range of water quality problems, including silting, high levels of legacy sediment, steep banks with poor stability and little vegetation, and algal blooms.

During rainfall events, turbidity has reached as high as 190 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU), severely exceeding the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s 1 NTU limit, repeatedly interrupting treatment operations.



CREEK OF THE NANTY GLO RESERVOIR
CREDIT: AQUATIC ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS

When turbidity is high, the Authority must purchase water from neighboring systems at unaffordable rates, which creates significant financial and operational pressures.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Rather than addressing these challenges in isolation, Nanty Glo has taken a holistic approach to strengthening the resilience of its water system and protecting its long-term water supply.

The Authority identified the need to pursue financing for a new filtration system while also investing in stream restoration and source water protection measures that address conditions contributing to water quality problems upstream. Nanty Glo subsequently pursued a collaborative source water assessment project to better understand the underlying causes of turbidity and other reservoir issues.

Together, these efforts reflect the Authority's broader strategy of pairing immediate treatment and infrastructure needs with watershed-level assessment, restoration, and source water protection – creating a more comprehensive and sustainable approach to ensuring reliable, affordable drinking water for the community.

KEY OUTCOMES

The Region 3 RealWaterTA team worked with Nanty Glo to identify technical and financial support and solutions for their turbidity issues. Over the course of three years, the team assisted the authority with:

- Successfully applying for free engineering support for a raw water settling tank feasibility study through EPA's water engineering support program
- Conducting system mapping
- Successfully applying for a Foundation for PA Watersheds' Conservation Grant ($20,000) to fund a source water assessment of Williams Run Reservoir to identify remediation strategies
- **Successfully applying for and receiving $7.2 million in PENNVEST funding with 100% principal forgiveness** for a new filtration system to solve turbidity issues

NEXT STEPS

Following the PENNVEST award in 2026, Nanty Glo will proceed with installing their filtration system, which is expected to be operational in 2027.

The Region 3 RealWaterTA team will continue to support the Authority as it awaits decisions on its engineering application for a feasibility study and its funding applications for a source water assessment.



CREDIT: WTAJ

The Region 3 RealWaterTA program helps Mid-Atlantic communities access funding to address water infrastructure needs. This program is coordinated by the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center and funded by US EPA.

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PRIMARY REALWATERTA PARTNER ON THIS PROJECT:

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