

Great Wolf seeks sewer connection in Pocono Township

By [David Pierce](#)

Pocono Record Writer

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A local water park that once fought to keep its own on-site sewage treatment plant has paid \$1.07 million to connect to the new Pocono Township central collection system.

Great Wolf Lodge dropped off its application last week, said Russ Scott of R.K.R. Hess, the township's engineering consultant. The Wisconsin-based theme resort also submitted a check Monday to cover initial costs for treating about 106,000 gallons per day of waste.

Great Wolf wants to connect to the township system as soon as possible, Scott said. The company has proposed abandoning its on-site plant, which has operated since Great Wolf opened in Pocono Township in 2005.

Four Great Wolf officials were contacted for comment Friday, but none responded.

Great Wolf won a favorable ruling from the state Department of Environmental Protection in July 2012 that it was allowed to keep operating its on-site plant and couldn't be forced to connect to the Pocono system. But Great Wolf and the township continued to hold private discussions.

The inclusion of Great Wolf in the Pocono Township system will help stabilize long-term costs for all customers.

Pocono Township has 2 million gallons of treatment capacity reserved in the 4.5 million-gallon regional plant near Stroudsburg's lower Main Street, shared with Stroudsburg and Stroud Township.

Pocono Township has commitments from customers that would generate a little more than half of its planned treatment capacity in the plant. Brodhead Creek Regional Authority, which operates the Stroudsburg plant, was informed recently that Pocono Township expects to pipe about 500,000 gallons per day for treatment during 2014.

Other large users expected to eventually join the Pocono system include rival water park Kalahari, which is building a resort complex in Tobyhanna Township in conjunction with Pocono Manor resort. That project, when built, is expected to generate about 400,000 gallons a day.

Other customers include the Sanofi Pasteur vaccine plant, 350,000 gallons per day; and Mount Airy Casino Resort, 300,000 gallons per day.

Businesses and residences along the Route 611 and Route 715 project corridor are required to connect to the central system and abandon septic systems. Customers are being charged a connection fee of \$2,500 per equivalent dwelling unit, an EDU representing typical usage by a single family residence.

The connection fee doesn't include costs to new customers to connect from their buildings to the central line. Customers will pay a yearly treatment charge of \$1,250 per EDU.

