

EQUIPMENT RATE IN URBAN WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANTS

In order to improve the ecological and sanitary status of its water courses, Wallonia must obligatorily clean up waste water from its agglomerations (Directive 91/271/EEC), which implies the construction and commissioning of a significant number of urban waste water treatment plants.

Delegated management

Since 1999, Wallonia has entrusted the Public Water Management Company (*Société publique de gestion de l'eau - SPGE*)¹ with the coordination and financing of the water sector, including urban waste water treatment. The current investment programmes of the SPGE are financed through the application of the "true-cost of treatment" (*coût-vérité à l'assainissement - CVA*)² and loans from the European Investment Bank (EIB).

The amount of urban waste water treatment plants is increasing

According to the SPGE, as of 31/12/2015, Wallonia had 424 urban waste water treatment plants (UWWTPs) capable of treating a pollutant load of 4,011,995 population equivalents (p.e.), representing an equipment rate of 91%. These UWWTPs were divided into 227 small capacity plants (< 2,000 p.e.), 127 medium capacity plants (2,000-9,999 p.e.) and 70 large capacity plants (≥ 10,000 p.e.). Between 2010 and 2015, approximately 550,000 p.e. of additional treatment capacity was installed, with the construction of 51 UWWTPs. In 2015³, 12 UWWTPs were commissioned, for a total of 22,766 p.e.

Maintaining efforts...

Since 2013, the equipment rate for agglomerations of ≥ 10,000 p.e. has been 100%. At the end of 2015, the balance of treatment capacity to be installed in public waste water treatment area represented 7.6% of the target to be achieved

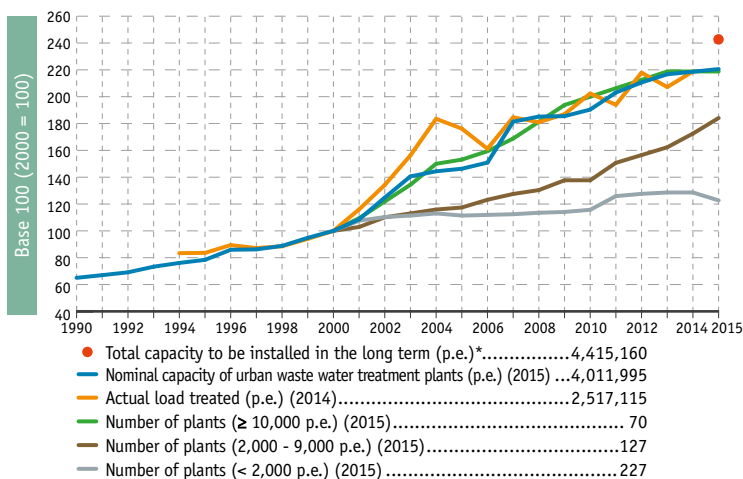
(4,415,160 p.e.). The treatment of agglomerations from 2,000 p.e. to 9,999 p.e., with an equipment rate of 90%, was well on the way to completion, with a residual capacity to be installed of 69,350 p.e.. The main effort to be made over the next few years is the treatment of agglomerations <2,000 p.e., for which the equipment rate was estimated at 35%, with an additional capacity to be installed of 333,815 p.e., corresponding to around 400 UWWTPs to be built.

... to resolve European litigations

Despite the significant investments made over the last fifteen years (>€2.9 billion), Wallonia is in litigation with the European Commission regarding compliance with the directive on urban waste water treatment^{4,5}. According to the European Commission⁶, out of a total of 143 agglomerations from 2,000 to 9,999 p.e., 20 agglomerations do not comply with European law. There are 14 of them according to updated Walloon figures⁵.

^[1] The SPGE delegates the operation of infrastructure to 7 approved treatment bodies (*organismes d'assainissement agréés - OAA*). | ^[2] The CVA went from €1,565/m³ (excl. VAT) in 2013 to €1,935/m³ in 2015, €2,115/m³ on 01/01/2016 and €2,365/m³ on 01/07/2017. | ^[3] The most recent (2015) are the stations at Naninne (900 p.e.), Orgeo (1,080 p.e.), Rendeux (1,980 p.e.), Tellin (1,620 p.e.), Bellefontaine (1,200 p.e.), Villeroux (2,160 p.e.), Bousval (3,600 p.e.), Lierneux (2,250 p.e.), Signeulx (3,100 p.e.), Walcourt (4,200 p.e.), Brasmenil (338 p.e.) and Roucourt (338 p.e.). | ^[4] Directive 91/271/EEC | ^[5] → WATER 18 | ^[6] Formal notice from the European Commission of 17/11/2016, infringement No 2009/2304

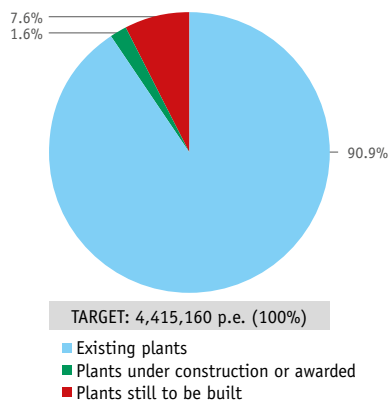
Fig. WATER 19-1 Collective treatment of urban waste water in Wallonia



* Equivalent to 243% of nominal capacity in 2000

SOERW 2017 – Source: SPGE

Fig. WATER 19-2 Equipment rate in urban waste water treatment plants in Wallonia*



* Situation as of 31/12/2015, as % of total capacity to be installed in the long term

SOERW 2017 – Source: SPGE