



Koontz Lake RSD Sewer Project Newsletter

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Project Funding and Budget

As previously mentioned, the project is being funded by a variety of sources. The first is from a United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development grant and loan. (USDA-RD) 45% of the project will be covered by a grant, and the other 55% will be in loan form. The RSD has tentatively been approved for a \$1,000,000 grant from the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA). This OCRA grant is related to, and will be getting funds from part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. (ARRA)

The overall project, including the collection system, the clean water plant, and all Engineering and permitting costs are expected to total around \$14,000,000. The timeline for the project will depend on a few important steps, such as, purchase of land for the Clean Water Plant and approvals from IDEM. Once these steps have been accomplished, a completed timeline can be estimated. Construction is anticipated to last around 18 months.

System Design News

Wightman Petrie field crews and engineers are working on the remaining western half of the collection system design. This is commonly called field design. This consists of technicians and engineers walking the site, performing thorough investigations, making notes, taking pictures, and bringing all that information back into the office to use in the detailed design process. They also have field crews checking the accuracy of the aerial photograph reduction efforts and picking up missing elements such as power poles, telephone pedestals, and possibly structures that were erected or modified since the photographs were taken.

Utility locates are flagged for the entire western half of the project. Aerial photograph reduction of the western half of the project was completed and delivered to Wightman Petrie on August 6th. In house layout of some of the force main has begun and plan sheet production will begin shortly.

Potential sites for the Clean Water Plant have been identified. Due diligence activities are under way to qualify the properties, such as survey, review of possible wetlands, and an archeological investigation, etc.

The recommended system for Koontz Lake is a Low Pressure Sewer System. This system consists of a grinder pump that will be located for every 2 homes. The grinder pump, motor controls and level-sensing are integrated into a compact unit, easily removable for service. The grinder pump is automatically activated and, because it runs infrequently and for very short periods, its annual electric energy consumption is typically that of a 40-watt light bulb. Homes will be connected to pumps with a 4 or 6 " gravity pipe made available at the property line.

Solids are ground into fine particles that pass easily through the pump, check valve and small-diameter pipe lines – even objects that should not be in sewage, such as plastic, rubber, fiber, wood, etc. The 1-1/4" discharge from each tank is connected to the low pressure main in the street. See attached link to Grinder Pump Brochure.

Easements

Blanket easements will only be needed from certain homeowners, if during design it is determined that the best location for collection system components, including grinder stations, is on private property.

An informational letter, along with the easement agreement and vicinity map, will be mailed to the owners of these properties. It is imperative that property owners sign those documents as soon as possible. If the residents have any questions or concerns they should contact Jennifer Ransbottom from Wightman Petrie either by email at jransbottom@wightmanpetrie.com or by telephone at (574) 293.7762. Jennifer Ransbottom is available for meetings with home owners and can also provide a notary for signing the documents.