

**Union Williams Public Service District  
Public Meeting  
July 25, 2002 - 6:30 p.m.  
Waverly Elementary School**

**Attendees:**

Howard Seufer, Chairman (HS)	Union Williams PSD
Bill Sweeney, Board Member	Union Williams PSD
Jack Mullenix, Board Member	Union Williams PSD
Jerry Dotson, Manager (JD)	Union Williams PSD
Pauline Lowers, Admin. Assist.	Union Williams PSD
Dominick P. Cerrone (DPC)	Cerrone Associates, Inc.
Jim Ruckman (JR)	Cerrone Associates, Inc.
Dayton Carpenter (DC)	Thrasher Engineering
TJ Boley (TJ)	Mason Dixon Energy, Inc.
Cynthia Musser (CM)	WV DEP
Fred Rader	Mid Ohio Valley Regional Council
60 - 75 Public Members	

Howard Seufer introduced representatives from the PSD, Engineer and the Right-of-Way agent.

Mr. Seufer discussed grinder pumps.

**Q Where is the grinder pump located on a person's property?**

DPC Not all services will have grinder pumps. There will be over 300 grinder pumps on the project. Many of these will serve more than one home. Those properties that do have grinder pumps have them in locations low enough and accessible to catch the property owner's line between the location and depth that it leaves the home and the septic tank. In almost all cases grinder pumps will not be located in driveways and gardens.

**Q Why is a 40 foot right-of-way needed?**

DC The 40 foot right-of-way is a temporary construction easement and is always located to minimize the risk of future interference with any type of construction activity. This may be at the edge of the property or at low points on the property. Unlike water lines, sewer lines, many of which are gravity, have to be located in certain locations to follow grade.

- Q The Stencilff Subdivision already has sewer lines with right-of-way and a package plant system. Is each resident required to pay a tap-in fee?**
- HS** There is no tap-in fee for customers who are already on existing public collection systems.
- Q The proposed service tap location on my property will be located in the middle of my leach field. How will I be able to maintain my own sewer service between the time of construction and the time I can tie-in?**
- JR** That the District may interfere with an individual property owner's leach field is not uncommon during construction. Any damaged lines in the leach field from construction will be repaired by the contractor at that time. In general, the design of the sewer system is intended to miss actual septic tanks so that private services may continue during construction.
- CM** Many of the existing package plants are in violation of the discharge requirements. In addition, the water quality of area streams are at risk largely because the population is denser than it has ever been in this area.
- DPC** Package plant failure is only half of the problem in this service area. Private septic tanks, even when operating normally, discharge a significantly lower quality effluent than what a public wastewater treatment facility would discharge.
- Q Why won't a single core grinder pump that is serving more than one home backup into the private service lines?**
- DPC** Both the storage capacity and pumping capacity of a grinder pump can accommodate the incoming flows in a single core grinder pump. A grinder pump is designed to operate at about 11 gpm. The peak flow from three homes at any given point is significantly less than this. Additionally, if for some reason flow should exceed this pumping capacity, there is considerable storage capacity in a grinder pump to provide buffer for this.
- Q How long does a grinder pump last - a year?**
- JR** Grinder pumps last much longer than a year.
- JD** Of all the existing grinder pumps that the District has, none have ever backed-up. When activated, there are alarms on the pumps and the owner can call the District for follow-up at that pump.

**Q How much is the tap-in fee?**

HS What we are looking at now is the tap-in fee to be half of the normal tap-in fee of \$250. The average monthly bill is \$39.31 for 4,500 gallons of usage. This is based on 1-1/2% of your median household income. Currently, Waverly customers have an average of \$32.86 which will be increased to this new rate since the PSC will not allow split rates.

**Q Who pays for the electricity needed for the grinder pumps?**

HS The Public Service District.

**Q There are many people on fixed income. How do they pay these rates and where does all the extra money collected from these rates go?**

HS Once the construction bond is paid, rate money can go into a reserve account to prevent future rate increases.

**Q I can afford to pay the sewer rate, but how can a person on fixed income afford this?**

HS There are some ways that a customer can proactively make this rate more affordable. One way is to reduce your water usage by using water conserving plumbing fixtures.

**Q Will the water be turned off if our sewage bill is either unpaid or we have not yet hooked into the sewer system?**

HS No, water and sewer are on separate accounts.

DPC explained what the median household income is and how it is derived, emphasizing that it is a factor of the service area's population and that the PSD, in order to obtain funding for the project, must adapt this rate, as per the IJDC and DEP requirements.

**Q Is the current schedule for construction realistic?**

HS Construction will begin in April 2003 and end in April 2004

**Q Why has federal money not been obtained for this project?**

HS DEP SRF money is federal but administered locally by the state.

**Q What do we do with our existing septic tanks?**

HS You must fill them in.

**Q Has the interstate widening project been accounted for in this project?**

DPC The DOH schedule for this project has toggled back and forth. However, the sewage design will account for the proposed highway construction whether the lines are installed before or after the highway work is completed.

Also, the construction schedule for the lines is more realistic than earlier projections since much more of the project has been completed and the District is closer to the construction date at this point.

**Q Is there a website which can be accessed which provides an update of the project?**

HS No, but that is an excellent idea.

**Q What happens if the easements are not signed?**

HS Unfortunately, the District will have to resort to eminent domain. Therefore it is in the property owner's interest to meet with the District to discuss the proposed line location.

**Q Is the hook-on distance 200 or 250 feet?**

HS 250 feet.

**Q If a customer is located more than 250 feet away from the sewer line and is not required to hook on now, can he hook on in the future and can the sewer line accommodate that hook on?**

HS That would be a site specific question. You can speak to the engineer about it after the meeting.

Note: If you are currently a water customer, there is no deposit required to become a sewer customer. You will have 90 days to hook on to the sewer system after the PSD sends you a notice to do so.

**Q If there are two lots with two taps, do we need to pay for both fees?**

HS Yes, every tap requires a separate fee.

**Q I was told differently.**

HS You may discuss this with TJ Boley, the right-of-agent, after the meeting.

**Q How much reserve capacity will there be in the upgraded plant?**

DPC There will be approximately 30% reserve capacity in the plant.

HS That would be approximately 600 additional taps.

**Q Why do customers have to wait for the project to be 100% complete before they can tap in?**

DPC The project will need to be substantially complete before any customer can tap in . This means that the wastewater treatment plant must be completed. The District will be reasonable in accessing substantial completion on collection systems. If there are remote tail ends of the collection system which have not been completed yet and may be holding up a very large central area from tapping in after the plant has been completed, then the District may entertain providing substantial completion for that area of the project.

**Q No one has contacted me about the location of the line on my property.**

HS Please discuss this with TJ Bowley after the meeting.

**Q If you are over 250 feet, will you have to pay the minimum monthly rate?**

HS You will never have to pay the minimum rate if you are more than 250 feet away from the sewer.

**Q If I were to get a tap-in, would I have to pay the minimum after the 90 day notice?**

HS Yes.

JD There is no cost savings to install your tap-in unless you are ready to use it.

**Q Is the required hook up distance 250 feet from the road or the main sewer line?**

JD From the main sewer line.

**Q What is the minimum monthly rate?**

**JD** We do not know that right now. The PSC will assign us a rate tariff in the near future.

**CM** Any recently installed home aeration units, as of 1999, are currently paying annual fees to our office. It is therefore better to tap-in to the sewer line if you are more than 250 feet away, have an option to do so and have a home aeration unit.

**Q Why are homes past Whipperwill Ridge not being served?**

**HS** There is a very low customer density there.

**Q How many employees will be added to the PSD with the construction of this project?**

**HS** Probably two.

**Q Is there a time limit to fill in our septic tanks?**

**CM** This is a WV Bureau for Public Health requirement.

**JD** I believe there is a 90 day recommended time line from the Health Department.

**Q Will filling in the septic tanks be inspected?**

**HS** The PSD will not inspect this.

**DC** If septic tanks are not filled in they may collapse. Concrete tanks may not collapse but can become bouyant during times of saturated soils. Therefore, it is highly recommended to remove your tanks or fill them in with sand. There will most likely be contractors making themselves available to do this at the appropriate time.

**Q What happens if you have an aerator and a septic tank?**

**DC** You must fill the aerator unit with sand.

**Q The previous property owner of my property signed a right-of-way. Am I required to sign one?**

**TJ** Your easement does not need to be renegotiated by you.

**Q** Where will construction begin?

**HS** That is up to the contractor.

**DC** You influence the schedule as much as any of us by your readiness to sign your easement. The PSD will be required to have 80% of its easements signed before it can bid the project. So please talk to a representative of the District or the right-of-way agent if you have not signed your easement.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Individual questions were entertained until approximately 8:30 p.m.