



May 24th, 2018

RE: Sanitary Sewer extension project in the East County Line Road South Area

As you may be aware, the Whitley County Regional Water and Sewer District (Whitley RSD) hosted an informational meeting at Aqua Indiana on April 16, 2018 at 6PM to discuss the possibility of extending public sewer into your area. I did not see your name on the sign-in sheet from the meeting. Therefore, this letter is being sent to you to summarize the meeting and to keep you involved in the process.

Summary regarding current situation:

The Whitley County Department of Health brought this area to our attention due to the high number of failed and/or illegal onsite septic systems in your neighborhood. There are two potential methods for resolving the issues of failed or illegal systems.

The first option, where feasible, is to decommission onsite septic systems and replace them with the installation of sanitary sewer. Residents may choose to hire a private engineer and contractor to bid the work or may work with a municipality or utility to complete the project. The second, and less common option due to cost is for each resident to individually install new onsite systems.

Thomas Nitza, Civil Engineer of The Secant Group, LLC presented options for septic relief solutions in your area and answered questions at the meeting. The new Whitley Regional Sewer District has been authorized by the Commissioners of Whitley County to conduct a preliminary investigative engineering report and feasibility study for the extension of sanitary sewer into the East County Line Road South area. The following summarizes the options presented and discussed at the public meeting.

Solutions – Option 1 Extension of Sanitary Sewer

Under the first scenario, the board members formally commission their consultant engineer to study the area. This study will include alternatives for connecting at different locations through a variety of methods. Some of the options that are researched include gravity systems, gravity system with a centralized lift station, low pressure force main with individual or shared grinder pump stations. The engineer's study will generate a cost estimate for the potential mainline extension from the existing sanitary sewer to the petitioning area via the

various available options. Once this estimate has been completed, a second meeting will be held with the residents of the affected area to discuss the proposed project and associated costs.

It will be extremely important that each homeowner take the time to attend this meeting. When the meeting has ended, each homeowner will be given an opportunity to decide if they would like to continue to move forward with the sewer project according to the information that is presented.

If a study is completed, we will pass out an individual survey sheet at this follow-up meeting for each homeowner to sign either in favor of, or against the sewer project. If there is enough homeowner support and the Whitley RSD Board agrees to move forward, the remaining steps are:

1. Whitley RSD bundles this project with several other project areas together in one package for an application of financing through the Indiana Finance Authority – State Revolving Fund.
2. Whitley RSD authorizes engineers to perform final design engineering.
3. The Whitley RSD engineer obtains any necessary easements to construct the sewer.
4. Whitley RSD receives approval of the financing for the project by IFA-SRF.
5. The approved project design is sent out for competitive bid.
6. Whitley RSD engineer obtains a construction permit from IDEM and approval by a local treatment provider to connect.
7. The bid contract is awarded to a construction firm.
8. Whitley RSD sets a sewer rate for the area based on the total combined treatment and project costs.
9. The Contractor begins construction of the sewer system.
10. Homes connect to the new sewer and decommission individual onsite septic systems.

The key advantages to working with the Whitley RSD include, our ability to obtain low interest (typically less than 3%) financing for the cost of engineering design and sewer construction. This also allows homeowners to pay back the project cost over a 20-year period - thus providing an alternative for each homeowner who cannot afford to pay for their portion of the project cost up front.

In addition, the entire health hazard from this area can be resolved with one project rather than several individual sewer replacements.

Residents may choose to collectively hire an engineer to design a sewer extension from the existing sewer to the properties. The engineer would coordinate with the wastewater treatment provider (Aqua Indiana). The engineer would also obtain the necessary construction permit from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. Upon receipt of all approvals and permits, residents would then hire a contractor to install the sewer and then connect the homes to the new main line. Under this scenario, all financial arrangements between the engineers, the contractor and the residents would be handled privately. However, in this scenario, residents are responsible for funding their share of the project cost up front.

Solutions – Option 2 Install New Onsite Systems

Another option is for homeowners to procure and install their own new septic systems on an as needed and required basis. Note that a majority of the septic systems in the area are no longer up to Indiana Department of Health standards and requirements. If the Whitley County Department of Health receives any complaints then they will need to dye test the area for contaminants, which could lead to an infraction requiring resolution.

You may email me directly at [lana@bcs-management.com](mailto: lana@bcs-management.com) or the Whitley RSD general email at [sewerdistrict@whitleygov.com](mailto: sewerdistrict@whitleygov.com) if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Lana Beregszazi, BCS Management, Inc.
Managing Director
Whitley County Regional Water and Sewer District

cc: Whitley County Health Department; Attn: Scott Wagner
The Board of Commissioners of Whitley County
Thomas Nitza, The Secant Group, LLC
Board of Trustees, Whitley County Regional Water and Sewer District