



Sewer Project Frequently Asked Questions and NPU Answers

Project Background & History

1. Q: I remember that at one point, the city considered putting sewers in the neighborhood about twenty-years ago. Do you know what happened so that project never took place? Is a voter referendum required as part of the approval process for this project?

A: The project was presented as a citywide voter referendum that included other sewer projects. The citywide referendum was voted down and the project never moved forward. Recently, state legislation changed so that sewer projects costing less than 3 million dollars no longer require a voter referendum, and instead are approved by the city council and local sewer authority.

2. Q: How many sanitary sewer projects have been proposed in Norwich over the past years?

A: There have been about 23 sanitary sewer projects proposed or completed since 1996. Of these 23 projects, 3 did not take place due to a lack of neighborhood interest.

3. Q: Why weren't city sewers installed in the 1970s when city water was first installed in the neighborhood?

A: City water and city sewers are conveniences to a neighborhood, but managing the assessment costs for both requires careful consideration. In reality, the only savings in doing water and sewer projects together is the sharing of some paving costs. This is because public health regulations require that all sewers maintain a 10 feet separation from water supply infrastructure. For this reason, property owners in the neighborhood opted to install just city water in order to keep the assessment cost within a range they perceived as affordable.

4. Q: How much capacity does the Norwich Sewage Treatment Plant have and can it accommodate additional waste flow from this potential project area? If we tie in, will we receive an additional bill for NPU's Wastewater Treatment upgrade project?

A: NPU has no issue accommodating wastewater flows at the city's existing population levels. Additional wastewater flows from the neighborhood, will not strain the Norwich Sewage Treatment Plant if this project is approved. The existing treatment facilities have 8 million gallons per day of capacity, and currently treat an average of 5 million gallons per day. The upgrades planned for the facilities under the "Clean Rivers, Clean Harbor, Sound Norwich" wastewater treatment improvement project accommodate necessary environmental changes as well as projected population growth over the next twenty years. While a portion of that project will be funded through sewer rates, incremental costs associated with the upgrade will not require a separate bill.

Defining the Project Area

5. Q: How does NPU determine which properties will or won't be included as part of the assessed project area?

A: There are many factors used by the design engineers to determine which properties will be included in the project area. These include proximity to the potential project area, conditions of local soils and of existing septic systems, as well as the availability of properties within project scope to make the project economically feasible. Another important factor is topography. Without the help of gravity, it is expensive and technically challenging to move wastewater.

6. Q: Why weren't more properties included in this proposed project area so that the cost could be spread over even more properties and reduce the amount of our assessment?

A: Homes are included in the potential project design based upon the neighborhood's overall capacity to connect to sewer mains through gravity flow. Otherwise, incorporation of another pump station would be required and then increase, not decrease, the overall project cost. For example, Starr Street was excluded from this specific project area because its inclusion would require an additional pump station. Other areas adjacent to the potential project site were not considered because they are already connected to city sewer.

7. Q: How did NPU create the mailing list to identify the property owners affected by this potential project?

A: NPU uses tax assessor records to determine homeowners in the project area. This information reflects the actual homeowner regardless of whether it is a rental property or not. We also cross referenced this list against NPU water billing records for additional verification. In the event that the actual owner does not live at the property and a current mailing address is not available, the mailing list defaults to the property address. NPU staff worked hard to correct those instances that a discrepancy existed and we believe our mailing list is now as accurate as possible, given all of the resources we have at our disposal.

Environmental Concerns

Note: Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) are points within the sewer distribution system that intersect with the city's storm drain network. During very heavy rain events, CSOs overflow diluted untreated sewage into the local rivers. The Clean Rivers, Clean Harbor, Sound Norwich Wastewater Treatment Improvement Project will address these and other sewage treatment issues. For more information, visit www.norwichpublicutilities.com

8. Q: I'm concerned about NPU's remaining Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs). Since they already overflow into local waterways whenever it rains, aren't adding additional homes to the system going to make the problem worse?

A: The system that this project will connect into is a separated system, meaning that it only conveys sanitary sewer directly to the sewage treatment plant. It will not add overflow to Norwich's existing CSOs in the event of heavy rain.

9. Q: Why isn't the CSO problem being addressed before the construction of small neighborhood sewer projects? It seems that the elimination of CSOs would be a higher priority.

A: Addressing the issue of CSOs is a high priority for NPU. We have been systematically eliminating CSO's since the early 70s, at which time there were 43. NPU is currently developing a long-term control plan to address a Department of Environmental Protection mandate that targets the remaining 15 CSOs.

10. Q: Is NPU aware of any issues of septic systems leaking in the neighborhood, and are any site-specific environmental studies available to assess the impact?

A: Detailed environmental studies are very costly. There is no state or federal funding available for such a study. However, there have been a number of septic system failures and resulting repairs, which prompted inquiries into this feasibility study. So it is probable that sewage has reached the groundwater levels, especially in the spring during high groundwater periods.

11. Q: Will the installation of sanitary sewer help with the overall drainage problems some of us have experienced in our neighborhood?

A: Yes, it will to some degree. This is because a connection to city sewers eliminates the leaching of wastewater into the ground.

Project Benefits & General Homeowner Impact

13. Q: This project is being constructed with one sewer pump station. What happens if this station fails?

A: The pump station that is required as part of this project is monitored remotely by NPU 24 hours per day. It is designed to have full redundancy so if one pump fails, a second pumps takes over. In addition, each pump station includes a generator to operate the alarm controls and pumps in case of a power outage.

14. Q: How loud are pump stations?

A: Pump stations are hard to hear unless you are standing right next to one. You can usually only hear the sewer pump station during a power outage, and that is the result of the emergency generator that is needed as back-up power for each station.

15. Q: What are some of the major benefits of tying into city sewer?

A: There are several benefits to having sanitary sewers in a neighborhood. These include a higher resale value of the properties, and the elimination of septic system maintenance concerns and responsibilities. One benefit that is often overlooked is that a property owner is now free to increase the size of their home or build on top of their current leach field and septic tank.

16. Q: How can you best summarize all of the project costs for a homeowner?

A: The easiest way to understand the homeowner's project costs is to remember it as three pieces. The first piece is the assessment cost, which based upon preliminary concept plans. The second piece is the \$2,500. connection fee, which covers the cost of the sewer lateral (the sewer pipe stub which connects from the sewer main to the curb line of the property). The connection fee is added to the assessment upon connection to the sewer system The third piece is the cost of the individual contractor who must be hired by the homeowner to connect the service from the curb line directly into the home. This cost generally runs between \$30 and \$50 per linear foot, and includes the cost for abandoning/filling your old septic system.

17. Q: Will city sewers benefit a property even if your yard has fill soil?

A: Yes, your septic system still drains into the underlying soils. "Fill" systems are only used in special situations and for repairs when no other alternative can be used. A sewer pipe can be installed in fill soil.

The Project Approval Process

18. Q: If people in the neighborhood don't want sanitary sewers, will the project still go forward?

A: The Norwich City Council and the NPU Board of Commissioners/Sewer Authority will be given what NPU gathers from the informational meetings, as well as the follow-up correspondence that was sent to those who could not attend the meetings. The Sewer Authority and the City Council will make separate decisions to approve the project or not, giving property owner opinions heavy consideration. Ultimately the Council and/or Sewer Authority will choose what they believe is in the best interest of the city.

19. Q: What happens after you finish holding the informational meetings?

A: All property owners in the project area will receive a feedback survey to express their opinion for or against the sanitary sewer project. The results of the resident survey and all of the materials presented at the informational meetings will be forwarded to the Norwich City Council and NPU Sewer Authority. The decision is then made regarding scheduling a public hearing to hear public comment about moving the project forward. As with all public hearings, this one will be properly noticed, 14 days in advance at City Hall and in the Norwich Bulletin.

20. Q: Will the feedback survey results be made available to the public?

A: Yes, they will. Once the information process is completed, we will be sharing the results with all property owners in the scope of the project, as well as the Norwich City Council.

21. Q: If the project is rejected this time around, can it be revisited in the future?

A: Yes, if the project does not proceed and the residents inquire again at some future time, it will be revisited. This would include all new cost projections to reflect the current market.

22. Q - How does the Norwich City Council make the decision to fund a neighborhood project (or not)?

A: The city council receives the same information that you do regarding the project. As unique individuals, they will consider what they perceive as most important. This might include condition of neighborhood septic systems, records of failures and/or repairs, local soil characteristics, opinion of neighborhood residents, and affordability. They also may consider what they think is in the best interest of the city from the perspective of environmental issues, as well as health, safety, and quality of life.

23. Q: Some residents have concerns about having or not having city sewers in their neighborhood. What is the best way to voice opinions for or against the project?

A: After the series of informational meetings have been completed, all property owners in the project area will receive a feedback survey to express their opinion for or against the potential project. You will also be notified of any public hearings pertaining to the potential project, so that you can express your opinions in person. Residents with concerns about the project – any concerns – should take the time to complete the feedback survey which will be mailed after the informational meetings. There will also be a public hearing before the Norwich City Council before any project funding is approved. Residents are also welcome to contact the City Council directly.

24. Q: How do you make a decision on this project after all of the meetings are over?

A: NPU does not make the decision. We will send out the Q&A's, along with feedback surveys, tally those surveys and send those results to you and the council.

Project Time Line and Time Frames

25. Q: If the project were to be approved in the next month or two, what are the timeframes for the start and completion of the project?

A: Moving a neighborhood sewer project through to its completion is a very lengthy process that includes many steps. The approval process alone takes a few months, designing the project can take four months or more and construction can take six months and greater, depending on the size of the project., complexity and the conditions and weather. It is possible the project could be approved, designed, built, and assessed in approximately a year; but this is very unlikely.

26. Q: Who will manage the contractor to ensure they are doing their job and keeping the project on schedule?

A: NPU assigns a project manager to each project of this nature. Jeff Dewey, an NPU employee who was introduced at the information meetings, has been assigned to this potential project. The project manager will make sure the project is moving along and is getting completed on time.

27. Q: Many people are ready now, what happens if your system breaks before this project is approved?

A: Uncas Health will come up with a temporary solution for sewage disposal until such time that the home can be connected in to sewer.

28. Q: When will this project be approved?

A: If it is approved, approval depends on how fast a decision can be reached by the Norwich City Council and Sewer Authority; which typically require at least 30 days each. In addition the approval process is influenced by how much the property owners are in agreement with or are against the project.

Tying-In to City Sewer

29. Q: Are there towns where it is mandatory that you tie-in to the neighborhood sewer once it has been constructed?

A: Different communities often have different policies and practices regarding tying in to city sewers. In the case of Norwich, property owners are not required to tie in to city sewers once the project is completed. Yet, each property owner is required to pay the sewer benefit charge (assessment) whether or not they choose to connect to city sewers.

30. Q: I'm not sure if I need city sewers because I have septic system that is working fine. When do septic systems generally need to be replaced?

A: In general, septic systems last between 30 and 40 years. After 40 years, most systems are considered to be functioning on borrowed time. Re-engineering a leach field and septic system to meet current health and environmental codes can often cost in excess of \$15,000. Based on the age of the homes in the project area, many will soon be due for replacement. More simply put: septic systems of the 1960s were built very differently from a system that meets code today. Any new system must be installed to meet current code requirements.

31. Q: If a house is located below street level, how would a homeowner tie-in without the help of gravity?

A: The property owner may need to have sewage pumps installed in their basement by their own contractor. A sewage pump would pump the waste to street level where gravity would take over. The property owner would be responsible for the total cost of installation and any future maintenance or replacement of the sewage pump. However, sewers are very deep making it readily accessible to even the lower elevated homes.

32. Q: If a property is located on a corner lot, who would make the decision as to where/what street the properties sewer service would tie into?

A: If the project is approved, NPU will contact all homeowners in the project area to begin the engineering studies that will address connection requirements for all properties. Similarly, residents on corner lots will work with the NPU Project Manager or his designee to determine the best location for the new service line, taking into consideration topography and the cost of the line.

33. Q: What happens to the remaining septic tank if you tie in?

A: As part of the tying in process, the old septic system must be disconnected. This is generally done by the contractor performing the tie in and involves pumping the old septic system and filling it with soil and crushing the top in on itself.

34. Q: In the past couple of years, NPU has done three or four of these projects. What is the percentage of people who tied into it?

A: Generally about 40% tie-in right away, but these numbers can vary based upon the environmental, health and safety needs of the neighborhood.

35. Q: What is the approximate cost for a licensed contractor to connect a home to the curb line to receive sewer service?

A: While the price will vary by contractor, based on previous projects, property owners can expect to pay between about \$30 to \$50 per foot to connect their homes to the city sewer system.

36. Q: Can I tie in to the sewer more cost effectively if my neighbors and I use the same contractor?

A: While NPU cannot make recommendations or referrals to or about specific contractors, some contractors have been known to offer a cost savings if they are doing more than one tie-in job in a neighborhood. NPU can recommend that neighbors inquire about this option when they select a contractor to tie in their property.

37. Q: Does NPU get involved in assuring the legal licensing of contractors that homeowner's may hire to tie in to city sewer?

A: Prior to allowing any property to tie into the new sewer system, NPU inspects the connection work, but this does not include license verification. A qualified contractor should hold a P-1 or P-7 contractors license. To determine if a contractor holds a legal license, homeowners are recommended to inquire with the State Department of Consumer Protection at its website. <http://www.dcpaccess.state.ct.us/DCPPublic/LicenseLookup.asp>

38. Q: Can we connect our property's footage drains to city sewers?

A: No, ground water is not allowed to be pumped into city sewers. For the Norwich wastewater plant to treat sewage most cost effectively, storm and ground water flows are separated from actual sewage flows. Remember, storm and groundwater is clean water and not sewage. It does not need to go through the rigorous treatment process or be disinfected in order to be safely discharged back into the environment. Keeping them separate saves Norwich ratepayers money in wastewater treatment costs.

39. Q: What direction will the sewage from the neighborhood flow to reach the sewage treatment plant?

A: Initially it will drain southeast to West Main Street, then westerly to another sewage pump station. Then it will be pumped east to the treatment plant located on Falls Avenue near the Marina.

40. Q: Can Norwich Public Utilities provide me the name of a reputable contractor if I choose to tie in to city sewers?

A: Norwich Public Utilities can provide you with a list of qualified contractors; however we cannot make a specific recommendation about any individual contractor. It is always in your best interest to obtain references for any contractor you choose to do business with.

41. Q: If I tie in to the sewer system and abandon my old septic system, will my yard need to be dug up?

A: Yes, your yard will be dug, but only in the smaller area of the septic tank.

42. Q: Are the current standards for septic system design available to us anywhere?

A: These are available online at the Ct Dept of Health website: <http://www.dir.ct.gov/dph/PHC/phc.asp> or at the Uncas Health office here in Norwich.

43. Q: Should I have my contractor install a check valve on my property's service line in case of a problem with the city sewer system?

A: Certainly a contractor can, but it really isn't warranted in most applications. Any distribution failure would result in flooding at the low point in the system, which would be the pump station. Prior to affecting a home, the pump station and all mains in the street would have to fill before it would reach the elevation of any household.

44. Q: What happens if the contractor runs into ledge while connecting my property?

A: Ledge either has to be blasted or if it's just a small amount, it can be hammered. If blasting is required, the contractor must perform a detailed pre-blast survey to ensure that properties will not be affected by blasting. This can add to the cost of tying in.

45. Q: Where will the hookup to the sewer main be if I have a sidewalk out front?

A: If the sidewalk is on city property, it will be repaired by NPU, if the sidewalk is on your property it will be the property owner's responsibility.

46. Q: How can you find out if you're one of the properties that are on record with the Health Department as having past septic repairs?

A: Uncas Health has all existing records of septic system installations and repairs. You can contact Uncas Health at (860) 823-1189 if you want to know if your system is listed.

47. Q: Suppose the contractor encounters trees, roots, driveways etc. when attempting to connect my property to the city sewer. Will this end up costing me more for the connection?

A: It depends; NPU and the contractor will work with you to determine the best route for the service connection to avoid existing fixtures and plantings in your yard. However, in some cases it cannot be avoided.

48. Q: If we have to pay a private contractor to connect to the main in the road, it will be expensive. Can we get the city's bond rate to help finance this?

A: Tie-in costs through a private contractor are not eligible for the City's bond rate.

Utility Billing

49. Q: How will sewer bills be calculated if I decide to tie in? What happens when you have a lot of plants to water? Does it drive up your sewer charge?

A: NPU calculates a customer's monthly sewer bill based on the amount of water a household uses. This rate includes some standard assumptions about the water that may or may not actually go into the city sewer. This provides allowances for activities such as car washing, lawn watering and gardening.

50. Q: Will I have to pay a monthly sewer charge if I tie in?

A: Yes. All customers utilizing the sewer system of the City of Norwich Sewer Authority are presently charged a minimum customer charge of \$4.67 per month in addition to a volume charge of \$3.802 per 100 cubic feet (CCF) of wastewater. This rate is subject to changes in operating costs and expenses however, so it periodically changes.

Road Conditions & Project Construction

51. Q: Will this project area require blasting in order to install the sewer mains?

A: Blasting is required in a project when ledge is found in the ground. Since the plans for this project are still conceptual, NPU has not yet been able to determine if blasting in the project area will be necessary or to what degree.

52. Q: When roads are resurfaced, they are difficult to drive on. Is there a different way to resurface them? What about the road conditions after construction? When would the roads be permanently repaired and not just hot patched?

A: After construction, the trench area will be temporarily paved. The passage of one winter is necessary in order to allow for frost heaves and settling of the area around the sewer mains. After that, the contractor will permanently pave all trenches. The period before permanent paving has been completed can result in short-term rough road conditions, but it really is the only way to insure a quality road in the long term.

53. Q: Is there a standard depth for the sewer pipe? Where in the road is the sewer main placed?

A: Sewer pipe must be laid at a depth which will allow gravity to carry the waste. Pipe must also be laid well below other utilities in the road. So while the depth of pipe may vary, as a rule, it is generally at least 8 feet deep. The location of the sewer main depends on where the pipe fits in conjunction with the location of existing utilities, so it may vary throughout the neighborhood. However, sewer is typically located in the center of the road whenever feasible.

54. Q: Where will the sewer pump station be located if the project is approved?

A: The preliminary design places the pump station near the intersection of Will Road and Newton Street; which is the lowest point in the project area.

55. Q: Does the pumping station cause odors in the neighborhood?

A: Residential pump stations generally do not cause odor problems in a neighborhood. Should this occur however, NPU has equipment that can be installed to eliminate odor problems created by any of our pump stations.

56. Q: How will NPU make the pump stations more attractive?

A: Pump stations are made more attractive by installing different fencing and landscaping options. Residents in the vicinity of the pump station are welcomed to make suggestions and recommendations of what they would like to see. These suggestions should be directed to Jeff Dewey, Project Manager.

Project Assessment Calculations & Questions

57. Q: Does the cost of the assessment and the connection cover the costs to tie my home into city sewers?

A: No. In order to physically tie your property into Norwich city sewers, you will need to hire a contractor at an additional cost.

58. Q - How was the \$2500 connection fee established?

A: The connection fee was created to help lower the assessment for residents who choose not to tie in to city sewers. It is based on the actual construction costs associated with installing a 6" sewer service from the main to the curb line. It consists of 14 items such as traffic control, excavation, paving, restoration, rock removal, pipe installation, etc. In 2003, a resident challenged the amount of the fee. The court found the amount fair and reasonable and ruled in favor of NPU.

59. Q - What is a lien and what are the implications on my credit after you place one on my property.

A: By definition, a lien is "the legal claim of one person upon the property of another person to secure the payment of a debt or the satisfaction of an obligation... Since the city has bonded money to pay for the project, the lien secures the part of that bond allocated to your property. A lien is placed on the property at the time of the actual assessment. The amount owed on the assessment is reduced as payments are made and paid in full if the property is sold. Liens are not reported to credit bureaus and do not affect your credit score. They become apparent only when a title search is performed on the property.

60. Q - Has the city ever foreclosed on a property for an unpaid sewer assessment lien?

A: According to all records and sources available to NPU, the city of Norwich has never foreclosed on a property as a result of an unpaid sewer lien.

61. Q - What is the interest rate on the bond that Norwich must authorize for the project?

A: Bond rates are not the same for every project. Timing, the bond amount and the City's rating affect the rate the City pays.

62. Q - How do we make sure that NPU/the City is taking advantage of any and all grant opportunities that could lower the project cost for the residents. Are there any state or local funds available to help lower the cost for the city/neighborhood?

A: Any grant funding for sewer projects is made available through the CT Department of Environmental Protection (CT-DEP). NPU meets and corresponds with the DEP on a frequent, continual basis. This means we are kept well aware of available funding opportunities. Funding is available for treatment plant and existing infrastructure updates. NPU takes advantage of these programs to help keep our sewer rates as low as possible. Unfortunately, funding for new neighborhood sewer projects has been virtually non-existent for almost 40 years.

63. Q: You said that the City will pay for 20% of the project. Is that a hard number, and might they pay 25% because our area is worse? Why isn't the 20% taken off the total cost of the project instead of after the connection fee is removed? Would the City Council be willing to increase the amount of funding the city provides because the project cost is much higher and affected by city-owned land across from the project area?

A: In the late 1990s, the Norwich City Council passed a resolution, which established the current calculation. Any changes to that calculation would be up to the Council, and NPU cannot speak on behalf of the Council.

64. Q: What happens if a property can't tie in? How would this change the sewer assessment?

A: We anticipate that all properties in this project area will be able to connect either by gravity or by a residential sewer pump station. While this has never occurred in any past projects, in the unlikely event that a property owner is not able to tie into city sewer due to project design, then that property would be removed from the project and the assessments would be recalculated.

65. Q: How close is the current estimated assessment amount likely to be to the actual assessment?

A: When developing cost projections, NPU uses previous projects and current trends in construction costs to develop the cost estimates. The calculated assessment is the maximum we would ever require. If construction is less than estimated, the assessment will be lower. But it will never be more than the amount presented to you at this point.

66. Q: What do you get for your assessment money if you don't connect?

A: The assessment pays for the installation and construction of the sewer mains in the neighborhood. Once the project has been completed, you have the ongoing option of tying into the city's sewer system in the event of a future septic system failure. The availability of city sewers also increases the value of your property.

67. Q: Is the cost based on the amount of road frontage (like water)?

A: The amount of frontage road does not affect the assessment charge. The assessment cost is calculated on the total cost of the project, using a "fixed fee" approach, meaning that every homeowner pays the same assessment amount.

68. Q: Who makes money on the interest that is charged on the assessment? Is it NPU?

A: NPU has nothing to do with interest rate associated with the project. That rate is based solely on the City's borrowing rate. The lender is the recipient of the interest fees.

69. Q: Is the cost of this project the same in Norwich as it would be in any other similar area in Southeastern Connecticut?

A: Yes. The State of Connecticut requires that the prevailing union labor wage is paid in municipal sewer projects. This is the same throughout the state. All other costs are based upon the equipment, engineering and general construction costs for this specific project as well as the associated topography and soil conditions.

70. Q: If I decide to tie in later, would the interest rate assessed to those who tie in immediately still apply?

A: Yes, your interest rate would reflect the rate at which the money for the project was bonded.

71. Q - What happens if I decide not to tie in until later?

A: Once you decide to tie in to a neighborhood sewer project, the \$2,500 connection fee is added into the remaining assessment amount. The assessment payment amount is then adjusted so that the \$2,500 is paid back over the

remainder of the 20-year assessment period. Example: if you tie in 5 years after approval of the assessment, then you have 15 years (not the full 20) left to pay off the assessment which now includes the connection fee.

72. Q: Do I have to pay the \$2500 connection in a lump sum?

A: Not necessarily. You have the option of financing the connection fee over 20 years as part of your monthly assessment payment.

73. Q: If I pay the assessment in its entirety up front, do I still have to pay the interest charges?

A: You will not be responsible for any interest charges if you pay the entire assessment up front.

74. Q: Many seniors won't see 20 years to pay this off, what happens then?

A: The sewer assessment lien remains with the property. When the house is sold, the payment is due in full at the time of sale.

75. Q: \$2500 seems expensive for a small piece of pipe?

A: The small piece of pipe actually is about 20-30 feet. The \$2500 also covers the cost of connection materials, bedding material, backfill, road resurfacing, curbing, traffic control plus the cost of labor.

76. Q: Is the pumping station located on city property?

A: Yes. Construction of the pump station may require an easement depending on the detailed system design. If an easement is required; NPU would negotiate with the property owner to purchase the easement.

77. Q: NPU is making money off this project, so why wouldn't you want to see it built?

A: NPU rates are cost based. As mandated by state statute, sewer authorities may not "make money" from sewer projects, or through sewer rates. NPU's role in any sewer project is to responsibly and cost efficiently construct sanitary sewer facilities that are desired by the community. Of course, we do believe that environmentally, sewers are best choice for the future health and well-being of the community.