

## Frequently Asked Questions

- 1) Will this grinder pump make it harder to sell my house? Once the project is completed and the project is in compliance with the Ohio EPA, a property owner can disclose that information to potential buyers. The grinder pump system is like other household appliances, like furnaces and hot-water heaters that are part of the house. The difference is the added value of the County Maintenance agreement. In many ways, these benefits could outweigh the current failing septic system with its effect on the value of the property.
- 2) How reliable is the pump/what happens if there's a power outage? The pumps are very reliable with proper use and maintenance. The county has opted to implement a comprehensive maintenance program of the entire system including the pumps, so the property owner will not be responsible for this maintenance. In the event of a power outage, many of the homes' large water usage appliances will not operate, including washing machines, dishwashers and electric hot water heaters. Therefore, sinks, bathtubs, showers and toilets become the main contributors to the system, resulting in less wastewater than with the larger appliances. However, conserving water during a power outage is always a wise step. Additionally, an interconnect facility will be provided near the alarm panel for the grinder pump. This would allow for a homeowner with a generator to supply power to the grinder pump during the power outage.
- 3) How long will construction around my property last? In total, construction around an individual's property is expected to last only a few days. However, these days would not be consecutive. The sewer mains will be installed first. With the shallow construction techniques previously discussed, it is expected that the contractor could install several hundred feet of sewer main per day, minimizing the amount of time at one location. Then, a second phase of work would connect individual homes. The contractor will be responsible for coordinating with the property owner and minimizing the time that the homeowner is without service. Typically, this will be less than one workday. Finally, existing septic tank abandonment and restoration of site disturbances will take place. Due to the flexibility of the system, site disturbance will be kept to a minimum, however, repairing lawns and landscaping will be subject to growing seasons and could require an additional site visit to complete the work.
- 4) How much more property tax will I expect to pay with my property value increasing once the consent order is lifted? It is unclear how much increase this project may affect property values.

- 5) If the lateral connection to my house runs through some landscaping I have (shrubs, flowers, etc.), will my landscaping be restored what it was previously? Yes, the contractor will be responsible for restoring all private property landscaping and site improvement disturbances to its original condition. Improvements within the Right-of-Way that have been disturbed will be held to Washington County standards.
- 6) I have some large heavy objects stored above my septic tank, will the County assist in moving it before the septic tank is removed? The contractor will be responsible for coordination with the homeowner regarding septic tank abandonment. Once a grinder pump is operational, it is anticipated the septic tanks will be abandoned in place. At a minimum, this means that sewage will first be removed from the tank. Then the tank will be altered so that it will not be able to hold water and then it will be filled with a material (like sand or gravel) to prevent collapse. The top portion of the tank or riser will be removed, and the area around it will be restored to its original condition.
- 7) I do not agree with this project and do not want to participate. What recourse do I have? To summarize the Ohio Revised Code 6117.51 - New public sewer construction projects: If a new public sewer project is constructed in order to reduce or eliminate an existing health problem or water pollution hazard, the board of commissioners of the county may order the owner of any premises located within the sewer district to connect to the new public sewer, as long as the structure is within 200 feet of the nearest boundary of the right-of-way in which the sewer is located. Failure to comply may result in court action, as indicated in the code.
- 8) How much more is the gravity option, I feel it would be best in the long run because we would not have the \$105K a year maintenance associated with it? There are a lot of people that are against this project and hasn't the problem has already been fixed with the drinking water? The gravity option as it stands now is about \$3.5 million more in constructions costs. Additionally, the \$105k in annual maintenance costs do not go away with the gravity sewer. In fact, they are only slightly reduced by about \$25k. While it is true that the drinking water has been improved, pollutants are still being discharged into the groundwater. This affects many other ecological and has environmental impacts. Additionally, the Ohio EPA has not removed the mandate for the project.
- 9) With the style of my home this will require a deep excavation to get to the level of my sewer line and require some demo to my foundation. Wouldn't it be more cost effective to have those in the front yard? We may need to be deep at that location to intercept the flow, but then the

lateral can be shallow from that point to where it connects to the main. Please note, there are no intentions of disturbing or demolition to any foundations. We intend to place the grinder far enough away from the foundations to avoid any conflicts.

- 10) Will residents be given the option to have existing septic tanks drained & filled in, rather than removed? The preferred option for abandoning septic tanks is for them to be drained and filled. Additionally, the bottom is to be punctured so it will not hold water, and then filled with a self-leveling material like sand or gravel. The riser/cover at the surface will be removed and the surrounding area filled in and the small disturbed area will be replanted in grass. It is not our intention to remove the septic tanks or disturb large areas surrounding them.
- 11) Where in relation to the house will the grinder pump be placed (feet from the house)? The grinder pump will generally be placed 5-10 feet away from the house. The location can be dependent on the type of foundation you may have. We could be closer if you have a crawl space or further if you have a full depth basement. Either way, since an electrical supply to the pump is necessary, a minimum distance will keep costs down.
- 12) Who will perform the electrical connection work and is it to be part of the overall project or is it an additional expense to be paid by the homeowner? The electrical connection will be part of the work of the contractor. They will need to gain access to your electrical entrance panel and add a circuit for the pump. There will be no extra expense paid by the homeowner.
- 13) Is there a back-flow preventer incorporated with the maintenance shut off valve? There is a backflow preventer in the tank that will allow water from the lateral to flow back to the tank but not into the house. Also, the maintenance valve near the street will not allow water from the main back into the lateral.