



TOWN OF WILBUR
Office of the Clerk

Phone: 509/647-5821
FAX: 509/647-2047
(TDD/TTY) 1-800-833-6388
<http://www.wilburwa.com>

14 N.W. Division Street
Post Office Box 214
Wilbur, WA 99185-0214
E-mail: tow@wilburwa.com

PLEASE READ

August 30, 2007

In November, 2005, the Town sent out letters and held a public meeting to inform citizens of the status of the program to update the sewer system to bring it into compliance with Department of Ecology, DOE, regulations and to comply with the terms of the lawsuit settlement with Waste Action Project. The following is an update on the sewer program.

Wilbur has recently completed a value engineering, VE, study of the various options available to resolve the discharge compliance problems with the sewer treatment facilities. The VE study was an independent review by a outside group of experts showing ways that Wilbur could revise its sewer treatment facilities to achieve compliance with environmental regulations pertaining to discharges to surface waters. The study was conducted by a firm named Robinson, Stafford & Rude, RSR, who specializes in conducting these studies. The cost of the study was covered by a \$35,000 grant from the Community Development Block Grant, CDBG, funding agency. CDBG along with other funding agencies and the DOE urged Wilbur to undertake the VE study as a way of assuring that the treatment scheme selected was the best value solution. The study has been completed and the VE group's report has been accepted by the Town Council.

The VE team reviewed 5 alternative ways that the sewer treatment facilities could be modified to correct the discharge problems. The recommended alternative is to replace the existing sewage lagoons with a mechanical treatment plant that will treat Wilbur's sewage to current standards needed to discharge it to surface water. This alternative provides the best assurance that the treatment process will eliminate conflicts with DOE and other regulatory agencies and also accommodate anticipated future requirements that are currently not on the books.

As part of the study effort, the VE team provided preliminary cost of construction and operation estimates for the alternatives studied. The estimated cost of the recommended alternative with escalation to the date that construction will probably take place is \$4,500,000.00.

The Town Council has directed our engineering firm to proceed with completing the *facility plan** using the mechanical treatment alternative as the probable route that we will take. The facility plan will develop the concept of the mechanical treatment plant in more detail and compare it with the other alternatives reviewed in the VE study. The town council will participate with the engineering firm in using this information to select the way we will proceed and will submit the facility plan and the council's decision to the DOE for review and approval.

Upon receipt of DOE's approval, the town will issue a design contract to an engineering firm to proceed with preparation of actual designs and specifications needed for awarding a construction contract. Construction is estimated to take place in 2009.

Thank you for your time and understanding in this matter.

Sincerely,

Mayor/Council

* A facility plan, which is required by DOE, is an engineering study to identify problems with the sewage facilities and make recommendations to correct them. It serves as a road map to guide the Town, and its engineering and construction firms in correcting the problems.