

October 2002

Up

date

Wastewater
Facilities
Siting



October 24, 2002 Public Meeting Scheduled:

Learn about the site development and environmental studies and which site is preferred

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Detailed site reviews and conceptual site designs are being completed for former Stockyards site and Fancher/Alki site

Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Prepared:

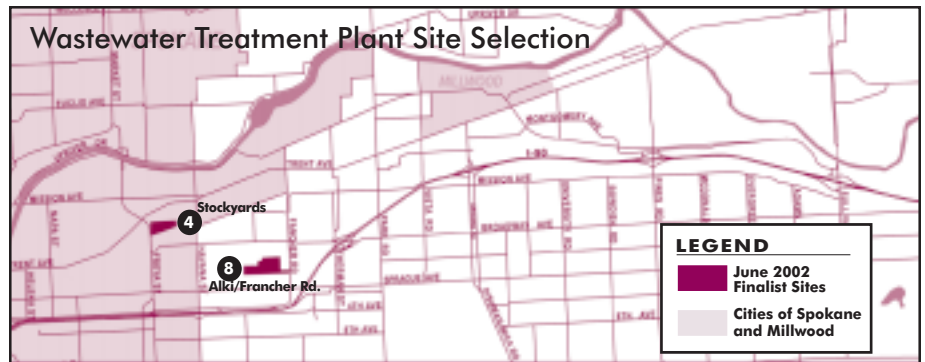
Environmental analysis complete and Draft Supplemental EIS available for public review

Where We've Been and Where We're Going:

How public comments and new initiatives have influenced the Wastewater Facilities project

As described in previous project newsletters, Spokane County is evaluating a variety of potential sites for construction of a new wastewater treatment plant in the western portion of the Spokane Valley. After considering comments provided at the June 13, 2002 public meeting, Spokane County chose two finalist sites to carry through site development and environmental studies, including preparation of a Supplemental

and concerns regarding the studies and the choice of the preferred treatment plant site. An opportunity to ask questions and provide comments will follow the staff presentation. Public comments received will be considered before a final site recommendation is presented to the Board of County Commissioners for approval. YOUR INPUT ON THE TREATMENT PLANT SITING PROCESS IS IMPORTANT!!!



tal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The preferred finalist site is the former Stockyards near Freya and Trent (Site #4) and the alternate finalist site is the railroad yard near Fancher and Alki (Site #8).

Be sure to attend the October 24th public meeting to learn about the results of the site development studies and draft EIS. In addition, the public meeting will serve as an opportunity to provide comments on the Draft EIS. The project team wants to hear your comments, insights

In February 2002, the County Commissioners approved the plan to construct a new treatment plant in the Valley and discharge the highly treated effluent into the Spokane River downstream of Upriver Dam. During the site selection process, over 15 possible sites were considered and public meetings were held in May and June 2002 to gather comments on the short-listed and finalist sites.

Public Meeting on Wastewater Facilities Siting

Thursday
October 24, 2002
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
West Valley High School
8301 E. Buckeye Ave.
Cafeteria



Site Development Studies Being Conducted on 2 Finalist Sites:

Detailed site reviews and conceptual site designs
being completed for former Stockyards site
and Fancher/Alki site

Final Recommended Site For The New Wastewater Treatment Plant:

The decision regarding the final recommended treatment plant site will be made after the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement has been prepared and issued. The final site recommendation will be posted on the project web page in early December 2002 and discussed at a public hearing before the Board of County Commissioners. Visit the project web page for updates: go to www.spokanecounty.org/utilities, follow the link to the Wastewater Facilities Plan section. For more information and to be added to the project mailing list call 477-3604, ext. 7176.

As discussed in previous project newsletters, the new Spokane County regional wastewater treatment plant will be designed with pleasing aesthetics and state-of-the-art treatment technology and odor control. All treatment processes that are significant generators of odors will be covered and ventilated with the air sent to odor scrubbing systems. Over the past few months, the County has evaluated various treatment technologies and recently decided to use a MBR (Membrane Bio-Reactor) treatment process.

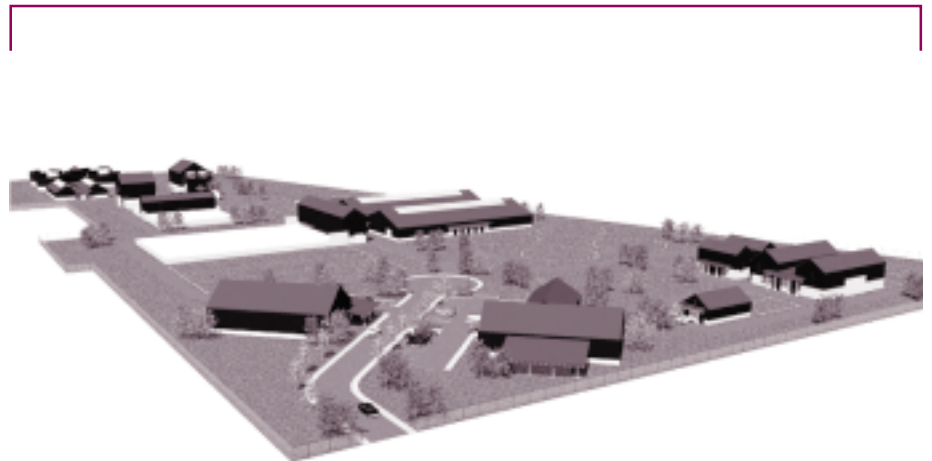
The MBR process combines an activated sludge reactor with a membrane filtration unit to purify wastewater. It is a highly advanced treatment process that produces water suitable for various re-use options and is easy to expand when additional capacity is needed. The MBR process is a sustainable technology. In the future, the County will be able to easily add additional treatment and use the reclaimed water as a regional water resource through groundwater recharge.

In addition to choosing a treatment technology, a site development study on each of the 2 finalist sites is currently being conducted. The

results of these studies will be presented at the October 24, 2002 public workshop. The studies include:

- Identification of neighborhood, aesthetic, and physical layout issues associated with each site (e.g., odor, noise, site access, traffic, transportation corridors, safety, visual aesthetics, lighting, site buffers, setbacks, public access, local development plans).
- Development of preliminary site plans that provide architectural and landscape concepts and approaches for controlling neighborhood issues.

Once the final treatment plant site has been selected by the Board of County Commissioners, the site issues will be refined, and the County will work with representatives from the surrounding neighborhood to identify and incorporate elements into the design to reduce community impacts during construction and operation. These elements could include opportunities for incorporating multiple use facilities (such as meeting rooms, public access, recreational facilities, educational facilities, a cop shop, etc.) into the treatment plant site.



Example Site Perspective



Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Prepared:

Environmental analysis complete and Draft Supplemental EIS available for public review

Draft Supplemental EIS Comment Period – October 8 through November 7, 2002:

The Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is prepared and available for public review and comment. Copies are available for review at all of the Spokane County Public Libraries, at the Spokane County Utilities Division office, 1026 W. Broadway, and on the County Utilities Division website, www.spokanecounty.org/utilities.

It is also available on a CD for \$5.00 or as a printed document for \$15.00, and can be obtained by calling Spokane County Utilities at 477-3604, Ext. 7176.

The public comment period extends from October 8, 2002 to November 7, 2002. Comments can be provided at the October 24th public meeting or written comments can be mailed to

Bruce Rawls,
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1116 W. Broadway Ave.,
Spokane, WA 99260-0430
or emailed to
brawls@spokanecounty.org.

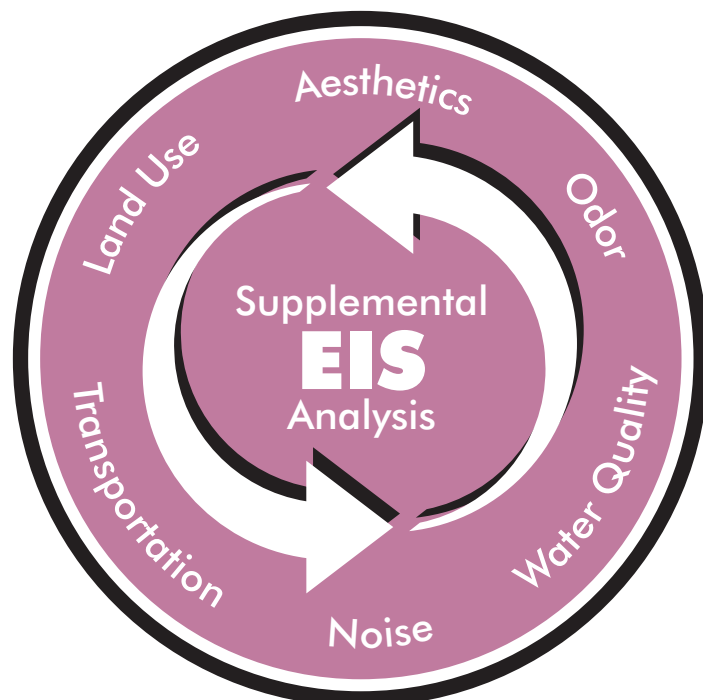
In 2001, Spokane County developed a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Wastewater Facilities Plan. Over the summer and early fall of 2002, the County developed a draft Supplemental EIS associated with siting and building the new wastewater treatment plant.

Spokane County began the facilities planning process to ensure that treatment plant capacity is available after 2007 to complete its septic tank elimination program over the Spokane Aquifer, and to accommodate new development inside the Urban Growth Area. The Wastewater Facilities Planning process identified and evaluated alternatives. The original Programmatic EIS examined the environmental impacts of various system options that were considered during the planning process and helped the County decide to site and build a new treatment plant in the Valley.

The draft Supplemental EIS recently developed adds more detailed analysis on the potential environmental impacts of siting and construct-

ing a new treatment plant. It examines the environmental impacts of two alternative sites and their associated systems. The sites examined include 1) the former Stockyard Site near Freya and Trent, which from initial site selection analysis is the County's preferred alternative, and 2) the Fancher/Alki railroad yard site, which came in second in the overall site selection analysis. The draft Supplemental EIS also analyzes the impacts of not constructing a new treatment plant called the "No Action" alternative.

In May and June 2002, public meetings were held that helped identify environmental issues that should be considered. Some of the key environmental considerations that are analyzed in the draft Supplemental EIS include air quality (odor), water quality (both surface and groundwater), noise, transportation, land use, and aesthetics. Since both of the alternative sites are very urban and are in industrial/commercial areas, both sites have similar issues. Be sure to review and comment on the draft Supplemental EIS (details on how to comment are provided next to this article).





Where We've Been and Where We're Going:

How public comments and new initiatives have influenced the Wastewater Facilities project

- **Public Involvement Opportunities Provided:**

A variety of public involvement opportunities associated with the County's new wastewater treatment plant siting study have been provided since February 2002. Public meetings were held in May and June, focus group meetings with community representatives were held in April and June, presentations to the Chief Gary Park and East Central Neighborhood Councils were held in June and September, and a meeting for the neighborhood around the former Stockyards site was held in August. The County values and considers all public comments prior to making decisions on how the facilities siting project should move forward. The majority of the comments provided have supported the County's decision to consider the former Stockyards as the preferred site and the Fancher/Alki as the alternate site.

- **City of Spokane Valley Incorporation Considerations:**

Since the majority of the sewer service area that will contribute wastewater flows to the new treatment plant is in the new City of Spokane Valley, the new city will need to decide how they want to provide wastewater management services. It is anticipated that a decision process will begin once the new city council is in place. The new city could choose to continue delegating wastewater management to Spokane County, could take over wastewater management responsibility and contract with Spokane County, or could take over all responsibility for wastewater management. In any event, the need for new wastewater treatment capacity will remain. Therefore, the Spokane County Commissioners decided to continue the site selection process so the sched-

ule is not delayed and adequate capacity is available for future regional growth and septic tank elimination beyond the year 2007.

- **What's Next:**

After considering the October 24, 2002 public meeting comments and the Draft Supplemental EIS comments, the Final Supplemental EIS will be issued and the planning team will finalize the recommendation for the new treatment plant site. It is anticipated that the site selection recommendation will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners in December 2002. The treatment plant design could then begin in 2003, which would enable construction to begin in 2005 and treatment plant start-up to occur in early 2007.



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