

8.1 INTRODUCTION

Spokane County has continued the effort to provide public information and solicit community input in the *2006 Draft Wastewater Facilities Plan Amendment*. The following discussion provides an overview of the activities conducted in the facilities planning process.

8.2 2002 WASTEWATER FACILITIES PLAN (DECEMBER 2002)

As part of the programmatic phase of Spokane County's *2002 Wastewater Facilities Plan* a public involvement process was designed, developed, and implemented. The goal was to effectively educate the public about the project, identify community issues and values, and provide information to the project team to help them develop recommendations that the community supports. The public involvement process involved: (1) stakeholder interviews; (2) periodic project newsletters; (3) a questionnaire on wastewater management; (4) five public meetings; (5) two business forums; and (6) periodic meetings with the Spokane County Water Quality Advisory Committee.

Public meetings were conducted to solicit comments on the alternative systems and the recommended plan:

- September 21, 2000 Public Meeting
- January 10 and 11, 2001 Public Meetings
- May 22 and 23, 2001 Public Meetings
- May 22 and 23, 2001 Business Forums
- Spokane County Water Quality Advisory Committee (WQAC) Meetings

These meetings are summarized in Chapter 8 of the *2002 Wastewater Facilities Plan*.

8.3 2003 WASTEWATER FACILITIES PLAN AMENDMENT (FEBRUARY 2003)

Following conclusion of the programmatic phase of Spokane County's Wastewater Facilities Planning Process, a process was initiated to select a site for the proposed new treatment plant in Spokane Valley. To facilitate and guide this effort, a public involvement process was implemented, similar to the one used during the programmatic planning phase.

Public meetings, focus group meetings, and neighborhood meetings were conducted to solicit comments and input on siting of the water reclamation facility:

- May 1, 2002 Public Meeting
- June 13, 2002 Public Meeting
- October 24, 2002 Public Meeting
- March 27, 2002, April 24, 2002, and June 5, 2002 Focus Group Meetings
- August 22, 2002 Neighborhood Meeting
- June and September 2002 Business Group and Neighborhood Council Meetings

These meetings are summarized in Chapter 8 of the *2003 Wastewater Facilities Plan Amendment*.

8.4 2004 PUBLIC INFORMATION PROCESS

During 2004, Spokane County conducted a series of meetings to solicit input from the public on a re-evaluation of the Stockyards and Playfair Race Track sites in consideration of accommodating wastewater flows from the City of Spokane. Ultimately, these considerations were set aside and the focus of the program returned to treating Spokane County service area flows with the Stockyards as the selected facility site.

Public meetings, focus group meetings, and neighborhood meetings were conducted to solicit comments and input on siting of the water reclamation facility:

- February 25, 2004 Public Meeting
- May 12, 2004 Public Meeting

8.5 2006 WASTEWATER FACILITIES PLAN AMENDMENT

Spokane County has continued the effort to provide public information and solicit community input in the *2006 Wastewater Facilities Plan Amendment*. Numerous meetings have been held as part of the Spokane River total maximum daily load process. Spokane County Utilities Division staff participated in an extensive collaboration process that resulted in the publication of the *Foundational Concepts for the Spokane River TMDL Managed Implementation Plan (Foundational Concepts)* in July 2006.

Key sessions conducted as part of the *2006 Wastewater Facilities Plan Amendment* are as follows:

- August 16, 2006 Advanced Wastewater Treatment Process Workshop
- November 1, 2006 Stockyards Site Conditional User Permit Public Meeting
- November 15, 2006 Public Meeting
- November 30, 2006 Planning Commission Briefing

8.5.1 Advanced Wastewater Treatment Process Workshop

On August 16, 2006 an advanced wastewater treatment process workshop was held to identify, update, and discuss the state-of-the-art in treatment technology for extremely low effluent phosphorus. This workshop was attended by Spokane River dischargers, wastewater treatment process engineers, academics, federal and state regulatory agencies, representatives of environmental groups, and treatment equipment vendors. The purpose of this session was to utilize the workshop to address technology development, readiness, pilot testing, technology issues, and other development requirements for applicability to Spokane River dischargers. More than 50 people participated in this meeting and ten made presentations on treatment technology in the workshop.

Notes from the August 16, 2006 workshop are included as Appendix C.

8.5.2 November 1, 2006 Stockyards Site Conditional Use Permit Public Meeting

A public meeting was held on November 1, 2006 at the City of Spokane Fire Training Center near the Stockyards Facility site as part of the Conditional Use Permit for the SCRWRF. The focus of the meeting as follows:

- Update the Stockyards neighborhood on the Conditional Use Permit process.
- Provide an update of the *2006 Draft Wastewater Facilities Plan Amendment* as it relates to the Spokane County Regional Water Reclamation Facility and the Stockyards site.

A variety of meeting notification techniques were used, including mailing a project update notice to Spokane County wastewater customers.

Approximately nine people attended the meeting. Information was presented to the group followed by a question-and-answer session.

8.5.3 November 15, 2006 Public Meeting

A public meeting was held on November 15, 2006, to:

- Provide an update of the *2006 Draft Wastewater Facilities Plan Amendment*.
- Update the community on the developments associated with the Spokane River TMDL and implications for the Spokane County Regional Water Reclamation Facility.

A variety of meeting notification techniques were used, including mailing a project update newsletter to all Spokane County postal customers in the service area.

Approximately thirteen people attended the meeting. Information was presented, and a variety of questions were asked and answered during a question-and-answer session. Participants were asked to provide written responses to a questionnaire about the County's wastewater management plan, willingness to pay higher wastewater service rates for water quality protection, interest in water conservation and low flow appliances, and to rank preferences for reclaimed water reuse. Responses to the meeting questionnaire indicated general agreement that the County's wastewater management plan is consistent with efforts to protect water quality in the Spokane River and generally, a willingness to pay higher sewer service rates for improving water quality.

8.5.4 November 30, 2006 Planning Commission Briefing

Spokane County Utilities Division staff made a presentation to the Spokane County Planning Commission on November 30, 2006 addressing the following:

- Provide an overview of the *2006 Draft Wastewater Facilities Plan Amendment*.
- Provide an update on the Spokane River TMDL.
- Provide an update on the Design/Build/Operate (DBO) process and schedule.

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