

Sarpy County & Cities Wastewater Agency

Sarpy County Regional Wastewater System – Phase 1A Project

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

November 2020

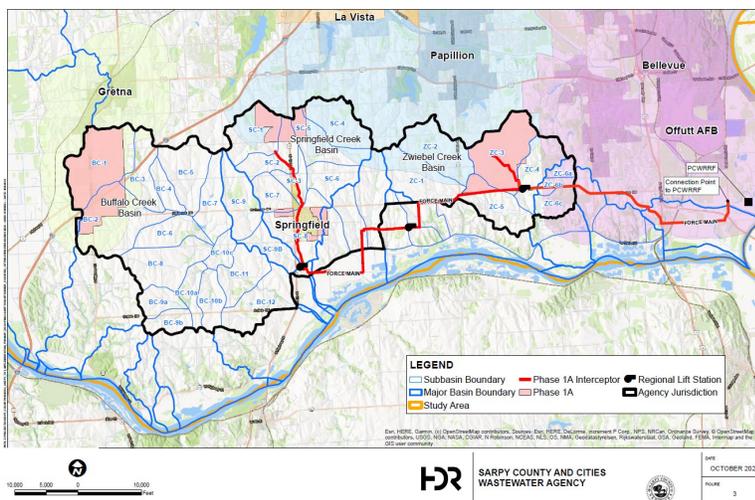
¹ *Note: In-person public meetings may need to be hosted via an online meeting depending on COVID-19 public gathering restrictions/recommendations.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Project Overview

Why is this wastewater project needed?

The communities of Sarpy County, Nebraska have experienced significant growth in recent years. This growth has generally occurred in areas where public water supplies and municipal sewer systems have been available, predominantly north of the “ridgeline”. Promoting growth south of this ridgeline (southern Sarpy County) has been more challenging due to the lack of public wastewater infrastructure. To address this challenge and to enable greater economic development opportunities in the southern areas of the county, the Sarpy County and Cities Wastewater Agency was created to develop the necessary public wastewater infrastructure.



What's included in the project?

This project is the first step to provide public wastewater infrastructure in southern Sarpy County. It includes the Springfield Creek Interceptor Sewer, the Zwiebel Creek Subbasin 3 (ZC-3) Interceptor Sewer; a force main from the Springfield Creek basin to the City of Omaha's Papillion Creek Water Resource Recovery Facility and associated lift stations. Additionally, the Agency will provide cooling water conveyance from the proposed data centers to an equalization lagoon as well as a controlled discharge cooling water equalization lagoon.

Currently, the concept design (about 10% plans) is complete. A complete design for the Springfield basin is expected by late Spring 2021, with construction anticipated to be complete the project by 2024.

Is the City of Omaha's existing facility providing wastewater treatment?

The Agency approved an agreement with the City of Omaha in Fall of 2020. Under the terms of the agreement, all sewage in southern Sarpy will be collected and sent to the City of Omaha's Papillion Water Resource Recovery Facility. The City of Omaha will continue to operate the recovery facility, maintain the discharge permit to the Missouri River, and coordinate with all required regulators.

This is a change from plans provided during a Public Hearing in 2019. At that time, the Agency's plans included a wastewater treatment facility in southern Sarpy County.

Is the Agency coordinating with the Platteview Road improvement project?

We are closely coordinating the proposed force main alignment with the Platteview Road project. Both projects are being designed to be compatible with each other. You can find more information on the Platteview Road improvement project at www.connectsarpy.com.

Locations of Wastewater Infrastructure

How do you decide the final sewer route?

The concept design is based on the sanitary sewer collection system using gravity to pull the flow from north to south for both the Springfield Creek and the Zwiebel Creek areas. During the design process, we evaluated properties to minimize the impact on property owners and to maximize the cost-effectiveness of the project. We will consider the exact location of the sewer on a property-by-property basis as the design work advances. We will work with property owners, to the extent possible, but we are constrained in certain locations due to the nature of the project because gravity-draining sewers require specific conditions to work.

We will use a similar process when determining the exact route for the Force Main pipe from the Springfield basin east to the Papillion Water Resource Recovery Facility, evaluating elevation changes and working to minimize the length of the route for this pressurized section of the pipe.

How will the lift station locations be selected?

A few important factors go into finding an appropriate location for lift station. The sanitary conveyance sewers use gravity to move the wastewater, so the lift stations need to be built at a low point topographically, where water would naturally drain. The lift stations will require about one acre of land to accommodate the facility needs.

Aesthetics

What will the lift stations look like?

The facilities are not designed yet, but our team will consider the area's aesthetics during the design process. We are currently planning to use brick on the outside of the buildings with plants used for screening.

Miscellaneous

What regulatory agencies are involved in overseeing the project?

A number of agencies will review the project, including the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State Historic Preservation Office, Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Will any treated sanitary flows be discharged to Springfield Creek or Zwiebel Creek?

All sanitary flows from southern Sarpy County will be piped to Omaha's Papillion Water Resource Recovery Facility for treatment and will be discharged into the Missouri River.

There may be a creek discharge associated with the Agency's handling of cooling water from proposed data centers. No sanitary flow is included in this project. The design concept is underway and may include cooling water storage and permitted discharge into the Springfield Creek near the existing City of Springfield's wastewater plant. This permit would meet all Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy requirements for a new discharge location.

For Property Owners

Will owners with septic systems be required to tie into public utilities?

Future developments will be required to connect into the system. But at this time, no decision has been made about whether current property owners with septic systems will be required to tie into the public utilities when they are available.

Will the project contaminate my well/groundwater?

We do not anticipate any impacts to well or groundwater because the Agency will not be discharging any treated wastewater flows.

What impacts will I experience during construction?

During construction, there will be construction crews and heavy equipment in the area. Compensation for the temporary construction activity within the temporary easement area will be included in the offered appraisal report.

What will my property look like after construction?

Construction crews will restore your property to its original state, except for the permanent features required by the wastewater project.

Will my farm operations be impacted by construction?

During construction, you will not be able to farm the area within the temporary construction easement until the land has been backfilled and restored. Manholes may be installed in some areas, so you will need to farm around those areas. Compensation for the temporary

construction activity within the temporary easement area will be included in the offered appraisal report.

Do you anticipate taking any homes for the project?

Our design team is working around any existing structures, so there currently no plans to acquire any homes or structures, to the extent possible.

The Agency will be acquiring land for lift stations, but that will not impact any existing homes or other structures. The sewer infrastructure will require permanent and temporary construction easements.

What are the next steps in this process concerning my property?

Midwest Right of Way will contact individual property owners about their land to discuss the purchase/sale process. Midwest Right of Way will provide detailed information and an appraisal quantifying valuation of the property rights needed by the Agency for the project plus additional legally recognized damages resulting from the acquisition of the property rights to the property owners. Property owners then have an opportunity to respond and present additional information and valuations.

Construction & Funding

When will the project be built?

Construction is expected to start in mid-2021 in the Springfield basin, with the entire Phase 1A portion of the project operational in 2024.

Who will build the sewer?

The construction plans will be put out for public bid and a public selection will be conducted.

How will the project be paid for?

The system will be “self-supporting” through connection and user fees. Since users can’t connect to a system that isn’t built, the Agency will use money from a State Revolving Fund to pay for the initial construction.

Next Steps

When is the next opportunity for public input?

Springfield Basin Infrastructure Pre-Construction Public Meeting | Late Spring 2021
(construction start anticipated in summer 2021)¹

Zwiebel Basin, Force Main and Lift Station Infrastructure Pre-Construction Public Meetings | (TBD) Fall 2021 – Summer 2022¹

¹ *Note: In-person public meetings may need to be hosted via an online meeting depending on COVID-19 public gathering restrictions/recommendations.

How can I stay informed?

Information about the Wastewater Agency and the sewer project is available online at www.sarpy.com/boards-commissions/Wastewater-Agency.

If you have questions or comments, please contact:

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