DISTRICT
DIGEST
Vol. 5 / Issue 4 / Nov - Dec 2017
BRUNSWICK SEWER DISTRICT *Protecting Maine's Environment*

HOW DO I GET PUBLIC SEWER IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD?

There are some residential subdivisions within the district's service area that were constructed using individual on-site septic systems. These systems are now nearing the end of their service life. When these homeowners begin to consider replacing their system, they also begin to consider connecting to the public sewer system. At which time we get a call that goes something like this:

"Hi, I live on Such-and-such Street, and was wondering when the district will be installing sewer on my street."

The district's answer is "We will not be installing sewer on your street, and do not have any plans to do so in the foreseeable future." Then follows a long explanation of why that is and what the district's policy is concerning sewer extensions in developed areas, but what also is discussed is how it *can* occur. That is the topic of this article. But first a little background.

There is an overriding principle that guides us. It is that those who benefit by a new sewer, pay for the new sewer. But life is never that simple. Our State Legislature, which chartered the district, understood that at some point a neighborhood may want to have public sewer installed within their existing neighborhood. The district has been granted the authority and provision to allow us to construct these new sewers. We urge the residents of these developments to go to our website (www.brunswicksewer.org) and review this provision. Please refer to our *Rules and Regulations* under *Article IV, Sec. 9* (page 18) titled *Sewer Extensions to Serve Existing Development*.

In short, the district may construct new sewers in an existing development so long as: *a) there is a request in writing from the proposed new users*, and *b) they are willing to pay the construction costs*. The district can determine what portions of this cost may be funded by the district. If that occurs, the district must recover that money back for the ratepayers through the new user's revenue or an assessment (calculated as an individual lot's share of the cost as if it had been an original participant) or by both means.

This is a simplified version of the process. As such, we are more than willing to speak to any group to explain the process and cost considerations in detail.

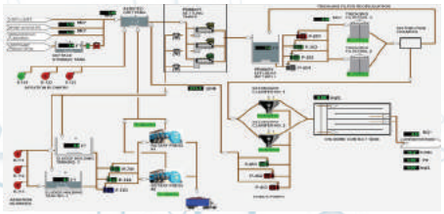
RIVER ROAD #1 PUMP STATION REPLACEMENT

Located at the S-curve of River Road is a 40-year-old sewage pumping station that is currently being replaced. The existing 5hp (horse power) pumps, their piping and controls are in a small 5.5' diameter room, 12' below ground, accessed only by a 20"x26" elevator located in a large green steel tube. This style of station is known as a "Tin Can." The rehab will move the electrical controls to an above ground control panel, increase pump size to 7.5hp, and place them in an 8' diameter concrete wet well (replacing the 6' diameter wet well now in use). In addition, a smaller concrete "valve" pit has been installed to house valving and bypass connections used for maintenance. The larger pumps and wet well size will bring more storage and flexibility, allowing for better pumping control during wet and dry seasons, as well as future expansion. A new, more efficient stand-by generator is being installed to power the station when needed. These changes are currently being completed behind existing structures which will then be removed. This will give us greater access and a much more appealing landscaped facility.

River Road #1 pump station

ONE NOTABLE STEP IN THE UPGRADE LEADS TO ONE GIANT LEAP IN PLANT OPERATIONS

The step being referred to is the implementation of a new, state-of-the-art, SCADA system at the treatment plant. SCADA stands for *Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition,* which in layman's terms means the computerized access and control of nearly all systems and information within the treatment plant. The key advantages of SCADA are: remote control of all critical systems and equipment, automation of chemical dosing and delivery systems, problem detection/alarm dispatch and real-time data collection. With this system in place, an operator now has the freedom to connect to the treatment plant with any common internet connected device and make all necessary adjustments to the system from the comfort of their own home. They can also analyze data and make well-informed decisions as to how to optimize current as well as future performance of the treatment process. Along with those features comes the automation of chemical dosing. This takes the guess work out of matching Ph and disinfection requirements further reducing waste and/or "call ins" due to under- or over-chemical application. Long gone are the days of being called into the plant, in the middle of the night, to merely make an adjustment to the chlorine dosage in the treated water exiting the plant. As with all things new, there has been a bit of a learning curve adapting to the new technology. However, if you were to ask the treatment plant staff, their outlook on future wastewater treatment with this technology is brighter than ever.



Recognition

The following employees are celebrating their 4th quarter anniversary:

Matthew Densmore
Senior Operator, 23 years

Lisa True
Staff Accountant, 9 years

Robert Pontau Jr.
Assistant General Manager, 7 years

Congratulations and thank you for your service to the district!

NICHOLSON GRADUATES SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Jennifer Nicholson, Treatment Plant Supervisor, recently graduated from the University of Maine at Augusta achieving a Bachelor of Science degree in Information and Library Sciences, with summa cum laude distinction.

Jen began her career at the district as a Lab Technician in 1994, and was promoted to Treatment Plant Supervisor in 2015. Her pursuit of this degree has been a lifelong goal. She feels the skills she has acquired will give her a broader business perspective and help in any type of research she performs as part of her job duties. It has also given her more self-discipline in learning to juggle the challenges of working a full-time job, studying, and enjoying a full family life.

If you are contemplating further education Jen says "Go for it! Don't let anything hold you back." Her hope is that she is an example to her children of never giving up and accomplishing your dream.

Congratulations, Jen! The district is proud of you!

General Manager, Leonard Blanchette, left, and Assistant General Manager, Robert Pontau Jr, right, congratulate Jennifer Nicholson on receiving her degree.

REMINDERS

When you are using water for your lawn, gardens, pools, or ice rinks, you *may* be eligible for an outside watering credit. ***TO REQUEST AN ADJUSTMENT, YOU MUST CONTACT US PRIOR TO THE END OF EACH QUARTERLY BILLING PERIOD.***

Since quarterly billing periods vary with your location please contact us to determine your specific billing schedule. Call 729-0148 ext 110 or e-mail ddutton@brunswicksewer.org for more information. ***PLEASE NOTE: Credits will no longer be given after the bill has been produced.*** You may view the policy on our website or request a copy be mailed to you.

When experiencing a sewer system problem, please contact the district **FIRST**. The 24-hour emergency number is 729-0148. Make sure your plumber calls Maine Natural Gas before any tools are placed in your line.

THINKING OF DOING YARD WORK? Before your contractor digs, call DIG SAFE (1-888-344-7233). It's free and it's the law.

At the touch of a button you can skip the checks and stamps by paying your sewer bill online at: www.brunswicksewer.org/odp.html.

WOULD YOU PREFER TO RECEIVE YOUR INVOICE VIA EMAIL? The Brunswick Sewer District now offers paperless billing! Sign up for this free service by going to our website at www.brunswicksewer.org, clicking on "I want to" then "Set up paperless billing" and fill in the required information. Or, simply call the Brunswick Sewer District at 207-729-0148 and provide the required information.

Want more Brunswick Sewer District information? **Check us out on Facebook.**

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