OFFICE OF WATER MANAGEMENT IDEM
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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC HEARING

DILLSBORO CIVIC CENTER

9824 CENTRAL AVENUE

DILLSBORO, INDIANA

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2003

7:00 P.M.

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APPEARANCES:

Lynne L. Newlon, Hearing Officer

Rodney Dennerline

Mike Hankins

Douglas Baer

Lisa Lehner, Esq.

Vera Benning

John Seevers

Joe Tierney

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WULLENWEBER COURT REPORTING
27309 Leona Dr., Brookville, IN (812) 576-3400

(Exhibits Nos. 1 through 3 were marked for identification.)

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: If you could sign in, please, I'd appreciate it, in the back.

Would the official reporter designated for this hearing please stand and raise your right hand and state your name?

THE COURT REPORTER: My name is Amy Benjamin.

(Court reporter sworn.)

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Okay. I'd like to get started. My name is Lynne Newlon, and I am the Senior Environmental Manager in the Office of Water Quality with the Department of Environmental Management. I am the hearing officer for this hearing this evening.

The hearing this evening, June 25th, 2003, is before the Department of Environmental Management henceforth referred to as either the department or IDEM in the matter of the proposed formation of the Dearborn County

regional sewer district.

Also with me tonight is Mr. William Hawkins, Bill Hawkins, in the back, an attorney with the department, and Miss Bonnie Nash with IDEM's media office.

At this point, for the record, I would like to introduce the three following exhibits: Exhibit 1, the petition to establish a sewer district; Exhibit 2, the regional sewer district boundaries; and Exhibit 3, the preliminary engineering report.

Oral statements will be heard this evening; however, written statements may be submitted to me at the hearing or mailed to -- and my cards also are at the back -- to Lynne Newlon, IDEM, 100 North Senate Avenue, P.O. Box 6015, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46206-6015. As I say, I do have cards in the back.

Written comments, as well as e-mails, I do accept, I will print off and put

it in the file as a matter of record. For the record, notice of time, place of this hearing was given as provided in Indiana Code 13-26-2-6 by publication in The Journal Press and The Register newspapers during the weeks of May 26th through the 30th, June 2nd through the 6th, June 9th through the 13th, and June 16th through the 20th of the year 2003. Sign-in sheets have been provided. If you have not yet signed in, please do so now.

If you wish to present IDEM with information this evening, please indicate on the sign-in sheet. Also indicate if you will be appearing for yourself or on behalf of a group. If you are appearing for a group, please note the name of the group and in what capacity you are appearing, such as a group officer, an attorney, or an authorized spokesperson.

Finally, if you wish to receive notice of the agency's decision in

this matter, please indicate on the sign-in sheet and make sure you have provided a complete and legible address.

We will then begin hearing testimony regarding the proposed district. Because the purpose of this hearing is to allow the public to present information pertinent to the formation of the district, we ask that you hold all questions until the hearing is concluded. At that time we will conduct an informal question and answer session.

So we're going to have the public hearing first. I only receive testimony during that time. I cannot answer questions.

But after we conclude that, we'll move right on in to a public meeting where we will -- we got people here with the county and the engineer that hopefully can answer all of your questions.

The hearing officer takes the

testimony received at this hearing and drafts a report and makes recommendations whether to approve, disapprove, or approve conditionally on the petition itself.

If the hearing officer recommends approval of the petition, then a commissioner's order, which is a legal document that gives permission to the petitioner to actually form the sewer district that is proposed. If the commissioner decides to sign that document, it is then mailed to the petitioner and the district becomes legal 33 days after the petitioner receives the order.

As with any final decision for any agency, that decision is appealable, and information on how to appeal that decision will be included in the notice that you will receive of what IDEM intends to do.

And that concludes the discussion of the process that IDEM follows reviewing the formation. And real

quickly I'm going to go over what goes into a petition.

Indiana Code 13-26-2-3 sets out the requirements for the formation of the district. And rather than read you the statute entirely, I'm just going to highlight these requirements. I strongly encourage that the comments be limited to these requirements as these will be the comments most useful for IDEM to make this decision.

The statute requires the following: That the petition is filed by an eligible entity, and proposed district name and location of the principal office be stated; that the petition state the need for the district, the purpose the district will accomplish, and how the district will be conducive to public health, safety, convenience, or welfare; that the petition state how water supply and sewage collection are currently being provided, and how the current

situation creates or adds pollution or health hazards or impedes development in the area; that the petition states whether there is any outstanding indebtedness for the purpose proposed; and that the petition accurately describes the territory to be included in the district, and that the territory be so situated as to promote public health, safety, convenience, or welfare by organization as a single district.

The petition must provide recommendations regarding makeup of the board of trustees and the manner of selection; that the petition state the plan for financing the cost of the operations of the district until it receives revenues from the operations or proceeds from bond sales; that the petition state an estimated cost of accomplishing the purpose of the district, an estimated cost of operating and maintaining the

works, and the sources of fundings of these costs, including estimated rates and charges to be required. Again, the department is extremely interested in any information you can provide regarding these requirements. All comments, both oral and written, will be reviewed by IDEM and carefully considered in making a decision on this matter.

I will limit comments to five minutes so everyone may have an opportunity to be heard. If the testimony exceeds five minutes, we ask that you submit the remaining information to IDEM in writing before July 11th, 2003.

At this time I'd like to make sure I have all the sign-in sheets so we can begin hearing the testimony. When I call your name, please approach the microphone, and if I call your name and you no longer wish to testify, please indicate such.

Those who decide during the hearing

that they wish to testify and not have already had an opportunity to speak, they will get a chance at the end of the hearing.

So I'm going to go through the list of the people that have asked to speak, and if something -- if you decide you want to speak and you didn't sign in, yes, that's okay, but I'll ask that at the end and you'll have an opportunity to come up to the microphone, say your name. It is being recorded.

I just want to remind everyone to please speak clearly, remember it is being recorded, and that one person must speak at a time. And I appreciate and thank you for your cooperation.

Ronald or Shirley Smith.

MR. SMITH: I'll waive it right now.

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Okay. Gary or Jane Miller. Would you like to come up to the microphone, please, and state your name? Gary Miller.

MR. MILLER: Gary Miller.

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Would you like to give testimony, comment?

MR. MILLER: I have a question.

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Sure, sure. We'll be answering questions. Like I said, this is pretty much just to give comments, pros, cons, your opinion, and we will during the public meeting answer questions. Scott Fortner. Is that F-O-R-T-N-E-R?

MR. FORTNER: Yes. My name is Scott Fortner. I'm the town coordinator for the town of Dillsboro.

One of the concerns that the town has is the boundaries to the district coming right up on the east side of the town and really just up against the corporation town limits. It would limit us from expanding in the future.

Basically what we ask is for a one mile protective territory that would allow us to expand into the future.

Also, the other issue I wanted to bring up was, as you may know the town of Dillsboro is building a new sewer facility, sewer plant, and we are willing to accept flow from this district if the district is established and would like to join in with Dillsboro to have us treat your wastewater flow.

Couple of things that we did not want to do or don't want to do with the district is we didn't want to do the billing, we don't want to have to keep up the maintenance and upkeep of the system, and new customer hookup, we don't want to be involved in that; but we would treat the district as one customer and then the sewer district would be responsible for their system.

That's all I got.

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Thank you. I have a question mark with Scott -- or I'm sorry, Robert Scheffler. Would you like to speak?

MR. SCHEFFLER: Not right now.

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Okay. Chuck Andres.

MR. ANDRES: Waive.

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: You'll waive? Okay. Ronald Smith.

MR. SMITH: I'm going to waive for right now.

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Okay. Jim Huddleston.

MR. HUDDLESTON: Jim Huddleston, I live on Timberview.

One thing I wanted to say, as far as market value of homes, I've had mine up for sale for going on a year now and pretty much dropped the price on it almost 25 percent and have lost all FHA loans, all governmental loans, and now we're just basically stuck with any kind of conventional, cash.

And market of these homes is just dropped the bottom out because of the condemned systems, because of the systems being condemned, the sewer systems, and really need something

resolved to sell a home around here anymore.

That's basically all I have.

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Okay, thank you.

I've exhausted the list, the people that signed up. Is there anyone that would like to give testimony, give comment at this time?

Okay. In closing, I would like to remind everyone that written comments may be submitted to the department before July 11th, 2003. Once again, the address is on my card, please take my card in the back, it's Lynne Newlon, IDEM, 100 North Senate Avenue, P.O. Box 6015, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46206-6015.

These proceedings are now concluded, this cause is therefore adjourned until further notice from the hearing officer.

Okay. So that takes care of the public hearing part, now we're going to move in to the public meeting part. And I still would like people

to come up to the podium to address their question, but first I'm going to have county attorney, Ms. Lisa Lehner, give a few words.

MS. LEHNER: As Lynne indicated, my name is Lisa Lehner, L-E-H-N-E-R, I'm an attorney in Lawrenceburg, Indiana, and of course my name and phone number are listed in the phone book if you feel it's necessary to contact me.

I also am the designated representative appointed by the county commissioners and the county council regarding the petition. That means that I'm the contact person or representative to speak on behalf of the proposed district board.

Under Indiana law, the commissioners and council petition to establish a regional sewer district to provide for the collection, treatment, and disposal of sewage in the proposed district. The boundaries -- The proposed boundaries of the proposed district are set forth in the

petition itself, which has been on file to the public for some time. You also can see diagrams in the front and the back of this room if you want to explore those tonight as well.

It hasn't been that long since we held our last public meeting at this same location. As you know from the last meeting, the health department has accumulated evidence indicating that this proposed district is in dire need of sewer. This need proposes a hazard to the health, safety, and welfare of the residents in the proposed district.

The fact that the state brought this risk to the attention of the county, High Ridge estates has been in violation of various state and federal laws due to the failure of the system there.

However, the problem extends beyond High Ridge Estates as well. The health department has evidence

indicating that there is sewage in creeks, ditches, in various other areas throughout the proposed boundaries of this proposed district. The proposed district addresses a limited area that the county believes needs the most immediate attention of this type.

The county believes that the proposed district is necessary to protect the health, welfare, and safety of the residents in the proposed district boundaries.

The sewage problem can only worsen over time. The county may face liability for failing to take any action at this point, plus the county may have to condemn systems if this problem isn't remedied.

Regarding the governance of the proposed district, if the proposed district is approved, then the proposed district would be governed by a seven-member board appointed by the commissioners, council, the

health board, and the City of Aurora for one position.

The purpose of the proposed district is to reduce pollution in the environment by the elimination of inadequate septic systems and the construction of a sanitary sewer collection system and appropriate treatment of collected sewage.

The seven-member board would be responsible for the management of the proposed district and the administration of the facilities and insuring that the purpose that I just mentioned is accomplished.

There is a cost, of course, to creating a proposed district and its facilities. The estimated project cost as identified in the petition is approximately $4.8 million. The proposed district would serve approximately 360 customers.

Joe Tierney sits to my left, he was at the last public meeting that we held. He represents an engineering

firm named GRW, and in a short while he will speak in more detail about these costs and some other issues. The district would pursue funding for these costs from many sources, including grants and low-interest loans. This funding might include funding from the state, revolving fund, Aurora utility loan, Dearborn County revenue sources, Rural Development grants, any Department of Commerce grants, and of course private contributions.

John Seevers is seated on my right. He is with the firm of Umbaugh & Associates, and he will speak shortly in more detail about different funding sources.

The proposed district would bill a monthly user rate to users to connect to the sewer for operating costs -- and that would pay for operating costs, working capital, and a sinking fund for debt potentially.

Pursuant to Indiana law, the board

would establish, under the Indiana Code, just and equitable rates for the use of the proposed district facilities. The estimated monthly user rate is in a range between $50 to $59.

The district must charge a rate, some rate, under Indiana law. The sewage works are considered, under Indiana statutes, to benefit all land in the district.

The board does have authority to take action to collect the monthly user rate established by the board. These initial monthly user rates are only established after a public hearing where users can be heard, and the board would take input on any proposed rate from the public at that point.

The board may require connection to the proposed district's sewer system, and it may require the discontinuance of the use of septic tanks and similar structures in situations

where there is an available sanitary sewer within 300 feet of the property line. There are some exceptions to this law, and those are set forth in the Indiana Code.

I'm trying to be as honest and frank in disclosing this information to you. The county believes that this is in the best interest of the residents in the proposed district, and the county wants to -- to be as open and honest with the public in dealing with the public on this issue.

At this time I'd like to incorporate some other people who have been involved in this project so that you can get more detailed information from them on some of the topics that I've just described.

I'd like to introduce Joe Tierney, who has a presentation to make as well. Before I forget, Joe, in line with applying for any grants or low-interest loans that we can obtain, we

are in the process of receiving income surveys. These income surveys are extremely important to the project and our ability to receive as much funding as possible.

We have in the back of the room additional income surveys. If you have not filled one out and turned it in, please do so. Even if you have sent one back to the health department, if you don't mind filling out a second one, that's fine, we'll take it in the event that it was lost in the mail or something else has happened to it. But I want to make everybody aware of that tonight while you're here. Thank you.

MR. TIERNEY: Thank you, Lisa. Can you hear me all right with this thing? Can you hear me now? How about now? Okay. Sorry about that.

Lisa's done a pretty good job of summarizing the project, and I'll go through my spiel pretty briefly here.

The county started this process about

ten years ago, looking at the feasibility of providing sewer service to unsewered areas in the county. They then -- 2001 they updated that study, and then from the updated study it was clear that the area that's being proposed for the new sewer district was in need in terms of a public health issue and initiated this process of forming a regional sewer district to resolve these problems.

The project here that we're talking about is an area generally located along US 50 between Aurora and Dillsboro. It also includes Texas Gas Road, Sharon Drive, High Ridge Estates subdivision, Mt. Tabor Church Road, Mt. Tabor Court, Busses Drive, Hueseman Drive, the Walston mobile home park. That area makes up about 280 connections.

In addition, there's a portion of Cole Lane that's included in this project that makes up about 66 more

connections, and then there's a small area much closer to Aurora called Stewart Avenue where there's 13 homes that are in desperate need of some kind of sewer system. So there's a total of about 360 connections. The system that's being proposed is what's called a low pressure grinder pump system that will incorporate the use of a grinder pump and wet well installed on individual properties, and then it will pump -- grinds the waste, pumps through a small diameter pipe, in some cases it will go to a larger pump station, and eventually be taken out to a wastewater treatment facility.

Right now there is a -- what's being proposed is a small mechanical treatment facility. One comment was that Dillsboro's interested. One of the requirements of the reports will be to evaluate that option, and so there was an initial report submitted to IDEM to support this formation of

the district. Before it's finalized there will be some more numbers that look at the possibility of going to an existing facility as a potential for treatment.

Basically it comes down to what's the most economical in the best interests of the district members.

The current status of the project is this petition has been set up to form the district, an initial report has been submitted to IDEM to support that district formation, we're having the public meeting tonight, the engineering report, environmental report will be completed in about 60 days or so in order to be submitted to Rural Development to look to solicit funding from that funding source, and then the district hopefully would be formed towards the end of the summer, sometime around September, so forth.

Project milestones and schedules, you're probably aware there's been an

income survey that's been circulated around and they're taking those surveys back now, compiling the information. Very shortly there will be an initiation of a land acquisition process and so forth. Part of this process will include purchasing a site for treatment, locating pump stations, and then working with individuals on easements for grinder pumps.

The design phase will start very shortly thereafter during the summertime, and then all working towards next spring to complete acquisition, complete design, submit an application for the Department of Commerce grant, secure a commitment of funding from Rural Development in the hopes that by the summer of next year we can start construction.

Now, there's a lot of variables, there's a lot of things that have to happen, but this kind of gives you an idea of the process that it takes to

get this thing rolling, so with construction starting in late summer, early fall of next year and approximately a one-year construction period.

As Lisa mentioned, the total project cost right now is estimated right around 4.8 million, annual operation and maintenance costs are estimated somewhere between 120 to 135,000, and, again, the monthly user rates somewhere in the neighborhood of 50 to $59 a month.

And in conjunction with that, the district's evaluating the possibility of a connection fee in the neighborhood of $500.

Additional costs to the user that would not be covered under this project would be abandonment of existing septic tanks. Those have to be pumped and filled, of course, in accordance with county regulations. That cost can vary from a range of a couple hundred dollars to $500.

The actual connection from the septic tank to the grinder pump, a lot of times you can get a local contractor to do that all in one; again, a couple hundred dollars to maybe 500. And then in some cases electrical modifications in the home may need to be made in order to accommodate the grinder pump and, again, that varies with the individual home. It could be a couple hundred bucks, it could be a little bit more than that. Project financing, the county is looking at several options to finance the project. Rural Development is one option, in conjunction with a Department of Commerce grant and other funds that may be available to the county to help offset some of these costs.

So that's my input on the project. Like to turn it over to John, if you want to say a few words about the financing end and move on from there.

MR. SEEVERS: Yes, thank you. My name is John

Seevers. I'll be very brief because no one wants to hear the accountant talk.

I'll try not to be redundant, but the project that at present we're proposing, we'll finance the project through Rural Development which is an agency of the federal government. If you haven't heard of Rural Development, for years and years it was known as the Department of Administration. It exists as a government agency to provide infrastructure to rural areas and fund projects just such as yours. The beauty of Rural Development is they are one of the fairly few entities around anymore that still have the availability of grant moneys, and we're anticipating -- we're hopeful of getting the RD grant of approximately 45 percent of the total cost of the project.

The difficulty -- If I can be blunt, the difficulty in working with Rural

Development is while they have a very good program and while they have grant moneys available, it's very driven by rules and they're not the fastest group of folks to work with. We have -- We, the professional team, have been in contact with the district office of Rural Development. They're aware of the project. Part of the difficulty is we cannot file an application for funding through Rural Development until we have the entity created to file the application. So that is why we're here tonight, to hopefully get the entity created.

Just a couple open items. In addition to the grants from Rural Development, we're hopeful of getting a grant from the Department of Commerce, so I would just embellish the words from Lisa and Joe it's very important that you fill out the income surveys.

Because the program is very rules

driven, there will be some decisions that will be made not by us but by Rural Development. Let me just touch upon a couple of them very briefly. One is connection fees. It is very possible, if not very likely, that as a condition of the financing they will ask the board of directors, board of trustees of the district, if the district is created, to implement some sort of an up-front connection fee.

Connection fees typically would be in the range from, I don't know that we've discussed this publicly, but probably in the range from 500 to a thousand dollars. If that's wrong, you can give me a dirty look right now. Five hundred to a thousand dollars.

That has not been determined, obviously. Largely the final decision on that point will be made, in part, by the lending agency.

The other thing I wanted to bring up

to you, there is a possibility of having partial rates during construction. In an effort to try to borrow as little money as possible, oftentimes either the entity or Rural Development will require some sort of a partial rate during the construction period to pay for the interest costs on the borrowed money. Oftentimes that rate is about half of the final rate. So if you're looking at a rate -- I'm just going to make the math very easy for myself because I'm not very good with numbers. If you're looking at a final bill -- an average monthly bill of $60 upon completion of the project, you might be looking at a partial bill during the construction of about $30 a month. That bill would start when -- the month following construction and would continue until such time as you're connected.

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Okay. At this time we'll field any questions. If

you have a question, please come up to the podium one at a time, state your name for the court reporter, we'll try to get your question answered.

Anybody have any comments, questions? Please state your name, sir.

MR. MILLER: Gary Miller. I think Miss Lehner mentioned there's like a 300 foot rule; is that correct?

MS. LEHNER: That's correct.

MR. MILLER: So like if you live a thousand feet off the end of the county road, you wouldn't have to worry about hooking on?

MS. LEHNER: Well, the 300 feet is based upon the actual property line, so the 300 feet is measured from the property line.

MR. MILLER: So if you're within 300 foot, you still wouldn't have to --

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: There's a line -- If there's a line and your property line's within 300 feet, then they can make you hook up.

MR. MILLER: But if you're over the 300 feet --

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Of the property line, not the house.

MR. MILLER: Okay.

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Any more questions? Please come forward. State your name for the record, please.

MS. THOMPSON: My name is Lori Thompson, and I just have a simple question which is simple to me. If people have a bad septic system, why can't they be made to repair it and quit going through all of this?

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Well, sometimes septic systems can't be repaired. Sometimes the lots don't allow for a second place for a septic. It's not -- Some don't even legally have a septic system, so, I mean, there's a lot of different variables out there.

MS. LEHNER: Unfortunately, the soil types in this area many times are not conducive to septic systems period.

MS. THOMPSON: That's why they give you a longer run, usually. We treat ours once a

month and it's pumped out every five years, no problem.

Just seems to me it would be easier on everybody involved -- unless the county is going for more rural development, you know, more building, and that's what this is all about, basically, I don't know. To me it just seems easier to fix the bad systems.

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Well, and they do look at all the opportunities and, you know, what's out there. But some I know are, you know, on lots that there is no place to put a repaired septic. Thank you for your comment. Any other comments? Yes, sir, please step forward, state your name.

MR. FARRELL: Mike Farrell's my name. These grinder pumps, flush pumps that are going to be installed, sounds like the sewer district is going to initiate the first one or is that going to be the responsibility of the homeowner?

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: I'm going to pass that question to the engineer.

MR. TIERNEY: The grinder pumps will be purchased, installed, and maintained by the sewer district.

Part of the situation will be working with the individuals to get a blanket easement, if you will, to come on the property, they'll put it in, they'll bring the line from the grinder pump out to the street, they'll install all the main lines. Your responsibility, there will be a stub on the grinder pump, so you disconnect your septic tank, hook it in. Generally most people hook in fairly close to the septic tank to minimize that kind of --

MR. FARRELL: And the maintenance will be maintained by the sewer district?

MR. TIERNEY: Yes.

MR. FARRELL: That was basically my question there.

MR. TIERNEY: Part of your user rate, these rates we're talking about, goes to putting money aside so that periodically if

there needs to be a repair or replacement, part of the project includes a stocking replacement, which allows you to go in, if there's a problem with one and you can't fix it, just take it out, put a new one in, and they'll fix it at the shop or send it out.

So they can usually keep most people in business, if you will, without interrupting their service.

MR. FARRELL: This is important, because if you have to maintain your own pump, they go out at any time and you don't usually have a spare pump to put in.

MR. TIERNEY: That's right.

MR. FARRELL: I'm glad to hear what you're saying about that.

MR. TIERNEY: Oh, yes, I'm sorry. John was just mentioning, the one thing, the grinder pumps are tied into your private electric service, but that cost is generally a dollar and a half to $2 a month, so 20 bucks a year, so it's pretty minimal, but that would

be your responsibility.

MR. FARRELL: The user rate, is that going to be a flat rate or is that going to be based on your water usage?

MR. TIERNEY: The water usage.

MR. FARRELL: Most of them are like that, and so that's why -- I think they probably are in the area, but I would guess they are.

MR. TIERNEY: Okay.

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Yes, sir, please step forward.

MR. SMITH: Ronald Smith. I want to specify how far off of the roadway this line will run and what's the linear footage to the line? If you supply 300 feet awhile ago --

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: The statute states if there is a sewer line within 300 feet from the property, but I don't think -- you know, they're not to the design stage yet, but I will pass this on to the engineer.

MR. TIERNEY: There's still some details -- If I

understand you, you're talking about how far is it set back off the road?

MR. SMITH: Yeah. I'm better than 6, 800 feet.

MR. TIERNEY: What we're talking about here is, main lines come into the right-of-way, then they go to your house. Now, typically the district will pay for that pressure portion of it to get up to the house.

So, in other words, if you've got a couple hundred feet to cover, or 3, 400 feet to cover, at least right now that's on the district side of the cost.

MR. SMITH: And who covers the cost of the lift pump to get it up?

MR. TIERNEY: The grinder pump is part of this project. That's -- The grinder pump will take it from your septic tank, drive it back out to the main road. That's all part of this project cost.

MR. SMITH: Now, how about parcels that has no homes on it?

MR. TIERNEY: Parcels that have no home? You know, unless you come to the district

during the design and say I'm building a home here and I want to pay for a connection -- and, again, I'm talking just in general. The district has the right to do what they want, but I don't think we're going to be putting in blank grinder pumps and charging people for them.

MR. SMITH: Well, I was told, or my wife was told, that if it ran across there, which I have a couple parcels, if it was there, availability was there, you'd be charged for it.

So I've got three sections counting the one I live in that I'm going to be charged for usage that I have nothing on.

MR. TIERNEY: I don't think that's the plan.

MS. LEHNER: No, I don't think that the statute even allows --

MR. TIERNEY: This is geared to serving an existing home. I don't think --

MR. SMITH: Okay, thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Yes, ma'am. Step forward, state your name for the

record.

MS. FISHER: My name's Patti Fisher, and I live in Timberview Estates, or High Ridge Estates. I have more of a comment to the young lady who was in before me. Being a new resident in the area only three and a half years, not knowing of any of this, I do not have the option to put a septic system into my house.

If this does not go through, I am stuck with a condemned house. That's going to hurt me. I think that -- you know, I understand that people have their concerns, but I also believe that people new to the area -- and being a real estate agent, I know that it has not been necessary to disclose this information to people until just recently. Myself was not necessary to disclose this information. Now I'm going to be stuck, and I just want my comments to be heard that people like myself do need this, do

need this.

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Okay, thank you. Yes, sir, please step forward.

MR. ZEIDAN: My name is John Zeidan, I live on US 50, and I think this is a project for that area. And every septic tank, I know everybody I talk with, they have problem because of the soil; and the best thing don't have it for this area, that we have sewage run. And the cost of repairing that septic is costly, you know, and it will cost less to have that sewage in the long run, and I appreciate this project.

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Yes, sir, please step forward.

MR. SCHEFFLER: My name's Robert Scheffler, and my concern is, I live along 50 and through my front yard is fiber-optic cable, the water line for Dillsboro, electric, and the gas line. How is this going to affect my hooking up? Are they going to have to come off Mt. Tabor Road or Long Run or --

MR. TIERNEY: In general -- I don't know exactly where you are, but when there's water lines and so forth on one side of the road, we may go on the other side with the main line. And what we may do is incorporate the use of directional drilling where we'll push it. Nowadays they can put these things under and guide it.

So, for example, if the line is on the west side or the north side of the road, you live on the south, they would come up and line up where you want the service underneath all that stuff, come up, there will be a -- what we call a curb stop assembly, like the water, where you shut it off at the property line, run it to the property line, and bring it out to the property to where you want the grinder to be.

MR. SCHEFFLER: Is there any regulation about running the sewer line and water line in the same area?

MR. TIERNEY: Yes, yes, there is.

MR. SCHEFFLER: You'll have to go way underneath it or above it.

MR. TIERNEY: You have to maintain a crossing like that, a vertical crossing. The sewer line is below water. It has to maintain an 18-inch clearance. This is also pressure-rated pipe, and if it's directionally drilled there are no joints. The fear obviously is the leakage of sewage, but in this case those are minimized. We'll comply with all those regulations.

MR. SCHEFFLER: Is this going to raise the cost to me as a homeowner for this operation?

MR. TIERNEY: Versus what we're talking about here? This has -- These costs reflect using that type of method.

MR. SCHEFFLER: And -- Well, it's going to mess up US 50 anyway. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Yes, sir, in the back.

MR. THOMPSON: My name is Ralph Thompson. What you're proposing is a maceration system to solve basically a spot problem. Seems like you're including

into a larger area where you have large landowners that have sufficient ground, even with the soil type, for septic systems.

Along with that, who is the petitioner for this?

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: The county council.

MR. THOMPSON: How much additional capacity is being designed into the lift systems and the maceration stations beyond the current hookups?

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Okay. I'll let the engineer talk, but I don't think -- you know, these decisions are not made at this point in time. I mean, this hearing is for -- to form the district.

MR. TIERNEY: As far as the additional capacity question, the regulating agency requires some of this type of system. We're looking at 20 to 25 percent. I know we've heard concerns about, oh, this will open up all kinds of growth and so forth. This system

is -- in a way, it's directed for the people but it does allow some growth and to allow for fill-in growth, if you would.

The plant will have about 25 percent or so capacity. It's not a large amount, it's not doubling the size and so forth. Part of that is a requirement. It's good practice to allow for some of that because there is the possibility of fill-in. If someone wants to come in and tie in on a street or something, they'll have the ability.

On the individual lines, this is why we're incorporating the use of a centralized pump station in some cases. If there is some growth that wants to come in and they can handle it and so forth, it can possibly be sent to one of the pump stations. But, again, they're not way oversized to allow for massive growth. We're not putting that speculation of growth onto the existing rate payers.

It's a system that's sized basically for the people being served, with some capacity to take some new growth.

MR. THOMPSON: So this opens up the area, allowing the system in, what happens when a developer comes along and decides he wants to tie into the system? Who's going to pay for the increases necessary to bring the system up to carry whatever new load he's going to develop?

MR. TIERNEY: Very good question.

MS. LEHNER: Where do you live, so we can get some idea --

MR. THOMPSON: I live on Mt. Tabor.

MR. TIERNEY: The district board members will ultimately have that decision, but typically if a developer was to come in and wanting to do this and so forth, this gets looked at, typically it's put back on the developer to pay for those increases.

If the pump station needs to be increased or the process of the

treatment plant needs to be increased, those costs are returned back to the developer and not the existing rate payer.

And in that vein, that will allow -- if you can bring in a reasonable amount of growth, that allows the district to maintain rates to the existing customers rather than have to raise them over the years, because a lot of the stuff would be fixed and, if additional improvements need to be made, those costs can be handled by a private developer, you can increase the number of customers, thereby a new revenue stream. You can kind of hold at bay, if you will, increase to the power costs, labor costs, and things that will go up in the future.

MR. THOMPSON: Basically we've got a spot problem with facilities that were built with undersized lots, insufficient capacity, the proper soil without capabilities by the developer that

all of the people in this chosen area are being asked to assume the cost to solve essentially the developer's problem.

Plus we're going to incur the cost of the macerators. They're largely unreliable to a certain extent. There are constant problems with breakdowns, with odors, with spillage.

MR. TIERNEY: I don't necessarily agree with you on that. They are more maintenance intensive than a gravity system, but in this particular case the capital cost to install this type of a system versus trying to put a gravity system in such a widespread area just doesn't make it.

MR. THOMPSON: Gravity system won't work here. There's too much grading.

MR. TIERNEY: That's right, that's right. So that's why we're not using it. The grinder pump systems are reliable. The units are there. I'm not going to tell you that they won't fail,

that's why there's extras, that's why there's maintenance, that's why --

MR. THOMPSON: I'm a professional engineer designing these kind of systems.

MR. TIERNEY: Okay. Then you know there's certainly -- there's only certain things you can do.

You mention the problem. The problem is, from what we can see by the documentation, is fairly widespread. Yes, there are instances where some facilities could comply, but in general a lot of those aren't up to standard.

MR. THOMPSON: You got subdivisions that are probably the largest part of the problem that are relatively close to 50. Looks like it's extending well beyond 50, again, encompassing areas with users that have large land lots and should be capable of handling septic systems, most of which already have septic systems in place.

What happens -- Once this is established, is the program going to

be expanding this regional sewer district to additional areas beyond this?

MR. TIERNEY: That is a decision that the district members can make at some time in the future. You know, there is the ability to do that if so chosen, but that's a decision that will be made in the future based on demand, based on need.

MR. THOMPSON: And the committee regulating this is all appointed personnel?

MS. LEHNER: Correct, they're not elected.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Just a couple of things. One, I don't know if you're on Mt. Tabor Road or Mt. Tabor area. The area's not included in the district, but Mt. Tabor Road is included.

Also, if the district is formed, once -- like nine months after the district is formed, if the district is formed, a district plan must come to the department and that's when

they get into the detail of the design.

At this point they're given different options of what they may do, but, again, once that board is appointed, then it's up to that district board to make those decisions.

But a district plan, once it is submitted and it is public information, then I would be the contact person if you wish to receive that.

Any other questions, comments?

MS. LEHNER: Lynne, before we move on to the next question, I was going to invite a response from Doug regarding the prior comment that this is a spot problem.

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Okay. This is Doug Baer, county health department.

MR. BAER: Thank you. Spot problem, we've been out checking the areas, if you will take the opportunity to view the maps either in the front or in the back.

Yes, the one main focus was High

Ridge Estates, but when we did other reviews of the area we're finding subdivisions or older lots, I wouldn't necessarily call them subdivisions, but lots that were created I would say back in the early '70s or even prior to that that are on less than three-quarters of an acre are having a very difficult time trying to repair the systems.

We've even got some types that have to explore alternative options that are costing thousands -- and I'm talking tens of thousands -- of dollars for experimental technology that is no guarantee that it's going to work.

There will be some places that will -- just because of logistics, bigger lots that may be able to accommodate some of their septic problems at current, but septic systems are not there for the long haul. The main focus is to get something there that's going to last.

Septic systems are there, and I'm glad to see that the lady in the back was taking care of hers, but there will come a time that she won't be able to maintain that, when she may have to repair it, and I can tell you that the cost of repairing septic systems are escalating.

Right now with the funding and everything, this might be probably cheaper, like Mr. Ziedan said, to do this type of work than it would be to try to repair a septic system on some of the lots that may or may not repair them.

As the lady there in Timberview said, she doesn't have an option. Most people in Timberview don't have an option. They can't repair their system. They were developed on a centralized lagoon system that has failed, and they're under IDEM's orders, as well as the attorney general's orders, to get this resolved.

So if they don't resolve it, as she said, her house is going to be condemned. Yours is in the same situation.

So, yes, we've got problems in other areas besides this High Ridge. We've been down Cole Lane, Cole Lane's got problems. The trailer court, as Floyd will probably tell you, it's got some problems of its own. Stewart Street, they cannot repair anything there either. The soils themselves are not accommodating, and those lots were probably, like I said, developed back in the mid '40s. So although it may appear like there are some places that could accommodate it, for the majority of the part I would say that they're lots and sites that can't accommodate it.

And that was the overriding factor for including everybody into the mix instead of just even being more spot selective, just do this subdivision,

do that one and everything else. So hope that's answered some questions.

MR. ZEIDAN: We're concerned about the money, but the health is also very concern, mosquitos and all this stuff. We cannot sit outside, enjoy ourselves with that septic there and the smell and mosquitos and diseases from mosquitos.

MR. BAER: As you're making reference to, West Nile is on the rise. We have had a positive bird that was identified in our county for West Nile, so we are encouraging people to repair the systems and do that, and this is one mechanism of repairing your system, is not putting in another septic system that's going to fail, but putting in something for the long haul, and that's what we're trying to do here.

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Thanks, Doug. Sir, would you like to come forward, please?

MR. SCHMAHL: My name is Kurt Schmahl, and my question is just with talk of the inspections and so forth, are we -- should we be in fear of condemnation with a two-year time frame before this would be completed? I'm one of the residents in High Ridge also.

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: From IDEM or from the county health department?

MR. SCHMAHL: Either/or.

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: I know I have -- I do know that IDEM does have some orders out there, and I am keeping them informed, the enforcement section of IDEM, all the time of what's going on and let them be aware there's a public hearing in place. I know, you know, usually 99 percent of the time, as long as you're working towards solving the problem, people will work with you. I cannot speak for the county, but I think the same -- you know, they're willing to work, you know, trying to solve the problem. That's the

ultimate goal here.

MR. SCHMAHL: Okay. And we are in the process of that, then? We talked about the -- putting the -- pardon me, I've lost the word here, but the petition to do so, it's already in process, then, with the hearing tonight?

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Yeah. What this hearing is, you know, a petition was submitted to the department at IDEM, and part of the process to form a district is to have a public hearing. And, you know, it was submitted, I'd have to look, months ago, but, you know, we've been in review, we've been in contact and, you know, meetings, statutory requirements. But this is part of the process.

MR. SCHMAHL: Okay. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Any other comments? Yes, sir, please come forward.

MR. BARROW: My name is Floyd Barrow and I've just got one question. How deep can these grinder pumps go? I've got a

basement bathroom, my septic tank is eight foot deep, the top of it.

MR. TIERNEY: You can put them -- They can go down pretty deep. There are several different -- You can buy the extenders to lower them into the ground. Generally they can accommodate most situations. If you're using -- Are you using some kind of injector pump right now?

MR. BARROW: Strictly gravity.

MR. TIERNEY: Most likely they can put it in the ground deep enough to accommodate you, within reason. Eight feet is not unreasonable. Well, it's unusual, it's unusual, but those things -- we can make that provision if we know of it ahead of time.

MR. BARROW: Okay. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Yes, ma'am, please come forward.

MS. MANFORD: My name is Joyce Manford. I've just got a couple questions. One is, can the bills be over $59 a month since it ties in with the water?

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: These are estimated costs, but I know some figures and, I mean, it's just not a number that they've pulled out of the sky.

MS. MANFORD: And then you said the grinder pump, does it hook into the septic system or does it go by the septic system?

MR. TIERNEY: What you do is you intercept -- The gravity line comes out of your house to your septic system, will have to be intercepted with a pipe and maybe a bend, and then you locate it and run it by gravity into your grinder pump.

MS. MANFORD: Ours is all under our patio.

MR. TIERNEY: We've run into this before where people have had very well-landscaped backyards and they turned the plumbing around inside and the basement run out the front or they run the line around.

As we get going into design, what we typically do is we send a questionnaire around and let you fill

it out and locate and kind of make those comments, just like the gentleman had about the deep pump, so we might better assess what we might be up against.

There's a lot of flexibility in that. That's one of the reasons why we chose this system. But moving it away from the septic tank generally means a little bit more cost to the homeowner.

MS. MANFORD: And then the septic system has to be filled up -- emptied out and filled up?

MR. TIERNEY: I think that's right. The county wants the tank pumped and some clean fill or something put in there. Doug's going to say a little bit about that.

MS. MANFORD: Okay. Just one more question. She said that we would be paying maybe $30 until we would get hooked up, but, you know, that could go on for maybe a long, long time. I wouldn't want to be paying $30 indefinitely.

MR. TIERNEY: It's an interim rate that will happen only after construction gets started. What that means is that everything has been secured and it's simply a matter of executing the construction. Generally in this type of project we're looking at about a year, could be 14 months, could be 10 months, but that interim rate goes to paying the interest and so forth on some of the loans to help defray some of those costs.

It won't be an indefinite period. It will only start once construction is actually initiated. What that would mean is that all funding has been secured at that point so we're just moving ahead.

MS. MANFORD: Okay. Thank you.

MR. BAER: Hopefully answer your question, I'm sure it's a question others have had. Abandoning your septic tank, ma'am, what we're looking at is, as you said, having your tank pumped out by a licensed septic tank cleaning

outfit. We're going to have to have a copy of that documentation that it was from an outfit of that nature. And then it can be filled in place. It can be sand, grit, dirt, anything else that you want, you can cave it in and just fill it in in that spot. And as Joe was making reference to, you would take your line out of the house that was going to your tank and route that in a different fashion so that you can properly abandon your tank. But that would be at the cost of the homeowner.

That's how we would do it. I've had people remove the tank, but the majority of the time they do that method right there, pump and fill.

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: A lot of times the contractors will work with you, you know, if you get a group you can get a discounted rate, too, so -- Any other questions? Yes, sir, please come forward.

MR. MILLER: Gary Miller. I brought the question

up about the footage. Maybe I misunderstood. You said within 300 foot of the property line; is that correct?

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Yes.

MR. MILLER: So say I live on Mt. Tabor, it runs past my property, I'm 1200 feet off the line, they can still get me to hook onto it?

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Yes.

MR. MILLER: They'll pay for everything all the way back to my house?

MR. TIERNEY: Something like that. Again, I'm not sure exactly where your house is. That area, we're basically looking at picking up the homes that are right along the road. Now, if you're one that's way back there, it may not be one that was identified. We'll refine that again to see if yours in particular is something that's going to be --

MR. MILLER: Those grinder pumps will pump 1200 feet up and down?

MR. TIERNEY: Yep, yep, they'll go --

MR. MILLER: Guaranteed?

MR. TIERNEY: -- a long way. Guaranteed.

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: We got a court reporter recording this, so -- Anyone else? Yes, sir.

MR. HUDDLESTON: Jim Huddleston. Back to my situation as far as trying to sell my home, what do I even tell the potential buyer at this stage? Do I tell them that we're 99 percent sure it's going to run possibly a couple thousand dollars plus $59 a month, or do I tell them that right now we don't know anything?

MS. LEHNER: In terms of the cost, we've identified the monthly user rate, the overall construction -- or connection fee would have to be discussed about other than a $500 charge.

But after the construction is completed, that connection charge could be, what, as high as 3 or $4,000. So the $500 we were talking about was before construction is completed.

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: They honestly don't know right now.

MS. LEHNER: We don't have a definite answer until we know in fact we have --

MR. TIERNEY: Are you in a time frame?

MR. HUDDLESTON: I'm stuck with two homes right now, like I said, it's just blown any government homes as far as any kind of loan, and I've dropped and dropped and dropped the price on the house. And people are wondering, well, what's going to happen. Well, I would like to know what to tell them. Why is it taking this long --

MR. TIERNEY: Okay. Here's the thing. I mean, the district is now -- the county is moving in the right direction forming a district, there's a plan to move ahead; but one of the things that is out of their control is the low-rate program. They're competitive. Department of Commerce, there's two cycles each year. There's generally more applications than there are money to go around, so it's very

possible, for example, we could get everything set up, you apply, you may score well but you don't get it, you may have to wait six months.

I kind of went through what we looked at as kind of an optimistic or a reasonable estimate if we can pull together the easements and the design, that kind of stuff. We can control that.

Rural Development, their budgets change every year but generally they have enough money to loan out to 45 percent, so we'll be first in line for next year and hopefully get the commitment sometime towards the end of the year or the first part of next year.

April of next year will be the first time that we'll be ready to apply for the Department of Commerce grant.

And when you apply for that grant, you have to have all your land secured, you have to have all your other financing secured, and when

that goes in, if they approve it, they'll know by June.

If that's the case, then we would probably be ready to actually advertise for bids and so forth in August and then go.

But again, that's as best we can estimate. There's always a possibility for whatever reason that DOC gives it to somebody else, we have to wait a six-month period. Rural Development's money availability could change slightly, you know, but these are reasonable estimates based on our working as professionals with these projects over the last 10, 15, 20 years.

MR. HUDDLESTON: As long as the process is going on, you spoke before about the house being condemned, as long as this process is going on I can tell them the house is not going to be condemned, there is something in the process to be taken care of?

MR. TIERNEY: I think that's a fair statement. In

working with IDEM, they're usually trying to work with you if they see it moving in the right direction. They're not in the business of kicking people out of their homes.

MS. LEHNER: We're trying to do this so that that does not take place.

MR. HUDDLESTON: Right.

MS. BENNING: I have a couple options I wanted to mention to Mr. Huddleston. If you can hang on, hang on, that's one option.

Two option is if you get a buyer and you want to close, you might want to escrow X amount of dollars just to be fair to the new buyer. And you have to plan all that ahead, if you know what I mean.

MR. HUDDLESTON: Well, that we have considered, but back to what I was saying before as far as the FHA loans, the government grants, they won't accept that.

MS. BENNING: They won't accept the escrowing part and they also won't -- Okay, a loan as long as you have a problem.

So what the county, what the board of commissioners is trying to do, our concern mainly is that no homes be condemned due to the improper sewage going into the stream.

You're on a private sewer arrangement, right, that has been condemned. Okay? But as the board of commissioners are so concerned that that's why we're moving forward with this petition, to try to get this regional sewer district going, to help people like you and the other lady, Patti, that spoke. Okay?

MR. HUDDLESTON: Okay.

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Anybody else? Yes, sir.

MR. ANDRES: Chuck Andres. Set the record straight, I'm not a member of this community, I'm a member of the wastewater management task force of the Indiana Resource Council, and I'm concerned about sewage treatment and in the State of Indiana, not only in Dearborn County, and I've got a

couple questions and maybe a follow-up question.

Number one, is the projected cost of this project based on the 300 and some residents that we're talking about?

MR. TIERNEY: Yeah. It's based on -- The projected cost is based on setting the rates to the existing customers. Does that answer your question?

MR. ANDRES: No. My question is, is the lines going down past a certain number of houses, so the financing is based on that number of residents; is that right?

MS. LEHNER: You're referring to the 360 number that I mentioned earlier?

MR. TIERNEY: Yes, yes.

MR. ANDRES: The next follow-up question, then, is the county going to be actively pursuing requirement of those people to hook up to the sewer?

MS. LEHNER: We can't speak on behalf of the board, because this proposed board doesn't exist at this time, but

that's one reason why I mentioned tonight that that provision does exist in law such that the proposed board would have authority to require connection.

MR. ANDRES: Well, then my comment is that if the county is not going to actively pursue those 360 people to hook on and the financing is based on those 368 people, then the project will not be viable and you'll have problems down the road. And I can speak from experience.

MR. TIERNEY: You're right.

MR. DENNERLINE: Chuck, I can answer that. First of all, the sewer district has the power to enforce people to do it, not the county commissioners, not the health board, not anybody else. It is the sewer district. You've got to think of the sewer district.

I know where you're coming from, and you represent Mr. Power and that's your problem, and within your municipality you can force people to

hook on.

But when you run outside of your municipality, then's when you run into problems in forcing people to hook on.

MR. ANDRES: That's not true.

MR. DENNERLINE: Then you run into county law and you run into state law, and the county law says if you can fix or repair your existing system, you don't have to hook on.

MR. ANDRES: Not if it pertains to municipal sewers. And if you look at the ordinance that the county has written, it specifically excludes municipal sewer districts.

Read the ordinance. That's all I'm trying to say, is that if the county is not going to enforce it --

MR. DENNERLINE: The county doesn't have anything to do with it, it's the sewer district.

MR. ANDRES: I understand what you're saying.

MR. DENNERLINE: The sewer district. If you're talking about the health board, it's

a distinct different entity from the sewer district.

MR. ANDRES: If it's not going to be enforced, then the project is not going to be viable.

MR. DENNERLINE: Well, I'm certain they'll enforce it because it's all planned on.

MS. LEHNER: Your point is well taken and it's one that we're all aware of.

MR. ANDRES: And, you know, it's an ongoing issue that's going on in this county and it's got to be resolved sooner or later, because the ordinances the county now has written excludes municipalities in their ordinance; so if they exclude municipalities, then they have to enforce the ordinance of the municipality.

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: We have any other comments? Yes, sir.

MR. SCOTT: Yeah, I'm Jim Scott. This may be cart before the horse, but like High Ridge and Timberview, will they use the existing lines that they have?

MR. TIERNEY: Yeah. One of the things that we're

looking at in Timberview, for example, there's a line that runs down, I think it's Timberview, and right now one of the things that we're looking at is possibly just rehabbing that portion of the line and setting a pump station up so that whatever's outside of the area would come in and dump in that manhole and go down.

That's one of the options, because if the -- what we're looking at is the possibility of cured-in-place pipeline in the existing sewer. I think there's 23 or 25 homes on that one stretch of sewer line in a similar thing. That will be -- it will be evaluated a little bit more in the detailed design.

We'd like to try to take advantage of the existing infrastructure if it can be repaired reasonably, just use that rather than giving those people a pump, if we can rehab that sewer.

It's relatively small, that's only a

couple thousand feet, I think.

MR. ANDRES: Okay. Secondly, where is the main plant going to be?

MR. TIERNEY: Right now what we're looking at is using that piece of property that the Walston treatment plant is on. There's room -- It's something that has to be negotiated, but we've talked initially and there's some interest there and it has an existing permit and it's already being used as a treatment plant site, so it looks like it may be a logical place to put a treatment plant.

MR. ANDRES: Okay. That's all I have, thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Anybody else? Yes, ma'am.

MS. SMITH: I'm Shirley Smith, I just have a question. We live on ten acres. We don't have any problem with our sewer -- our septic tank and that. Is there going to be a limit to the size or does it matter, you know, that you have the acreage to cover the area and have no problem with

your septic?

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: That would be something you would need to address to the district board that has not been formed yet. But that would be a regional district board.

MS. SMITH: Okay. Then the other question is like if it's going to be mandatory to hook on, do you have all these extra expenses that may come? Like one lady has to go under the porch or if we have to move the pipes within the house or anything of that nature, what if that homeowner doesn't have that money; what's going to happen then?

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Well, I do know that there is a couple of grants through Rural Development that are individual grants like even help on for hook-on. But, again -- And they can get -- the district board can get that information to the individuals. But it's -- you know, you have to go individually apply and go and, you

know, show income and show the need. But there is some help out there for some of these extra costs to the homeowner if there truly is -- they don't have the money.

MS. SMITH: Okay.

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Yes, sir.

MR. THOMPSON: Real quick question, maybe I missed it, but who are the three people on the left of the table up there, the left end of the long table in the front?

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Can you guys introduce yourselves, please?

MR. DENNERLINE: I'm Rodney Dennerline, I'm Chairman of the Board of Health for Dearborn County.

MR. HANKINS: My name is Mike Hankins, I'm the Vice Chairman of the Board of Health.

MS. BENNING: My name is Vera Benning, I'm a county commissioner for the third district. That's the district that we're concerned with this evening.

HEARING OFFICER LYNNE L. NEWLON: Thank you. Any other questions, concerns?

Again, I want to say, you know, feel free, you got through July 11th to send written comments, e-mails to myself, card in the back. I appreciate everybody coming, and I thought it was a great meeting and I appreciate the air-conditioning and also Dillsboro Civic Club for having the space available. Thank you very much.

MS. LEHNER: Thank you.

HEARING CONCLUDED AT 8:26 P.M.

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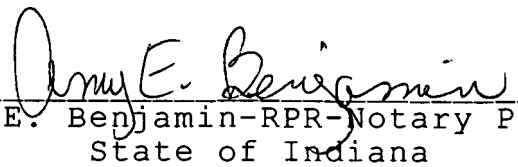
C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF INDIANA :
: SS.
COUNTY OF DEARBORN :

I, Amy E. Benjamin, RPR, the undersigned, a duly qualified notary public within and for the State of Indiana, do hereby certify that the above seventy-nine (79) pages were transcribed by means of computer under my supervision; that I am neither a relative of any of the parties or any of their counsel and have no interest in the result of this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal of office at Brookville, Indiana, this 15th day of July, 2003.



Amy E. Benjamin-RPR-Notary Public
State of Indiana

My Commission expires:
April 10, 2008.