

# Septage Treatment

Septage treatment represents an opportunity for the City to “sell” some of our excess treatment capacity at the WWTP. Wastewater treatment plants are typically oversized when designed to ensure there is enough capacity for future growth in the community. For example, the City’s new WWTP will likely function at close to 50% of its designed capacity right from the start. The upside to this is that the City has the ability to accommodate expansion to potential industrial users or outlying areas that would like to connect to our system in the future. The downside is that existing City and Township sewer customers are paying for that extra capacity, whether it’s being used or not. By receiving discharges from septic haulers, the City can offset some of the principal and debt service fees associated with the construction of the new WWTP with the revenue generated from septage treatment. The end result being, reduction of the wastewater treatment rates of City and Township customers.

An EGLE approved Septage Receiving Plan is required to treat septage in Michigan. The majority of an SRP is just specified details, such as hours of operation, types of septage received and contact information. Some structural items are also required by EGLE though. Specifically, the State needs to approve the receiving structures and how the septage will be added to the plant for treatment. Due to the site-specific nature of wastewater treatment plants, requirements for a receiving station are not one size fits all. In our case, the close proximity of the proposed receiving station to McCoy Creek and a stormwater swale, required some extra containment provisions. Our district engineer at EGLE asked that we provided a connectable receiving vessel with a secondary containment basin around it. Working with the WWTP project design team, a plan for a receiving station was developed and submitted to EGLE for approval. The design was provisionally approved by EGLE pending adoption of the SRP and a statement of public notice. The final price of the receiving station came in at \$31,957.59. This amount includes a free-standing prescreen, concrete containment basin, 1” yard hydrant for washdown capabilities and the modification of an existing force main that allows the use of existing tanks for flow equalization.

These items are being submitted for Commission approval as a change order to the WWTP project. If approved, the change order will be paid for out of the project contingency. To date, the project has required two change orders totaling \$34,462.94. This amount represents less than 8% of the total contingency for project. Approval of the septage receiving station plan would increase the total for project change orders to \$66,420.29, or 14.7% of the project contingency.

Please reference the attached documents that include a change order fee summary, septage receiving station site print, the proposed SRP and examples of septage disposal tickets. If the submitted project change order is authorized, I would also like to ask the Commission to approve the SRP so that it can be posted for public notice and submitted to EGLE for final approval. Bill Housand