



December 21, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kenneth Dixon
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Washington suburban Sanitary Commission
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FROM: Katherine E. Nelson
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Area #3 Planning Team

SUBJECT: Draft Ten Mile Creek Area Sewer Facility Study
Working Draft Report

The following are staff comments on the working draft report:

1. Section 1, Page 1-3 - County Owned Properties – 220 forested acres of correctional facility are protected by a permanent conservation easement. Also, the future planned expansion is limited in scope and takes place within the current cleared area of the site. The County owns two vacant parcels that are not part of the correctional facility.
2. Section 1, Page 1-3 - Pulte/King Properties – this section should reference that there is an impervious limitation on site as well as other environmental constraints.
3. Section 3, Page 3-1 - Development Alternatives – The third paragraph references impacts to environmental resources in parentheses. These should include stream buffer disturbance, excessive impervious areas, forest disturbance and excessive grade changes.
4. Table 3-1, Page 3.7 – All of the alternatives appear to have some minimal buffer disturbance, but the table shows no disturbance for alternatives 8, 9 and 10.
5. Figures 3-1 through 3-10 (the Alternatives) – These figures identify “Buffer Areas”. Since these buffer areas have not been determined yet, they should be identified as

“anticipated” or “estimated” buffers. These figures should also identify all existing and future gravity sewer connection points on the east side of Clarksburg Road.

6. Tables 4-1 through 4-8, pages 4-2 through 4-5 – Long-term operation and maintenance should only include the O&M that will be performed at PUBLIC expense. At the very least, the difference between public and private O&M should be shown. This relates primarily to grinder pumps located in private homes.
7. Table 4-9, page 4-6 – This table should show which capital costs will be at the public or private expense. Operation and Maintenance should also show costs to the public vs. costs at private expense.
8. Section 4, Reliability, page 4-6 – Given the recent catastrophic failure of several pump stations in Montgomery County, these facilities cannot be described and “very reliable”.
9. Section 4, Environmental Impacts, page 4-7 – List of environmental features should include “forested areas and erodible soils”.
10. Table 4-10, page 4-8 – This matrix seems arbitrary and was never discussed by the group. Careful consideration should have been given to the various criteria and how they are weighted. At best this matrix should be removed from the report. Otherwise, more criteria for both permanent and temporary environmental impacts should be included and discussed. Costs should distinguish among those associated with public and private, long-term and short-term expense. Engineering impact is redundant given that it has to do with long term maintenance, which is already covered in cost. Community impacts should be identified as both long-term and short term. Finally only three ranking levels fail to distinguish these differing alternatives.
11. Figure 4-1 and 4-2 pages 4-14 and 4-15 – Should identify “recently failed” pump stations rather than “existing” pump stations. It implies that these are the only pump stations in the WSSC system.
12. Figure 4-3 and 4-4 (the Preferred Approaches) – The graphics reference “Grinder Systems” and “grinder pump solution”, but the legend identifies “Low Pressure Sewer”. One term should be used when describing these systems, both on these graphics and in the text.
13. Criteria for the successful use of low pressure sewers should be provided by this study. At a minimum, examples of the successful use of low pressure sewers should be provided.

These comments represent staff level analysis and should not indicate agreement with all aspects of the report. Final comments on the study and the preferred alternatives will come from the Planning Board when the final report is available for their review.