

# New Pocono Township sewer system is weeks away from going live

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Residents and businesses with serious septic problems will likely be authorized within two weeks to connect to Pocono Township's new sewage collection system.

Pocono Township supervisors hope to approve a procedures manual — with construction specifications for connecting to the system — on Sept. 17. Once that's in place, future customers along the line with individual septic issues will have the first opportunity to connect.

"Anyone with a problem we're going to take first," Supervisors Chairman Frank Hess said Wednesday. "There are quite a few of them."

Hess pointed to one business that will have to install a new septic system if it can't connect soon to the sewage project.

"I can't make them put another septic system in," Hess said. "That's crazy."

This is a departure from original plans to take sewage first from the Sanofi immunization plant, at the north end of Pocono Township, and have it run south through the line while the system is monitored. Sanofi is still awaiting some environmental permits, which will slightly delay completion of its connection.

Sanofi expects to tap into the system this November, initially generating 350,000 gallons per day of waste.

The township system's waste will be carried through Stroud Township to a regional treatment plant in Stroudsburg operated by Brodhead Creek Regional Authority. Supervisors agreed during a sewer meeting Wednesday that the authority should expect 500,000 gallons per day from the Pocono system next year.

If township flows prove to be less than that in 2014, Pocono Township will get a credit towards future treatment charges.

Eventually most businesses and residents along the line, particularly in the Route 611 corridor, will be required to connect to the system. It will cost each customer \$2,500 per equivalent dwelling unit (a typical residence generates one EDU of waste) to tap into the system, which doesn't include individual costs for extending a line from the house or business to the township line.

Those customers will have to pay \$1,250 per year, per EDU, in sewage fees.

Homes and businesses not yet built will be charged a tap-in fee of \$3,750 to join the system.

The \$75 million project has been under construction since 2009.