

Pocono Township sewer project opens

Customers will be notified to hook up in 2014

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The \$75 million Pocono Township sewer system is open for business.

Township supervisors approved final connection procedures for businesses and residences along the routes 611 and 715 corridor to hook into the central lines. They also approved a \$2,500 connection fee and the required connection notices that will go out to future customers during the next 15 months.

The connection fee doesn't include the cost to residents and business owners to run sewage lines from their buildings to the system line along the road. Any occupied property adjacent to the system line will be required to connect within 90 days of receiving a notice.

Township Supervisors Frank Hess and Henry Bengel urged future customers to consider obtaining connection permits before notices go out, so they have time to hire contractors and obtain financing.

Dozen asking to connect

The first customers to connect will be those with failing septic systems who don't want to spend money fixing a septic that won't be allowed once the sewer system is fully operational.

About a dozen customers have already requested permission to connect this fall, Hess said Tuesday.

Any other customers along the line with problem septic systems who want to join the system now are asked to contact township officials during regular business hours.

The system's largest customer — the Sanofi Pasteur vaccine plant at the north end of the township — is expected to connect to the system in November. Sanofi will eventually account for about 350,000 gallons per day of waste.

Others along the line will be notified next year, starting in the spring, depending on geographic location. Once notices are received, the 90-day deadline begins.

Also finalized are appeal procedures for those who believe they were assigned more capacity than they will actually use. A typical single-family home is assigned one equivalent dwelling unit (EDU) of use, with additional EDUs assigned to large commercial users. The number of EDUs per customer is based on individual water meter data.

Customers will be assessed a treatment charge of \$1,250 per year, per EDU.

The township system's waste will be piped through Stroud Township to the regional treatment plant near Stroudsburg's lower Main Street.