

City of White Sulphur Springs – Wastewater Improvements

TSEP/RRGL Testimony – 2013 Legislative Long-Range Planning Committee

Brief Discussion about the wastewater system in White Sulphur Springs

- WSS collection system
 - Originally constructed in 1916, much of that system is still in use today.
 - Geothermal groundwater has destroyed the material used to seal pipe joints
 - Seasonally experiences over 0.5 MGD of clear water infiltration & inflow (I&I) which represents 3X the actual wastewater flow volume.
 - I&I results in: hydraulic overload of treatment lagoons; dilution of wastewater & reduced treatment efficiency; AND sewer backups into homes.
- WSS wastewater treatment facility
 - Constructed in 1959. Primitive technology – facultative treatment.
 - Discharge permit to headwaters of Smith River
 - Almost 200 separate permit violations from 2008 thru 2012
 - Enforcement Action by MDEQ - requires compliance by 10/16
 - Permit to be re-issued in 2013 with new limits (ammonia, pathogens and others) that cannot be met.

Community is trying to achieve compliance

- Two phase approach:
 - 1) sewer rehabilitation project to eliminate clear water inputs ;
 - 2) upgrade treatment facility to achieve permit compliance and protect the Smith River.
- Phase 1: Applied for RRGL and TSEP in 2012. Unsuccessful in TSEP
- Must undertake Phase 1 in order to cost-effectively size the Phase 2 treatment plant upgrades.
- WSS needs TSEP \$\$ to continue its journey toward compliance and protection of one of Montana's premier recreational resources.
- Strongly encourage the 2013 Legislature to further fund the Treasure State Endowment Program beyond the current \$18.3M to help White Sulphur affordably implement needed improvements.

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