



Angola Neck Sewer Newsletter

First Angola Sewer Contract Bid Opened

On July 9th Sussex County opened bids on the first of five (5) construction contracts for the Angola Sewer Project. The low bidder was American Paving of Salisbury, MD, and the preliminary review indicates that the bid is at least \$500,000 below the original cost estimate. American Paving will be installing the sewer lines in Angola Road and Camp Arrowhead Road, as well as the subdivisions of Bay Ridge Woods, Angola Neck Acres and Angola Crest 1 & 2. Construction is anticipated to begin in September for this one-year contract.



View of entrance to Angola by the Bay

Angola Sewer Project to Receive Federal Stimulus Dollars

The Angola Sanitary Sewer District project will get a boost from the federal stimulus package. Last March, Sussex County learned that it has been approved by the Delaware Clean Water Advisory Council to receive approximately \$7.7 million in grants under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, with \$1.3M being directed toward the Angola sewer project.

The grants, also known as debt forgiveness, will help pay for a variety of sewer projects, which includes funding for an upgrade at the Inland Bays Regional Wastewater Facility that will also benefit Angola users. The funding, formally approved last week, would come by way of the federal stimulus package, also known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The program is aimed at supporting "shovel-ready" projects that could infuse the local economy with money and jobs. Council President Vance C. Phillips said he is pleased the County will receive the federal dollars, keeping the projects both viable and affordable.

"These projects are critical to ensuring a healthy economy and a healthy environment," Mr. Phillips said. "The Clean Water Advisory Council has the foresight to recognize that, and we appreciate their efforts to improve the quality of life, the environment and the economy of Sussex County."

Construction Set to Begin!

Sussex County is currently establishing a construction field office on Angola Road across from the Dry Dock, where the County will be able to assist residents with any construction issues that arise. Actual sewer construction will begin in late summer. See "First Angola Sewer Contract Bid Opened" article above for information about the first contract.

Due to the overall size of the project, five separate construction contracts are proposed. Contract #2 will be bid in August, followed by additional contract bids throughout the fall and winter.

In order to bring the system online in 2011, several contractors will be working simultaneously. Although construction will start in Fall 2009, it will be most intense during 2010. Most contracts use a term of one-year, which allows early contracts to conclude before the end of 2010, but the latter contracts will extend to the spring of 2011.

Construction schedules can be affected by a host of items, such as inclement weather, unexpected site conditions or contractor disputes. Typically, Sussex County projects do not experience considerable delays and none are anticipated at this time.

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Proposed User Charge Estimates

The County recovers the cost of constructing, operating, and maintaining sanitary sewer systems through its standard user charge system. The construction cost of the project will be recovered through an annual front foot (FF) assessment charge, while the cost of operating and maintaining the system will be recovered through an annual service charge. All properties are required to pay the annual front foot assessment charge. Only improved properties pay the annual service charge. The service and assessment charges are billed quarterly.

The County will also use a system connection charge to collect the costs for the use of the existing Inland Bays Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility as well as contribute toward the cost of the transmission lines. This is a one-time fee that is required before connecting to the system.

The estimated fees are shown below:

- Service Charge: \$286.00/home/year (billed quarterly)
- Assessment Charge: \$8.91/FF/year (billed quarterly)
- System Connection Charge: \$3,375/home (paid one time prior to connecting):
- Typical annual bills are shown below using these charges:

50 FF with home	\$732.00/year
75 FF with home	\$955.00/year
100 FF with home	\$1,177.00/year

These charges begin when service is available.

Assistance Programs

There are programs available to assist qualified homeowners with paying their quarterly sewer bills and paying for the costs associated with hooking-up to the sewer when it is complete. Details of these programs may be obtained by contacting the Sussex County Utility Billing Division at (302) 855-7871.



View of Angola Crest on Camp Arrowhead Rd.

System Connection Charges

System Connection Charges pay for past expenditures for debt service and are a contribution towards the future expansion or replacement of transmission and treatment facilities. System Connection Charge estimates can be found under "Proposed User Charge Estimates."

Partial payments of this fee will be accepted. However, the fee must be paid in full before a sewer connection or building permit is issued. The total amount due will be based on the fee that is in place at the time the last payment is made. Checks should be made payable to the Sussex County Council. Payment may be mailed to the address below:

Sussex County Utility Permits Division
 Attention: Mrs. Stephanie Lynch
 Sussex County Administrative Offices
 P. O. Box 589
 Georgetown, DE 19947

Other Costs

Property owners will be responsible for connecting to the sewer system and abandoning their existing septic system after construction of the central sewer system is complete. This process requires the property owner to hire a Sussex County licensed plumber to install the necessary piping from the connection at the property line to the home and to have the existing septic tank pumped and filled. There is a \$100.00 permit fee associated with making the connection. (Note: The one-time system connection charge must be paid prior to a permit being issued.) Property owners will be notified by letter when connections can begin.



View of Dry Dock, Angola Rd.

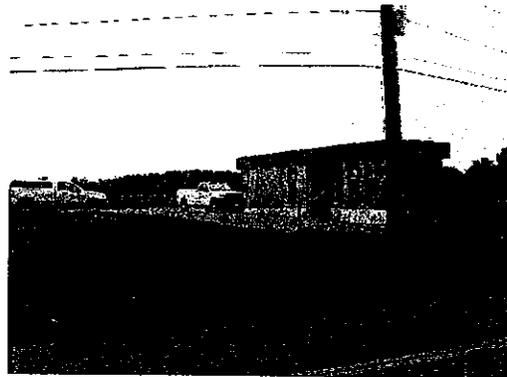
Project Costs & Financing

The estimated total project cost is \$33.5 million. Both State and Federal agencies have been cooperative in funding this project. The County is using these various sources as well as County funds to finance this cost and bring user costs in at the lowest possible level. The projected funding is as follows:

Rural Development, USDA Loan @ 4.5% for 40 years	\$12,000,000
Rural Development, USDA Grant	\$ 4,000,000
State Revolving Fund Loan @ 1.5% for 20 years	\$15,000,000
State of Delaware 21st Century Grant	\$ 1,500,000
Economic Stimulus Funding (principal reduction)	\$ 1,500,000
Sussex County Council Grant	\$ 1,000,000
Total	\$33,500,000

Field Office Established

To oversee the construction, Sussex County employs the engineering firm of Whitman, Requardt & Associates, LLP of Baltimore, Maryland. However, two County employees, Mr. Robert D. Rogers III and Mr. John Hall, have been assigned to serve as your contact persons. They have been instructed to quickly address your questions, complaints or recommendations concerning the construction. Mr. Rogers and Mr. Hall will be working out of the Sussex County Field Office located at 32687 Angola Road. Their office hours will be 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and their telephone number is (302) 855-7370. Please contact Mr. Rogers or Mr. Hall with any questions or comments.



View of Angola Field Office, 32687 Angola Road.

Picking the Location of Your Sewer Lateral

During construction, Sussex County has established the following procedure to allow our contractor to place the sewer lateral at a location of your choice. A sewer lateral or sewer connection will be provided for your property and you may be consulted regarding the location of that lateral and placement of a green lateral stake. Mr. Rogers has been assigned to this project and is available to assist you in placing the green lateral stake. During normal business hours, you may contact Mr. Rogers at (302) 855-7370. Sussex County will attempt to provide the easiest access to the sanitary sewer for your property. However, due to construction considerations, it may not always be possible to place your sewer lateral where you would like. The lateral will end at the property line, and it will be your responsibility once the sewer lines have been approved to obtain the services of a Sussex County licensed plumber to make the connection. Actually, it may be wise to consult a plumber to assist in selecting your best location. In the event that a property owner does not mark a location, the County Inspector will use his best judgment and set a stake himself. Once construction is complete, State of Delaware law requires that all existing and future buildings located in the District connect to the sewer system. Property owners must hire a plumber who is licensed with Sussex County to connect their residence or commercial building to the lateral provided at the property line.

Help Us Keep Your Sanitary Sewer Service Reliable and Affordable

Did you ever wonder what happens to that "small" amount of cooking grease or oil that you pour down your kitchen drain followed by a good dose of hot water? As soon as the water cools it begins to collect to the inside of the sewer pipe, reducing the capacity of the pipe. Eventually the grease buildup will reach the point where it blocks the pipe entirely. When this happens the wastewater will backup into your house or, if the blockage is in the sewer main, into your neighbors homes. If the blockage is in your line, you will incur the expense of having a plumber clear the clog. If the blockage is in the sewer main or the septic tanks, Sussex County technicians will have to clear the clog. When this happens, the maintenance costs for the district increase. When the costs increase, the rates have to go up.

Do yourself, your neighbors, and Sussex County a favor. Dispose of your cooking grease, fats, and oils properly. Pour your cooking oils in a container and discard the container in the trash. Better yet, mix the grease with bird seed and feed the neighborhood birds.

Minimum & Maximum Front Foot

Sussex County has a minimum front foot assessment of 40 feet in place for sewer assessment. This minimum is governed by ordinance. There is currently a 100-foot maximum in place for parcels with a single-family dwelling. The maximum does not apply to nonresidential properties and it does not apply to vacant lots. It also does not apply to any account that is delinquent or past due. The 100-foot maximum must be reviewed and approved as part of the County's annual budget process. In fiscal year 2005 the maximum was 125 feet. The maximum was 100 feet for fiscal years 2006 and 2007. Recently the County Council approved the 100-foot maximum for fiscal year 2010.



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.SUSSEXCOUNTYDE.GOV

Construction Impacts Please accept our apologies, as you will likely experience some inconvenience during the construction period, although we will work hard to minimize it. The area's high groundwater table makes it necessary to de-water the ground prior to excavating trenches and installing the sewer mains. This process uses a series of wells to pump the ground dry, and begins several days in advance of the trenching operation. After de-watering, a trench is excavated and the pipeline is installed at a depth that generally varies between four and fifteen feet. Extreme care will be taken by the contractor to see that the minimum length of trench is open at any one time. Each contract stipulates that adequate vehicular and pedestrian access shall be maintained to all properties throughout the contract period, and trenches must not be left open at the end of the day. Some inconvenience may result because pavement resurfacing and grass re-seeding normally do not occur until all pipelines have been installed. This practice allows the contractor to test the entire system to ensure that it is functioning properly, while also providing needed time for the roadway bases to settle. All contractors will maintain the streets in a passable condition for the duration of the construction project.

Questions

- Concerning Construction (302) 855-7370
 - Concerning Sewer Assessment (302) 855-7719
 - Concerning Sewer Billing or Assistance Programs (302) 855-7871
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