



Madison County



Engineer's Office

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Background

For those of you who might be new to the area, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency issued finding and orders against the Madison County Commissioners on Feb 20, 1998. Those orders required the County to take action to eliminate all on-site septic systems in the Choctaw Lake development. When findings and orders are issued the options are clear, either condemn the properties or construct a sewage collection and treatment system. The Commissioners took action on Sept. 16, 2002 by establishing an assessment district through which all of the costs of construction including design, project administration, easement acquisition, and construction would be divided equally among all of the dwelling units (lots with houses). At the same time the Commissioners turned over the design and construction responsibilities over to the County Sanitary Engineer which is my appointed job in addition to my elected position as County Engineer.

Explanation of system

The grinder pump sewer system that is installed at Choctaw Lake is a pressure sewer system. These grinder pumps operate on an intermittent basis as sewage comes to the grinder pump and fills the basin. All of the grinder pumps combine to move the sewage to the sewer plant located near I-70. The plant then pumps the treated water to Deer Creek well downstream of the lake. This system is completely different than any gravity sewer system. By installing this type of system, we were able to significantly lower the cost to you and minimize the construction disruption (believe it or not).

The system that the county maintains on behalf of the users is the sewage treatment plant, collection lines in the road right-of-way, the grinder pump pressure line located in the Choctaw Lake Property Owners utility easement adjacent to your side property line, the grinder pump itself located in the same utility easement, the grinder pump power and control cable running from the house serving the electric to the pump, and the grinder pump alarm panel located on the side of the house providing electric service. All gravity sewer laterals running from the house to the grinder pump continue to be the responsibility of the homeowner.

The only issue with this type of system is that if the grinder pump fails to operate, an alarm will be triggered at the grinder pump alarm panel that is on the house of the residence which is providing the electric service for the pump. If the alarm does go off, it should be disabled **ONLY AFTER** notifying the County by contacting the Sewer District #2 Sewer Plant at the number provided in this packet. Failure to notify sewer plant will ultimately result in contamination if sewage is continued to be sent to the failed grinder pump.

OUPS

As with the other utilities on your property, Madison County is a member of the Ohio Utilities Protection Service (OUPS). If you are going to dig anywhere on your property, you are required to notify OUPS by calling 1-800-362-2764 at least 48 hours before you dig so that all utility companies can come out and locate their facilities. If you fail to notify OUPS, and you do damage a utility service line, you are 100% liable for any damages not to mention putting yourself in harms way. Please plan ahead and take the few minutes to protect yourself.

Sewer Usage Charges

The basic monthly sewer usage cost for everyone inside the Choctaw Lake development will be \$33.00. This will be the sewer usage bill charged to all single grinder pump customers. Single grinder pump users are also estimated to pay an addition \$2.00 per month on their electric bill to power their unit bringing their total cost to \$35.00 every month. There are approximately 350 houses that are single customers.

The bill charged to shared grinder pump customers will be based on who provides electric for the shared grinder pump operation. Shared grinder pumps will operate twice as often as the single units and are estimated to use \$4.00 per month in electric. Therefore the customer who provides and pays this electric bill will be credited \$2.00 off of their sewer usage bill bringing their usage bill down to \$31.00 per month and their total cost to the same \$35.00 per month. Likewise, the shared grinder customer who pays no monthly electric to operate the pump will be charged an extra \$2.00 per month bringing their sewer usage bill and total cost to the same \$35.00 per month. There are approximately 450 houses that are shared customers.

Who to contact

Any concerns regarding the possible malfunctioning of the sewer system regardless of the time of day or day of week should be immediately called into the sewer plant. All general questions should be directed to the County Engineers Office during normal working hours, M-F 7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Thank you

It is our hope that the enclosed information refreshes your memory and/or answers any questions you may still have.

If issues continue or you need additional grinder pump packets, please do not hesitate to contact me at the County Engineer's Office @ 740-852-9404.

Respectfully Yours,

Kenneth L. Koppes, P.E.
Deputy Engineer

Cc: file