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Amity Township sewer expansion project progressing

Residents within 150 feet of line will have up to six months after certification to hook up

By Greta Cuyler
Reading Eagle



Amity Township is in the midst of a nearly \$2 million, three-mile sewer expansion in the southwest section of the township.

Construction began in mid-October and should be completed by the end of March. Officials hope the line will be tested and certified by the beginning of May.

The work area where crews are installing the pipe is clearly visible from westbound Route 422 in the Baumstown area.

Residents living within 150 feet of the sewer line will have up to six months after certification to hook into the system, Township Manager Charles Lyon said.

The project will connect more than 50 residential properties along Valley Road and Bel Air Estates mobile home park, where many homes have failing septic systems, Lyon said.

"The whole area is red shale and clay with high water tables and small lots," he said. "It's just a recipe for disaster."

The state mandated Amity to provide municipal sewage treatment to both areas as a condition of approving the township's 2001-03 sewage facilities plan.

The 18,000-foot sewer main begins at an existing sewer line in the 400 block of Monocacy Creek Road and travels north across Route 422 west of Limekiln Road.

The line will continue north along the Monocacy Creek and split shortly after crossing Monocacy Hill Road. One line will go northwest to the 200 block of Valley Road, and the other will head northeast to Buttercup Road and Bel Air Estates.

Another small line will extend about 1,000 feet east along Monocacy Hill Road to serve a property with a malfunctioning system and a newly zoned highway-commercial area.

Residents who connect to the system will have to pay a tap-in fee and a quarterly sewer charge.

Amity hasn't yet decided how much the tap-in fee will be, but Lyon said supervisors could enact an ordinance to help residents with that expense. For example, the board could allow customers to pay in five annual payments.

Employees from Pact Construction, Allentown, have completed nearly a third of the line and are now working just north of Route 422.

Approximately two-thirds of Amity Township, about 4,300 properties, are connected to the municipal sewer system.

[+] Enlarge.



Reading Eagle: Susan L. Angstadt
Work on a 3-mile extension of the Amity Township sewer system is visible from Route 422 near Baumstown. Township officials expect the project to be tested and certified by early May.

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