



Wastewater Department
2101 Boyd Blvd
LaPorte, Indiana 46350
219.362.2354

Lakeside Sewer Relocate - Frequently Asked Questions

5/21/2015

1. **Is my home affected by the project?**
Properties affected by the project are shown on the attached drawing. Additionally, a list of addresses in the project area is also attached.
2. **My house is already connected to city sewer, will there be a cost to connect to the new sewer?**
Properties currently served by sewer will incur no expense to connect to the new sewer system.
3. **My house is served by a septic system, will I have to connect?**
No. Unless the existing septic system fails or is causing pollution, the homeowner may continue to utilize the septic system. To encourage connection, the City of LaPorte will provide installation of the grinder pit system at no cost to the homeowner. Installation cost is estimated at \$2,000-\$5,000. The homeowner will need to provide the approved grinder pump station at a cost of approximately \$3,500. LaPorte will bulk purchase pump stations and provide them to homeowners for the purchase price. Should a homeowner choose to connect after the project is complete they will have to bear the full cost of the installation.
4. **If I have a septic system, when and how will I need to pay for the grinder pump station?**
There are financing options available at low interest rates. The City of La Porte will meet with each homeowner to discuss the available options for the estimated \$3,500 grinder pump station cost.
5. **Who will own, operate, and maintain the grinder pump?**
The City of LaPorte will operate, maintain and replace grinder pump systems. Problems should be reported to the City's 24-hour phone line(219.362.2354).
6. **Will there be digging on my property?**
Low pressure sewer mains will be installed by directional drilling techniques to minimize excavation or disturbance of the area where the sewer main is installed. Installation of each grinder pump station will require a small excavation from the sewer main to the location where the station is installed. The City's contractor will perform grading and

temporary restoration of yards after the grinder pump station and connection are made at each house, with all final restoration and seeding being completed prior to the end of construction.

7. **Will my sewer service be interrupted?**

Sewer service may be interrupted for several hours while the grinder pump is installed at each house. The contractor will coordinate the interruption with each property owner.

8. **When will construction take place?**

Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in the summer and be completed during the summer of 2015. Visit the City's website www.cityoflaporte.com for schedule updates.

9. **What will happen to the old sewer under the lake bed?**

Manholes will be removed and hauled away. The old sewer pipes will be plugged and abandoned in place under the lake bottom.

10. **Will an easement be needed on my property?**

An easement will be needed for each grinder pump system that is installed on each property. An easement will also be needed on some properties for the sewer main.

11. **Why are grinder pumps going to be used?**

Grinder pumps (low pressure sewer systems) are commonly employed to provide sewer to areas along lakes where the water table is high, space is limited, or there are large variations in elevations. All of these conditions are present in the project area. The system piping can be installed with minimal disruption and the system is installed at a lesser depth than gravity sewers, allowing simplified repairs in areas of high ground water. The City currently has about a dozen grinder pump installations. There are several thousand grinder pump installations in the Monticello / Indiana Beach / Twin Lakes area.

12. **Who will pay for the electric to power the grinder pumps?**

LaPorte's sewer rate structure provide a \$2 discount to offset the electrical costs of a grinder pump. The cost of electrical power for the average customer (5,000 gallons per month) is approximately \$1.00/month.

13. **What happens when the power goes out?**

Electric power reliability is generally the biggest concern with grinder pumps because the pumps will not operate without electric power. Pump stations have spare capacity, so careful water usage can continue when power is out for several hours. The pump vault can hold about 70 gallons of water. The pump stations also have generator connections so that the City of Laporte Wastewater Department can periodically operate the stations with its portable generator during extended outages.

14. **Who do I call if there is a problem?**

If you experience a slow sewer, a backup, or the pump station alarm sounds, call the City of LaPorte Wastewater Department (219.362.2354) to have the problem corrected. The Wastewater Department provides service 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. If the problem is with the grinder pump station, discharge pipe, or sewer main, the City will make the necessary repairs. If the problem is within the house or between the house and the pumping station the homeowner will be advised to contact a plumber.

15. **What does it mean if the alarm sounds on my grinder pump station?**

Grinder pump stations are equipped with an alarm light and horn. If the wastewater level becomes too high, the alarm will sound. Should an alarm occur, contact the City of LaPorte on its 24 hour phone line(219.362.2354) to have the problem corrected. The City stocks spare pumps and parts for quick service.

16. **Who do I contact if I have additional questions about the project?**

Contact Jerry Jackson at the City of LaPorte Wastewater Department(219.362.2354) or at jjackson@cityoflaporte.com