

ORCHARD GRASS HILLS

Sewer plant's future is on the line

By Andrea Uhde • auhde@courier-journal.com • April 2, 2008

The Orchard Grass Hills sewage-treatment plant will either be demolished or expanded under two plans local officials are considering.

If the plant is demolished, customers would have to pay \$7 or \$8 more per month to have sewage sent elsewhere, said Vincent Bowlin, chief engineer and executive director of the Oldham County Sewer District.

The state Division of Water has prohibited additional connections to the plant because of possible performance problems, particularly when it rains.

The Oldham County Sewer District has asked permission from the Division of Water to add another 100,000 gallons of capacity to the plant. But the division wants it demolished and the sewage sent to a plant in Jefferson County, Bowlin said.

Officials are waiting to hear from the Metropolitan Sewer District if that's possible. That project would cost about \$1.5 million and take two to three years, Bowlin said.

If it happens, customers who use the Orchard Grass Hills plant would pay a new fee that would boost the average Oldham customer's bill to about \$36 or \$37 a month from \$29.20.

Bowlin said they hope to know more in the coming weeks.

The 25-year-old plant is at the back of Orchard Grass Hills subdivision. It can handle 300,000 gallons a day; it averages about 250,000 gallons.

Engineers hired by the sewer district found the plant wasn't getting enough air into the system. New pipes will be installed, Bowlin said.

He added that the district has a long-term plan to eliminate the plant, but they wanted to add a nearby tank that would temporarily boost the plant's capacity.

He's not sure how much that would cost, but it could be between \$250,000 and \$500,000.

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