

*Augusta Regional Sewer Authority, Inc.*

Randal Smith  
Chairman

P.O. Box 85  
Augusta, Kentucky 41002

**Dear Property Owner,**

**You are receiving this information because you own property along the sanitary sewer route that will be installed under the Augusta Regional Sewer Project. Please review the following information carefully as it will help to answer many questions you may have.**

**A public hearing will be held on July 24, 2018 at 6:00 pm at the Bracken County Fiscal Court Room, located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, at 116 West Main Street, Brooksville, Kentucky. Residents and property owners will have the ability to ask questions and make comments during this time.**

**Thank you**

## **SIGN-UP DEADLINE-AUGUST 15, 2018**

### **Augusta Regional Sewer Authority Sanitary Sewer System and WWTP Construction**

**The Augusta Regional Sewer Authority, Inc.,** under the formation and direction of the City of Augusta, City of Brooksville, and Bracken County Fiscal Court, is planning to extend the sanitary sewer system along S.R. 19 in Bracken County and construct a new regional Wastewater Treatment plant as the prescribed solution to alleviate the aged and deteriorating Wastewater Treatment Plants of the City of Augusta and the City of Brooksville. The plants were built with a life expectancy of approximately 30 – 35 years, which has been far surpassed. The plants age and deterioration have made rehabilitation not possible and the plants no longer conform to current regulations and requirements of Kentucky Division of Water.

#### **Existing System**

The Augusta Regional Sewer Authority (ARSA) was formed through a joint resolution of the City of Augusta, City of Brooksville, and Bracken County Fiscal Court. The purpose of ARSA will be to construct the regional plant and take ownership of the sanitary sewer collection systems of both cities, plus the residents located along the force main route.

#### **Proposed System**

The proposed project **will** provide service to the following area:

City of Augusta existing sanitary sewer users

City of Brooksville existing sanitary sewer users

Proposed approximate 9 miles of sanitary sewer lines to serve potential 90+ customers with service lines and grinder pumps as follows:

Along S.R. 19 from City of Augusta to City of Brooksville

E Augusta Chatham Road                      Valley High Drive

Valley View Drive                                Valley High Lane

Brooksville Chatham Road

*\*Other Roads/Streets not listed here may be included if the line includes the road or accesses the home within 300 ft*

Bracken County residents in the areas listed above will be required to hook on to the sanitary system if certain criteria are met, according to federal, state, and local regulations that mandate hookup when sanitary sewer is available. Details can be found in the Bracken County Fiscal Court Ordinance #17-01 and #04-05. The full ordinance can be found at [www.augustaregionalsewerauthority.com](http://www.augustaregionalsewerauthority.com) or [www.brackencounty.ky.gov](http://www.brackencounty.ky.gov)

#### **Project Funding**

Rural Development Grant	\$2,800,000
Rural Development Loan	\$3,200,000
Kentucky Infrastructure Authority	\$5,697,000
Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (P&D Loan)	\$ 600,000
House Bill 380 Grant	\$ 100,000
<b>Total Estimated Project Cost</b>	<b>\$12,397,000</b>

#### **Sanitary Sewer User Agreement (included in this packet of information)**

The standard sanitary sewer user agreement **must** be signed by all potential customers. The agreement must be signed by the "property owner" (not tenant) and the property owner will be responsible for paying bills. Property owners will make their own arrangements with tenants.

Signed User Agreements can be submitted to Augusta Regional Sewer Authority, PO Box 85, Augusta, Kentucky 41002.

## Tap & Connection Fee

The standard tap or connections fee for sanitary sewer service **will be free during initial sign-up** and then go to standard tap/connection fee when construction starts. It is anticipated that the cost to **hook on after the deadline will be approximately \$6,000 to \$7,000**. This will include the cost of the grinder pump, service line and appurtenances, labor and equipment. To receive the waiver to have free tap/connection fee within this project, the property owner must sign and return the User Agreement to the Utility no later than the August 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

## Sanitary Sewer Rates

The sanitary sewer rates will be determined by the amount of funds necessary to operate and maintain the system. The bill will be calculated based on the user's water consumption.

## Easements

The sanitary sewer agreement binds each customer to grant an easement for sanitary sewer line construction across his or her property, if necessary. The easement and the location must be mutually agreed upon on private property to assure no conflicts with highways. The sanitary sewer agreement allows access for installation, maintenance, repair, and servicing of the line and grinder pump by the utility.

## DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES:

**Low Pressure System:** The Utility Company (Contractor) shall install a grinder pump and all necessary equipment for the purpose of introducing domestic sanitary sewer system, operated by the Augusta Regional Sewer Authority. **The property owner will be responsible for electric service from the breaker box to the disconnect panel (the disconnect panel will be set by the utility); and for hookup of the plumbing from the residence to the grinder pump.** Maintenance, repair or replacement of that portion of the electric and plumbing shall be the property owner's sole responsibility, and not the responsibility or obligation of the Utility. Both electrical and plumbing that is the responsibility of the property owner, must be inspected by a licensed electrician/plumber. These inspections are the responsibility of the property owner. The utility company (contractor) will be responsible for plumbing and electrical inspections for their part of the line and grinder pump installation.

The property owner shall provide a (4) wire, single phase, 230 volt, separately fused electric circuit and with ground wire to exterior of the residence. The termination point will be the disconnect panel that the utility will furnish and install. The circuit shall be on a breaker inside the residence that is 30 amps. The circuit will be required to be solely dedicated to the grinder pump. The disconnect and control panel can be attached to the residence or mounted on a stand. A disconnect must be positioned within 25 ft of the grinder pump canisters.

## NO GUARANTEE OF SERVICE

Execution of the sanitary sewer user agreement **does not** guarantee sanitary sewer service. The Utility only warrants that if the system is constructed and your property is not feasible to be served, the Utility will refund your tap/connection fee (if applicable) as soon as they are assured that they cannot serve your property.

## WHEN WILL CONSTRUCTION START

We can only estimate the construction beginning. However, if we can obtain the signers and easements as scheduled, it is anticipated that construction could begin as soon as the fall of 2018 with service to begin thereafter in late 2020 or early 2021.

**QUESTIONS?** A public hearing will be held on July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 6:00pm, at the Bracken County Fiscal Court Room, to answer any questions property owners and/or residents may have. For immediate questions, please contact any one of the following:

Bracken County Judge Executive Earl Bush	(606) 735-2300 or (606) 402-1533
Bracken County Magistrate Scotty Lippert	(606) 402-1321
Bracken County Magistrate Clark Hennessy	(606) 402-0018
ARSA Chairman Randal Smith	(606) 402-0539
ARSA Vice Chairman Jay Yingling	(678) 516-8931

## Augusta Regional Sewer Authority

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ Sheet)

Updated on: July 11, 2018

#### SECTION 1 – SERVICE LINES

1. **Will the SEWER AUTHORITY work with the Homeowner to determine the location of the service line and grinder pump?**
  - a. The SEWER AUTHORITY personnel will work with the homeowner as much as possible on the location of the line and grinder pump. Each request will be considered and discussed on a case by case basis. The homeowner will have some “leeway” in placement of the grinder, but will be limited based on the location of the sewer line that exits the house.
  - b. The SEWER AUTHORITY will require the Contractor to replace anything disturbed with like materials and back to like condition before construction began.

#### SECTION 2 – EXISTING SEPTIC TANK ISSUES

1. **Do I have to remove my septic tank?** Septic Tanks will remain in the ground.
2. **What do I do with the line running to my septic tank?** The line running to the septic tank needs to be capped off, by the OWNER.
3. **What is best to do with the existing septic tanks?** The SEWER AUTHORITY encourages that septic tanks be filled with sand and gravel, but this is not required.
  - a. **Note: Plumbing Inspector has final say on what is to be done regarding existing tanks.**
4. **Can I connect my septic tank to the new sewer system?** The Septic Tank CANNOT BE CONNECTED to the new sewer system in anyway.

#### SECTION 3 –GRINDER PUMPS

1. **Who is responsible for the Electric Hookup of the Grinder Pump?**
  - a. The HOMEOWNER is responsible for providing connection from the Breaker Box of the House to the Outside Disconnect. This connection MUST be inspected by a certified electrical Inspector.
  - b. The Outside disconnect panel WILL be provided by the SEWER AUTHORITY.
  - c. The SEWER AUTHORITY will be responsible for providing the electrical connection from the disconnect panel to the grinder pump.

- d. The disconnect panel will be placed on the outside of the house as close to the grinder pump location as possible.
- 2. What happens when the electric goes off?**
- a. The first step is for the OWNER to reduce the number of times of using water and flushing commodes.
  - b. The grinder pumps are vented – so when sewage backup occurs, the sewage will run onto the top of the ground from the grinder, NOT back into the house.
  - c. The SEWER AUTHORITY will be providing a Disconnect panel that will allow connection to a generator to operate the grinder during power failure. ONLY THE SEWER AUTHORITY will be authorized to connect a generator to the Disconnect box.
- 3. Who is responsible for connecting the Sewer Line from the House to the Grinder Pump.**
- a. The line coming out of the house will need to be disconnected from the septic tank and connected to the Grinder pump. The OWNER will be responsible for this.
  - b. The Plumbing inspector will be required to inspect the home connection to the grinder pump to insure homeowner safety with proper venting and connections.
- 4. Grinder Pump Rules of Operation**
- a. The SEWER AUTHORITY will provide homeowners a list of rules to follow as the grinder pumps are installed.
- 5. Where will the Grinder Pump be located?**
- a. The grinder pump will be installed next to the house, where the existing sewer line comes out of the house. The homeowner will have some “leeway” in placement of the grinder, but will be limited to the location of the sewer line exiting the house.

**SEE ALSO HANDOUT ON GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT GRINDER PUMPS?**

#### **SECTION 4 – GENERAL ISSUES**

- 1. How will my Sewer Bill be calculated? Your sewer bill will be calculated based on your consumption of water.**

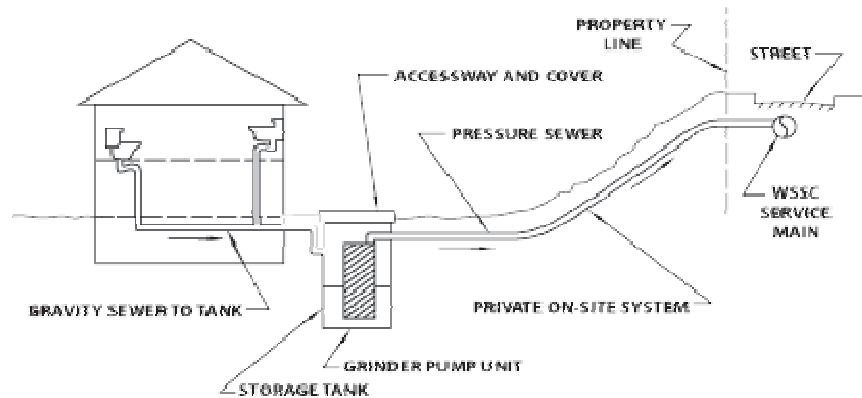
## Frequently Asked Questions and Answers about Grinder Pumps

### 1. What is a grinder pump?

A grinder pump works like a household garbage disposal, but on a larger scale. It grinds up wastewater produced in your home (i.e. toilet use, shower, washing machine, etc.) and pumps it into the public sewer system.

### 2. How does it work?

A grinder pump is placed in a tank (or well) that is buried in a convenient outdoor location on a homeowner's property. The tank provides wastewater holding storage capacity. When water is used in the house, wastewater flows into the tank. When the wastewater in the tank reaches a pre-set level, the grinder pump automatically turns on, grinds the waste, and pumps it out of the tank via the homeowner's on-site sewer service line and into the public sewer system. A grinder pump will normally run for one or two minutes and automatically turn off when the tank is emptied. The pump is powered by electricity and is connected to a control panel near your electric meter.



### 3. Who is responsible for the grinder pump?

Grinder pumps are the responsibility of the Utility. However, customers can be charged if the pump is damaged because of improper use by the owner, tenant, guest, etc.

### 4. What can I do to protect my grinder pump?

A properly maintained grinder pump should be able to handle wastewater from the kitchen, bathroom, laundry, etc. However, some chemicals and substances can adversely impact a grinder pump and may cause safety hazards. Please check the labels on all chemicals before using / disposing. Also, never pour the following items down drains or flush down toilets:

- Grease (a byproduct of cooking that comes from meat fats, oils, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, sauces and dairy products);
- Explosive or flammable material;
- Kitty litter;
- Aquarium gravel;
- Strong chemicals or toxic, caustic or poisonous substances;
- Degreasing solvents;
- Diapers, feminine products, or cloth of any kind;
- Fuel or lubricating oil, paint thinner or antifreeze;
- Plastic objects; and
- Seafood shells.

These items can damage the grinder pump and its controls, cause blockages and backups and may create unsafe conditions in your lines and tank. Also, never connect a sump pump to sewer lines. Doing so is a violation of the plumbing code and decreases the sewer mains' flow capacity while increasing wastewater treatment costs. In the case of a grinder pump, a sump pump connected to the sewer system may increase your electric rates and shorten the life of your grinder pump.

## **5. What should I do with my pump when I go on vacation?**

If you plan on being away for several days, replace the wastewater in the tank with clean water to help minimize odors. To do this, run an inside faucet for about 10 minutes – long enough for the grinder pump to start working (you may need to go outside near the pump and listen to verify it has started). After the pump starts, turn the inside faucet off. The pump will run until the tank is empty and shut off automatically. This process will cleanse the pump and keep it filled with a minimum amount of clean water. Remember to always leave the power to the pump on.

## **6. Power Failure/Reserve Capacity**

If there is a power failure that affects your home, your grinder pump will also experience a loss of power and not be able to operate. The grinder pump tank has a certain amount of holding capacity, but interior water use should be severely limited until power has been restored

## **7. Electricity/Energy Consumption**

Typical annual energy consumption equals a 40-watt light bulb. The grinder pump normally will run for one or two minutes and will automatically turn off when the tank has been emptied. The pump is programmed to operate in cycles rather than continuously. Cycles are determined by the amount of water used, usually after 20 gallons has entered the tank. During a usual day, the grinder pump will turn on and off to empty the tank 20 to 30 times.