

Minford Area Sewer Extension Project
Commonly Asked Questions

- 1) Why is the project being constructed?
Due to the quality of the water in the area streams due to failing and/or non-existent household sewage systems (septic tanks with leach beds, aerators, etc.) and economic development.
- 2) When will construction start? When will construction finish?
Currently construction funding has not been acquired for the project. The project will not be constructed if this funding is not obtained. If the funding is obtained, the earliest anticipated construction starting date is November 2009. This schedule is subject to change – please check our website for updates (www.sciotocountysanitary.us). Again, please note that the County has funding only for design of the system – if construction funding is not obtained the project will not be constructed. The County is currently seeking construction funding.
- 3) Will I have to hookup to the new sewer system?
Any residence in which sewage service is available is required to connect to the system. The County will install a sewer pipe to the right of way line for everyone that has to connect (these pipes are called sewer laterals). The County also plans to extend laterals across creeks as a convenience so that no hookups have to be constructed in a stream.
- 4) When will I have to hookup?
The current construction schedule indicates beginning the project near November 2009. If this schedule holds the earliest hookup deadline will be at or near August 1, 2011.
- 5) What is the tap fee?
The tap fee (also called a permit fee) is the cost charged to a new customer to allow them to connect to the system. Currently this charge is \$400. The County offers a payment plan of \$25 per month at no penalty. Please note that the tap fee rate, like sewer rates, is subject to change – if the total charge is increased the County will maintain the \$25 per month payment plan with no penalty.
- 6) What if I can't afford to hookup to the system?
The County will apply for funding to assist low to moderate income households pay for the hookup. At this time the County has not acquired this funding. It should be noted that not all households will be eligible for this assistance. As mentioned before, the County offers a payment plan of \$25 per month for tap fees. Please note that you are receiving notice that the connection deadline will be at or near August 1, 2011 which is approximately 27 months after the distribution of this notice.
- 7) What if I refuse to hookup?
All residences that are required to connect to the system will begin receiving a sewer bill immediately after the connection deadline. The Ohio Revised Code (ORC) allows billing a residence for sewer service even if the property is not connected to the sewer system – all properties will be billed whether or not they are connected to the system. If this bill is not paid, the ORC allows unpaid sewer bills to be forwarded to the Auditor in order to be placed as a lien against the property – the lien has to be paid prior to the property taxes

Minford Area Sewer Extension Project
Commonly Asked Questions

being paid. The property will be at risk of being included in a Sheriff's sale if the liens and/or taxes against a property are not paid.

- 8) What if I don't complete the questionnaire sent to me concerning my current sewage system?

Completion of the form is voluntary and is requested so that the system will be designed to provide the best sewer service possible for each connection. Failure to complete the form will result in the designers not knowing where to provide your sewer connection. This will force the residence to connect to the system wherever the sewer lateral is constructed.

- 9) Will there be sewers constructed in my yard or on my property? Will this be repaired?

The designers are attempting to stay on public right of ways and existing easements as much as possible to minimize interference with private property owners. Undoubtedly there will be areas in which sewers will be constructed on private property. In these situations the County will be required to obtain either an easement or purchase the property and will restore the property to pre-construction conditions.

- 10) What do I have to do with my septic tank?

Septic tanks will be required to be crushed and filled. Please contact the Health Department for specific requirements (740-354-3241).