

SEWER FACILITY

SOLIDS TREATMENT PROJECT

On May 20, 2014, the City of Hailey will ask voters to decide on a bond issue to improve the City's Sewer Treatment Facility—part of the facility that was not updated when the new plant was built in 2000.



Corroded Equipment



Corroded Equipment

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: If the bond passes, will my sewer rates go up?

A: Yes. The average users (6,000 gal/month) will see a rate increase of less than \$3.50 per month.

Q: We built a new sewer treatment facility in 2000. Why do we need to build a new one already?

A: In 2000 the City constructed new facilities to treat the liquid portion of the sewage from the City. At that time, to preserve the city's original investment in the 1974 treatment equipment and facilities, we modified that equipment and dome building to handle the solids that come into the plant. For the past 14 years, our plant operators have worked hard to get the most out of this equipment, but it is now 40 years old and it has deteriorated and requires extensive maintenance and repair. A new solids facility will result in a more efficient and safe treatment plant.

Q: How much will the new solids treatment facilities cost?

A: The City has been working with engineers, contractors, and equipment providers to design the appropriate facilities for our treatment plant. We estimate the project will cost \$6.545 million.

Q: How will the City pay for the project?

A: A voter approved revenue bond will allow the City to borrow enough funds to construct the project now (2014-2015) and will spread the cost of the project over 20 years.

Q: What percentage of voter approval is required?

A: A simple majority of voters in the City of Hailey is required.

Q: What happens if the bond doesn't pass?

A: If the bond fails to pass, the City will consider holding another bond election in November. This is not preferred because the project costs will likely increase with time due to increases in construction costs. Employees at the plant will continue to be at risk because the current plant is deteriorating.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



Facility Upgrades: Replace an obsolete and aging facility.



Safety: Provide facilities that meet current standards and are safe for the City of Hailey staff.



Operator Time: Because the 1974 facilities and equipment are being used to do things they were never designed to do, they do not work efficiently, which requires extra labor and additional expenses.

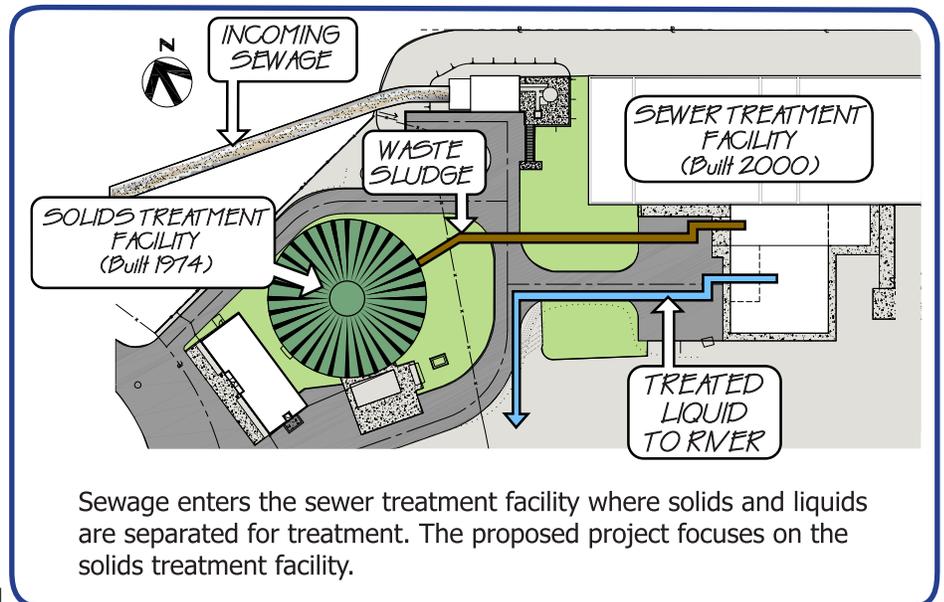


Recycling: A new solids handling facility will create a biosolids product that could potentially be turned into soil compost in the future.

Every day, residents and businesses in Hailey flush 600,000 gallons of sewage down their toilets, sinks, and drains. The sewage flows to the sewer treatment facility where it is separated into liquids and solids.

Liquids are treated to meet permit requirements before being discharged to the Big Wood River. The solids are treated and hauled by truck to the landfill.

In 2000, the City constructed new treatment facilities to handle the liquid portion of the sewage. At that same time, we modified the original sewer treatment equipment (installed in 1974) to handle solids. Even though this equipment was not designed to do this, we “stretched” our dollars to use existing facilities as long as possible.



Sewage enters the sewer treatment facility where solids and liquids are separated for treatment. The proposed project focuses on the solids treatment facility.

What you should know...

When sewage leaves your home or business, it flows by gravity to the sewage treatment plant off Woodside Boulevard. The “front door” of the treatment plant is called the headworks and this is where the large solids are removed from the sewage and sent to the solids handling facility. Through several additional stages, smaller and smaller solids are settled out of the liquid sewage before it enters a final treatment and disinfection stage and is discharged to the Big Wood River.

Today at the City’s sewer treatment plant, the solids removed from the sewage are collected in “the green dome”, which is the original 1974 packaged treatment plant. Because this facility was never intended to be a solids handling facility, it does not have the ability to “de-water” the solids, which means that when we haul the solids to the landfill, we are hauling 99% liquid and only 1% solids. If approved, the new facility would reduce the amount of liquid in the solids, which would provide a safer and more efficient product to handle and dispose of.