

TOWN OF ANDREWS - OCRA PUBLIC HEARING - AUGUST 18, 2016

The primary need for the proposed project is based on the inadequate redundancy within each process and the failure of most current processes to meet design standards. The screening facilities, oxidation ditch, and digester lack redundancy that is needed to perform proper maintenance of each process. This lack of the ability to perform proper maintenance has resulted in one of the two aerators in the oxidation ditch becoming non-operational. Further, the manual bar rack provides maintenance issues because of the requirement of an operator to climb down into the existing channel to provide the necessary routine cleaning of the rack so that it does not clog and create an overflow event that bypasses all screening.

Additional need for the project is demonstrated by the existing WWTP equipment that has reached the end of its useful life. Typically, mechanical equipment such as pumps, blowers, and motors can be relied upon for between 15 to 20 years. The existing WWTP was constructed in 1984. At this time, the existing plant still uses original equipment with the exception of one raw wastewater pump that has been replaced with a Flygt pump. This is an issue when equipment begins to breakdown. Old equipment is more likely to breakdown and more likely to cause problems when trying to obtain replacement parts that are likely no longer manufactured. The Town is encountering this problem currently with both one of the aeration drive motors and a clarifier drive and motor. Due to their age, it is difficult to quickly repair and return to service each piece of old mechanical equipment.

As a result of the physical age of the plant, the Town has been issued a proposed Agreed Order from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management that lists areas where the plant is not in compliance. The Town has responded to the agreed order with a proposed compliance plan that includes plant improvements.

A preliminary engineering report has been prepared by Strand Associates, Inc. through a grant from the Office of Community and Rural Affairs. The report evaluated five alternatives:

- Alternative 1. No Action - This will not correct plant deficiencies and was not considered.
- Alternative 2. Pump to Huntington - This option was considered but was dismissed due to extensive right-of-way requirements.
- Alternative 3. Rehabilitate Existing WWTP- This alternative would construct one new oxidation ditch and rehabilitate the existing oxidation ditch, add two clarifiers, RAS/WAS pump station, disinfection, headworks and administration building rehabilitation and other miscellaneous items. This option was dismissed due to the age and size of the existing clarifier.
- Alternative 4. New Aeromod WWTP - This alternative would construct a new package plant. This was dismissed because the way wastewater is treated would change.
- Alternative 5. New Oxidation Ditch WWTP - This alternative would construct two new oxidation ditches, two clarifiers, RAS/WAS pump station, disinfection, headworks and administration building rehabilitation and other miscellaneous items. This was selected as the preferred option.