

HAWL Sewer Information Questions and Answers

***Indicates an answer that has been updated or added with more information**

1. Is it mandatory that I tie into the system when it is run by my home?

Connection to the sewer system is not mandatory. However, if a resident elects to connect after the designated sign-up period has passed, funds may not be made available to cover the cost of the connection.

2. If not now, when will it be mandatory to tie in?

If a resident elects not to connect to the centralized system initially and a major septic system problem occurs, the Health Department will require the property owner to connect to the centralized sewer system at the property owner's own expense. The Health Department will not issue any more permits for septic tank repairs within HAWL after the sewer collection system is installed.

3. What will the installation cost if I sign up now?

If you sign up by February 26, 2010, the Utility Authority agreed to fund the complete installation of sewerage in HAWL, including electrical connections up to \$750. The property owner would pay any difference above \$750. The Utility Authority feels the \$750 will cover almost all electrical installations. If your connection is going to cost more than \$750, you will be notified and given an exact

amount of what the connection will cost. In the event the electrical connection costs more than \$750, the resident has the option to pay the difference, or elect not to receive sewer service and have the \$250 connection fee refunded. The electrical hook up will be handled by the contractor's licensed electricians; therefore the charges will be significantly less than would be incurred by an outside electrician. You could use your own electrician, but the UA will not pay any of the electrical connection fees.

4. What is included in the individual installation?

The installation includes all "on lot" components and installation, connection of home to the system, connecting the electricity from home to grinder pump panel and capping exiting septic tanks. It also includes the electrical connection from the electrical panel in the house to the pump control panel.

5. What is the responsibility of the PRCUA as to taking out of service, existing mechanical or other treatment systems other than septic tanks? Would this include removal, filling in, etc. or nothing?

The Utility Authority will treat existing mechanical or other treatment systems just like septic tanks. The connection going into the treatment system will be capped and flow diverted to the new grinder pump.

6. Why is there a deadline to sign up?

The Utility Authority needs to know exactly how many residents will be signing up for sewer service. The deadline has been set to

allow the Authority's contractor to begin installing the on-lot equipment as the lines are being installed on the street. The final number of residents that choose to connect will also determine the final price of the total project. Both the Utility Authority and the funding agency (MDEQ) need to know the total cost of the project as soon as practically possible.

7. When the PRCUA reports \$\$ committed to this project to the government, how specific is the information reported, i.e. do they report specific properties, names, etc.?

The funding associated with this project (ARRA) has some strict reporting guidelines and requirements. The exact information that will be required for this project is currently unknown. Since this project is being build using public funds, everything associated with the project is subject to the Freedom of Information Act. However, sensitive information, such as Social Security Numbers and Phone Numbers are protected under this Act.

8. If I pay the connection fee and find out that I can not afford the electrical installation, can I get the \$250 back?

If you sign up and find that the electrical connection for your property exceeds the \$750 allowed by the Authority, you have the option to pay the difference or not connect. The \$250 connection fee will be refunded in these situations if the property owner chooses not to connect. ***This is the ONLY situation where the \$250 connection fee is refundable.***

9. Can I get prices and have my own contractor to do the grinder pump installation?

If a homeowner wants to have their own contractor install the grinder pump, the connection will follow the normal process for connection. The normal connection process requires that an approved pump be purchased by the homeowner and installed by a contractor which is approved by the Authority. The normal \$400 connection fee will also apply in these cases.

10. How much will the electrical hook up cost?

The Utility Authority estimates that the typical electrical connection will cost approximately \$250. The Authority has agreed to pay up to \$750 per connection in situations where the work required is more than the typical electrical connection. This determination will be made by the Authority's contractor and approved by the Authority's Engineer.

11. Can I get prices and have my own contractor to do the electrical installation?

Yes, a resident may choose to have his own contractor bring electrical service to the grinder pump panel. In these situations, the resident will be required to have an electrical disconnect installed at the location of the grinder pump panel. The location of the grinder pump panel will be determined by the Authority. The resident will also be required to pay for the electrical permit from Pearl River County.

12. Can the PRCUA electrical hookup be modified so that an emergency generator can be connected during power outages?

The Grinder Pump control panel will have a standard 220V generator receptacle on the side of the panel. The panel also has an automatic transfer switch built in to prevent power from back feeding into the house or electrical grid.

13. If I sign up for the PRCUA to install the electrical connection, can I later decide to use my own contractor if the PRCUA's cost is too high?

Yes. However, the PRCUA feels this situation is very unlikely due to the fact that the resident will only be required to pay the difference between the actual electrical connection costs less the \$750 allowance. For example, if the actual electrical connection costs \$900, the resident will only be responsible for the additional \$150.

14. How does the PRCUA propose to run electrical cable in a multi-story home with inaccessible attic space?

The "typical" electrical connection will be installed from the electrical panel in the house, through the attic and down the exterior wall to the grinder pump panel. Multi-story homes or homes with inaccessible attic space will be considered "non-typical" and will be evaluated on a case by case basis. In a worst possible case scenario, a connection will be made at the meter box and the power wire will be trenched around the house to the location of the grinder pump panel.

15. Why is it necessary for the PRCUA to add a second shutoff valve in the water line to the property?

HAWL has advised the PRCUA that HAWL owns the water system and a second shutoff valve would not be installed.

16. What is the schedule for the installations and start up?

Work is scheduled to begin in February. All existing paved driveways and our roadways will be "bored". This project will be ongoing during the next year. No septic tanks will be taken off-line until the PRCUA treatment plant is finalized, which is scheduled for completion in September 2010. The grinder pumps may be installed on your property prior to this date; however, the wastewater will not be diverted to the grinder pump before the treatment plant is finished.

17. * What is the most current project schedule?

Pipe will begin to be installed in two weeks. Current completion of the entire project is planned for April 2011. This is based on 250 homes being tied into the new sewer system. There are currently more than 250 households signed up to receive the new sewer system so that schedule may slip to later in the spring or summer of 2011.

18. * What is a high level schedule of what will happen once a homeowner signs up for the system?

Sign up → Locate property on a HAWL map → Evaluate installation needs → Lay collection line with the connection at each residence → Drill grinder pump hole and place pump → Install

electrical → Cut septic line and tie grinder pump into system when the main pump and central treatment plant are completed.

Individual homes will not be tied into the new system until all the collection system is pressure tested, the main line to the treatment plant is completed, the treatment plant is in operation, and the main pump is completed and ready for operation.

19. * Will there be a work schedules published as to when and where the construction groups will be working in HAWL?

The PRCUA's contract with its contractor establishes working hours for this project to be Monday-Friday, 6:00am – 6:00pm. Homeowners will be contacted prior to grinder pumps being installed on their lot.

20. Will there be any period of time that the property owner will be without sanitary services during change over from their existing system to the new PRCUA system? If yes, what is the estimated time for this change over? What will the property owner's responsibility be?

The actual changeover from septic tank to the grinder pump will only take a few minutes. The Authority does not anticipate a homeowner being without sanitary services for an extended period of time.

21. What will be the advanced notice prior to the UA making the property owner's installation? If so, what is that estimate? How will the property owner be notified?

Each property owner will be notified by phone, door hanger, or personal visit to schedule the electrical service installation. The property owner will have to be present while the Authority's contractor is performing the electrical work inside the house.

- 22. * For the process piping, all roads, driveways, and sidewalks will be bored. If the electrical leads from house breaker panel to pump power panel must be trenched, does the boring apply in this case too?**

Boring will be employed for electrical lines under driveways and side walks as will boring is used for the sewer lines.

- 23. Will the property owners property be restored to the condition (shrubbery, grass, trees, structures) prior PRCUA's sewer installation? Will photographs be used as evidence to prevent disputes?**

As stated in the Sewer Subscription Application and Contract, the PRCUA will restore the property to reasonable pre-work condition. The property owners need to understand that this project will cause some disturbance to their property. It is the goal of the PRCUA and its contractors to minimize this disturbance. However, if excessive damage is caused to private property, the PRUCA will restore the property to reasonable pre-work condition. Photographs will be used as evidence to prevent disputes.

- 24. Is PRCUA responsible for restoring any damage caused by them to any of the property owner's facilities, such as**

underground sprinklers, underground electrical, concrete work etc.?

Any underground facilities damaged by the PRCUA or its contractors will be repaired by the PRCUA.

25. If I choose not to tie in at this time, when will I be required to tie in?

Whenever a major septic system problem occurs on the property, the Health Department will require the property owner to connect to the centralized sewer system at the property owner's own expense.

26. If I choose not to connect at this time, what is the estimated cost for an installation?

Of course, the cost will be dependent when the connection is made. Current estimates for the installation are \$4000 - \$6000 not including the electrical work. Costs will vary depending on the location of the grinder pump and your electrical needs.

27. Will the PRCUA pay for the installation later? If not, why not?

This project provides each homeowner in HAWL to opportunity to connect to the sewer system at no cost. Once the project is complete, these funds will no longer be available. However, if a resident elects to connect after the designated sign-up period has passed, funds may not be made available to cover the cost of the connection.

28. If I tie in later, will the PRCUA finance it over time as it was proposed earlier?

Any connection to the sewer system after the designated sign-up period has passed will be subject to the Authority's standard connection policy. The Authority's current standard connection policy does not offer financing.

29. If a property owner chooses to wait until after the Feb 26th deadline and pays the installation fee on his own, is he still obligated to sign over the 10' easement to the PRCUA?

A 10' easement to the grinder pump will be required no matter when the homeowner signs up for service. This easement is required to give the PRCUA access to the grinder pump for operation and maintenance in the future.

30. * Who will install grinder pumps and make connections to the system in the future?

Homeowners who are required or desire to tie into the system in the future must have PRCUA perform the installation or use a contractor that is acceptable to the PRCUA.

31. How would the cost be handled for unitized lots?

The current offer for connection to the sewer system is only available to lots with houses. Vacant lot owners will have access to the system when a structure is built on the property.

32. What is the cost per month and what does it include?

The monthly fee, based on water consumption, will be \$25.25 for the first 4000 gals. and \$2.15 for each additional 1000 gals. The \$25.25 rate breaks down to \$16.25 for the sewer, \$8.00 for maintenance on the pumps and a \$1.00 per month administration fee to HAWL to cover billing expenses. The \$8.00 goes into an account to be used to repair or replace grinder pumps.

33. * When will homeowners begin to be billed for the monthly sewer service?

Sewer usage billings will begin after project substantial completion, estimated in early to mid 2011. Certificate of substantial completion may be awarded in 2 phases - East side of the lake, and West side of the lake. Substantial completion can be given even if there are small numbers of punch-list connections that remain incomplete. Owners will not be billed if their specific system installation is incomplete, or non-functional.

34. * What happen if I sell my home and I have not tied in? Will the new owner be required to tie in then?

As part of the mortgage application process, the appraiser will note that the house was not connected to the centralized sewer collection system. If the mortgage is financed by the VA or the FHA, the house will be required to connect to the system as part of the approval process. Many commercial banks also require connection as part of their mortgage approval. If there is no requirement by the lending institution to connect and the septic tank inspection indicates no trouble with the existing septic

system, the new homeowner will not be required to connect to the system.

35. What are the PRCUA's Rule and Regulations?

The PRCUA's Rules and Regulations are available at www.prcua.state.ms.us

36. What are the grinder pump's usage rules and guidelines?

The PRCUA's Rules and Regulations are available at www.prcua.state.ms.us

37. Where on the lot will the grinder pump unit be placed - nearer the house or the road?

The grinder pump will be located near the house where the sewer line runs from the house to the existing septic tank.

38. * If my septic tank is close to my front door, can the grinder pump be located maybe 20 – 25 feet away so that it will not be as obvious?

The distance that the grinder pump is from the septic tank is governed by the distance that the grinder pump can be placed from the house and where the effluent line comes out of the house to the septic tank. The grinder pump is equipped with a 30' direct burial power cable. This will go from the grinder pump to the alarm panel. The alarm panel will be placed on outside wall of the house. That means that the grinder pump can be placed up to approximately 23' (+/-) from the wall of the house. The pump will, however, have to connect to the effluent sewer line from the house. That will also govern where the grinder pump will be placed. The "plan" is that the grinder pump will be in the proximity of the existing septic tank, but that doesn't have to be the case if the resident doesn't wish for that to be the location

and if the effluent line route and power cable will allow for a more preferable location.

39. How will I know if the system is working?

If there is trouble with the grinder pump, the panel will have a flashing red light and you will hear an audible siren. The siren can be silenced by pressing a button on the outside of the panel. When you receive an alarm, you will need to call the PRCUA and report the problem.

40. What happens when a grinder pump fails?

The PRCUA has a 24 hour telephone number that the customers can call if they have trouble. The PRUCA is usually able to respond within an hour or two from the time the trouble is reported. The Authority will have spare pumps on hand that can be swapped out within a few minutes.

41. * How long can the system be out of service before I have a sewage problem?

The tank has a liquid capacity of about 146 gallons. Usage will determine how long the pump can be down before you have a sewage problem.

42. * What is the operating volume of the tank? I.e. volume from pump coming on to pump off.

The total volume of the tank is 146 gallons. The normal operating volume is near 16 gallons from pump on to pump off which should take about 5 minutes or less each time it comes on.

43. What happens when the power goes out?

During most power outages, the tank will have enough storage to provide service during the outage. During extended outages, a portable generator can be used to pump down the tank.

44. If we have another Katrina, what will a resident do without power for a long time?

The grinder tank will hold 146 gallons, which is approximately 90 flushes. Each grinder will have a generator plug to run a couple times a day, depending on usage. During an extended outage, such as we experienced after Hurricane Katrina, the PRCUA will work with HAWL and its residents to ensure everyone has access to a generator to pump down the grinder tanks.

45. If the grinder system does not work when power fails, will all property owners be required to have an operating generator on hand?

The PRCUA does not require everyone on a grinder pump to have a generator. However, if a resident has a generator, it will be very easy for the resident to connect the generator to the panel and pump down the tank. The pump will be able to pump down the tank in about 5 minutes.

46. Should the electrical hook up for a home have provisions to use an emergency generator when there is a power outage?

The grinder pump control panel has a 220V generator receptacle and automatic transfer switch built into the panel.

47. Is there an emergency generator or system for the central treatment facility and lift pump?

Backup power will be available for the Wastewater Treatment plant and central pumping station.

48. What are HAWL's plans in the event of a long power outage?

They will be the same as the property owner.

49. Will the gathering system be installed on all the Fair lots?

All platted lots will have collection lines and taps installed.

50. Will HAWL continue its septic system inspection program?

Yes, the HAWL septic system inspection program will continue until all households are tied into the PRCUA sewer system.

51. Does the grinder pump run constantly or intermittently?

It runs intermittently. Generally it will only take 5 minutes to pump the tank down.

52. * What is horsepower is the grinder pump?

The selected grinder pumps are 2 HP – 220V Single Phase.

53. *What size circuit is required to feed the grinder pump system?

A 220 volt, 30amp circuit will be required, typically requiring the use of 10/3wg wiring.

54. * What are the details on the actual grinder pump that will be used? Psi output? Location of the Inlet? Etc.

Dungan has provided drawings and details of actual pump that will be used in HAWL. Output pressure will vary depending on throughput and the home's location in the subdivision. A few details are:

- Pump is a two stage
- Motor is a 2HP, 3450RPM, 60 Hz.
- Installation requires a 200v, 30 amp breaker in the home's electrical panel
- Pump off switch is 10" off tank bottom and pump on switch is 18" off bottom
- There are no strainers on either the suction or discharge sides of the grinder pump
- There will be a check valve at the pump and another at the street to prevent backflow.
- Pump has a 5 year warranty

55. * What are the details on the pump installation? Hole size, concrete pad, etc.

The pump will be installed in a 36" in diameter augured hole that is 6' deep to accommodate the 24" tank. The top of the tank will extend about 2-3" above ground. When the tank is placed in the hole approximately 1/3 cu yd of concrete will be placed in the hole to anchor the tank.

56. * What is the cord configuration to tie a generator into the grinder pump control panel?

The extension cord is a standard L14-30 twist lock configuration, with a male connector on one end, which plugs into the generator, and a female connector on the other end, which ties into grinder pump control panel. These cords are commonly available from many hardware store outlets, most commonly available in 25' lengths for approximately \$99.00.

57. What is the estimated electrical usage or monthly cost to run the grinder pump?

Electrical cost is estimated to be \$3 - \$5 per month.

58. * Can a homeowner install and use a garbage disposal with the new sewer system.

Yes, garbage disposals can be installed. Excessive grease is the major issue that can cause a grinder pump to clog and fail. PRCUA will repair a pump clogged with grease and issue a warning to the homeowner. If the problem with grease continues, the PRCUA may charge the homeowner for repairs.

59. What other government agencies can mandate connection to the sewer system?

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60. What is the expected service life of a grinder pump?

The grinder pumps have an expected life of 10 years.

61. If flapper (check) valves are installed in the system to prevent back flow, what happens if/when they stick open?

Check valves will be used throughout the system to prevent backflows. If the check valves become defective, they will be replaced by the PRCUA.

62. If the flapper valve fails, assuming that the entire system is pressurized, and sewage backs up into the house...who has liability?

Each service connection will have 2 check valves, one at the street and one at the pump to prevent backups into houses. In the event of a backup into a house, the PRCUA will be liable for damages provided the PRCUA is responsible for causing the backup.

63. Will there be any way to subtract the water used for watering lawns/sprinkler systems from the sewer bills since it will not be going through the treatment system?

Residents that have lawn/sprinkler systems will need to have an additional meter installed to meter water to those devices. The resident will need to contact HAWL to have this meter installed. Otherwise, all water that flows through the meter will be billed for sewer.

64. * What is the cost from HAWL to add a second water meter and what is the monthly cost for it for those who use a great deal of water for lawns/gardens, pool, etc., so they aren't charged for the added water in the sewer fees.

HAWL will install a second water at a cost of \$225.00 plus tax. The water usage monthly fee for the second meter will be \$15.35/month for the first 6,000 gallons and then \$1.75/1000 gallons prorated. Home owners can use these figures to determine if it is economic to add the second meter in lieu of paying the added sewer cost. In most cases, it will not be economic.

65. Where can property owners see the system drawings and get design information?

A set of construction plans and specifications is on file at the HAWL office for review.

66. * To help prevent outages during installation, what information (electrical, telephone and cable) can the homeowner provide in advance?

If the homeowner provides as much information about the actual location of underground utilities as possible, the better chance that the installation will not affect other services.

67. * What is the installation's contingency plan to deal with possible breaks to homeowner's phone lines, TV cables, electrical service, etc.?

The installation contractor will contact local utility companies to get a good point of contact from each utility to use in cases when homeowner's phone lines, TV cables, electrical service are cut.

68. When a property owner is gone for extended periods (i.e. for several months), do they turn off the grinder pump and will they be charged the monthly basic charge?

The monthly charge will apply for sewer as long as the water meter is connected.