Sewer crack threatens system

Residents of northeast Oakland County, including West Bloomfield, Avoo, Oakland and Waterford town-ships, work know for another "eight to 10 days" whether their sewer and water service will be interrupted. According to County Drain Commissioner George Kuhn, that's how long it will take Detroit officials to eliminate a potential major sewer break in the Oakland Macomb Interceptor sewer located near 15 Mile Road and Schoenherr in Sterling Heights. If the cracked 12-foot-diameter sewer line breaks, service could be disrupted to 300,000 residents in Macomb and Oakland counties.

KUHN, WHO attended a "closed door" meeting with Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) officials last week, said a 3,000-foot section of the pipe has cracks. In at least one area, chunks of concrete have fallen from the pipe's "ceiling."

Oakland County residents have not been asked to curtail water use, Kuhn said.

'It could be faulty construction or maybe soil is the problem. We don't know what the problem is."

- George Kuhn. county drain commissioner

To relieve pressure on the cracked pipe, a smaller pipe may be installed within the damaged line, according to Kuhn, or pumping stations to de-water portions of the sewer area may be set

Kuhn called a polential sewer break very serious and scary. The damaged area is located under a Detroit Edison easement, about 25 feet from a steel tower carrying high ten-sion lines. There is also a Michigan Consolidated Gas Co. feeder line above the interceptor

Kuhn said he hoped DWSD "can re-solve the problem by stabilizing the pipes." Donald Ringler, an engineer

with the drain office, is part of a city-suburban committee that is advising DWSD officials on what to do, Kuhn said.

THE CONSTRUCTION firm that built the seven-year old interceptor, Michigan Sewer Construction Co., of Southfield, has been retained by DWSD

to repair the line.

"The same contractor that built the job is called in to repair it. We question that," Kuhn said.

Michigan Sewer and the state De-artment of Transportation sued each

way in Macomb County for six months. The cause of the cracking apparently hast'd bendetermined.

"It could be faulty construction or maybe soil is the problem," said Kuhn. "We don't know what the problem is." The damaged site is about two miles west of 15 Mile and Hayes in Fraser where a section of the same sewer line collapsed in July 1978. DWSD spent \$11. Builton to repair the Fraser collapse, the bulk of which will be paid by Macomb County users.

the bulk of which will be paid by Ma-comb County users.

Kuhn called the current problem protentially more dangerous.

"They are probably going to be ask-ing us to pay the bill," he added.

Kuhn is leading a petition drive to create a regional authority to operate the sewer and water system, which serves more than three million in 76 area communities.

Lincoln event spotlights presidential candidate

Ben Fernandez, self-made millionaire but little known Republi-can presidential candidate, will be the featured speaker at the Oakland County Republican Club's annual Lincoln Banquet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11 in the Pontiac Silverdome.

Fernandez, of California, owns a management consulting firm and has not held prior public office, according to Mary Beattle of the county Republican Committee. A Hispanic American, Pernandez announced his presidential candidacy in November 1978.

Tickets for the dimer are \$15. Reservations can be made by calling \$64-69 the.

The Republican announcement of the banquet says Fernander's "strong belief in the private enterprise system enabled him to rise from powerty to a self-made millionaire (and) has moutded him into an electrifying and deeply move the properties of into an electrifying and deeply move the properties of "Minance, marketing and management." She said he has a small campaign staff in Michigan.

Troy airport hopes to land Orion castoffs

General Motors' proposed \$300 million auto assembly plant in Orion Township may speed up plans to allow the Oakland-Troy Airport to handle more traffic.

the Oakland-Trop Airport to handle more traffic.

The Trop airport, at 15 Mile Road between Crooks and Coolidge, may pick up the air traffic now using the Oakland-Orion airport which GM needs to buy for the auto plant.

The county's airport committee has recommended the Orion airport be sold, presumably to GM, and that the revenue be used to maintain adequate aviation facilities in the county.

The county's largest airport in Pontiac had 300,000 take-offs and landings last year. Trop had 40,000 and Orion 25,000.

ACCORDING TO J. David Vander-reen, aviation manager for the county

airport system, the Troy airport will "never be large" but planned improve-ments could double its present air traf-fic.

ments could double its present air darThe airport covers 64 acres compared to the 620-acre Pontiac airport.
Some orivide to bisness planes —
vanderveen said the plant announcement may get a \$500,000 improvement plan for the Troy airport moving faster. That plan, which will include \$250,000 in county funds, awaits county beard of commissioners approval.
Proposed for Troy is a new taxiway, parallel to the east-west runway, new lighting, a rotating beacon and airplane hangers.

hangers.

The additions were planned for this summer "in any event," Vanderveen

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