

At the switch: Earl Billing points out the brain of the pumping station.



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMIEUX

What's vat?:
Why, it's the inside of a holding tank, one of three in the sewage treatment facility.

Sewage *from page 1A*

Pumps, depending on the amount of waste water, can operate between 25 to 100 percent capacity.

"We tried to make everything as energy efficient as possible," said Earl Billing, director of Public Services.

Three cells are 100 by 100 feet each, holding a combined 3.2 million gallons of runoff and sewer-

age in the retention basin

An elaborate system has been constructed, which keeps the waste water from turning septic while sitting in the holding tanks.

Chemicals are injected and large fans are turned on, which forces the air stream from the basin through an odor control system. Thus, neighbors near the Nine Mile facility won't have to deal with the stink.

There are other benefits

Atmospheric testing equipment throughout the pumping station and retention can detect any toxic materials that may be dumped into the system. Also, the separation should help reduce basement flooding.

"You can't eliminate it," Billing said. "I can't control what people will stick into (the system) and back up the sewers."

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