

# A County Engineer Rises To Defense Of 'Super Sewer'

By TIM RICHARD  
Denouncing "irrelevant and abstract" arguments of Ann Arbor "politicians and professors," a Wayne County engineer has come to the de-

fense of Super Sewer, the proposed 64-mile sanitary interceptor that would serve parts of three counties.

The defense came from Duane R. Egeland, 15454 Golfview, Livonia. He is chief engineer of the Wayne County department of public works and assistant sanitary engineer of the Wayne County Road Commission.

Egeland says he "cannot claim to be impartial on the issue" because he helped prepare much of the material which caused Super Sewer to be endorsed by the state Water Resources Commission, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Lining up against Super Sewer are U.S. Rep. Marvin Eash (R-Ann Arbor), State Rep. Raymond Smit (R-Ann Arbor), many Ann Arbor city leaders and an organization called COSS - Citizens Opposed to Super Sewer.

Egeland wrote a summary of the project's history for the federal EPA, as Eash and Ann Arbor leaders are asking that agency to reconsider its approval.

In essence, he argues that Super Sewer is the "last hope for the Huron River and that there is too much danger of malfunctions in the proliferation of local sewer plants in the Huron watershed."

Far from being the brainchild of either Wayne County or the "big city" of Detroit, Super Sewer was really proposed in 1960 by consulting engineers hired by the predecessor committee of the Huron River Watershed Council - that is, it's an Ann Arbor plan to begin with, Egeland argues.

And instead of polluting Lake Erie, he contends the highly treated effluent will "in some respects be better than the quality of natural lake water."

Ann Arbor's and Ypsilanti's early arguments against Super Sewer were frankly political, Egeland recalls. "Those cities' sewer plants 'had been a powerful tool in persuading adjacent areas to annex to the core city rather than to incorporate into competing communities.'"

Wayne County got into the act by opposing federal aid for expansion of local sewage treatment plants in Washtenaw County. An argument Egeland continually throws in the opponents' face is this: "Malfunctions at the Washtenaw plants had caused pollution problems to occur in the Wayne County reach of the river on several occasions since the 1963 plant expansions."

"Wayne officials were appalled at the prospect of further expansions of the plants which would undoubtedly result in more frequent and more serious pollution of the river."

"It is interesting to note that at the time the Washtenaw communities did not dispute Wayne County's contention that the interceptor plan was ecologically superior to the local expansion plan, but based their position almost exclusively on the economic hardship involved in implementing the (Super Sewer) plan."

Egeland brands as "exaggerated" the concern over the effect of a large treatment plant discharging phosphates into Lake Erie. He notes that "both plans called for the construction of relatively large plants at the mouth of the Huron River."

Super Sewer, he says, would avoid problems caused by malfunctions at local plants: "It would be in a logical location to serve as a collection sewer; it could serve to equalize flows between plants; and most importantly it would serve as a safety valve to carry raw wastewater to downstream plants during treatment interruptions."

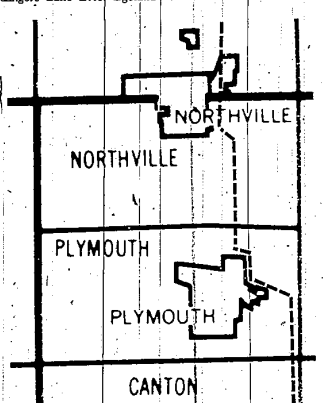
Ann Arborites contend Super Sewer would do nothing to eliminate Huron River pollution caused by storm water runoff, erosion, pesticides and fertilizer. To this Egeland replies:

"Like most of Ann Arbor's arguments, this one was actually irrelevant inasmuch as

the storm water and non-point pollution problem must be resolved regardless of which plan is finally implemented."

While Ann Arborites charge that Super Sewer endangers Lake Erie, Egeland

says their local plan endangers the Huron River. Under 10-year drought conditions, the Huron could be composed of 100 per cent treated sewage. A Lake Erie plant, even during a drought, would still dilute its flow on a 100 to one basis.



THE "SUPER SEWER" route approved by the Environmental Protection Agency is shown by the dotted line. Running along Hannan Road, it will cut through Canton Township and veer west to sideswipe Plymouth and cut through Plymouth Township. Local environmentalists have attacked the plan, maintaining it will cause pollution and disrupt population growth in the area.

## 3 Chosen For All-Star Band

DEARBORN  
Three Observant musicians were among 17 high school students named to the all-star band chosen at the end of the third jazz ensemble festival at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn.

Richard Pryor of Farmington's Harrison High School, was one of three trombone players named to the all-star group. Matt Combs of Livonia's Stevenson High and Mike Wiese, also of Harrison, were saxophone players named to the group.

## Dowsett Quits Institute

Dan Dowsett has resigned as chief executive of the Michigan Mobile Home and Recreational Vehicle Institute to devote more time with the Detroit Outdoorama show.

Dowsett had been chief executive at the institute since June of 1972 and, increased the membership from 58 to more than 800 companies. Dowsett has been show director and a partner of Outdoorama of America Inc., which owns and operates the Detroit show. He also directed the Detroit Camper and Travel Trailer Show from 1968 to 1973.

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