

# Super sewer runs into delays as funding deadline draws near

By Tim Richard  
Staff writer

Super sewer is running into problems from two directions.

"A tactic of delay can kill it," said Duane Egeland, head of the Wayne County Public Works Department. But he is confident he can answer any question anybody can raise about the project.

"Super sewer" is the nickname of the Huron Valley wastewater treatment project — a sewage treatment plant and giant interceptor sewer designed to serve western Oakland and Wayne counties. Estimated cost: \$298 million.

May 1 is the deadline for securing 75 percent federal funding, according to Janis Bobrin, staff person for the Area-wide Water Quality Board. Delays could endanger Egeland's chances of getting the full \$210 million from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

THE PROBLEMS are coming from

## OU videotape course Feb. 12

Videotape production training will be offered Feb. 12 by the Oakland University Division of Continuing Education.

Participants will film with a video camera and electronically edit a tape. The course will emphasize use of the portable camera, video recorder and remote lighting and audio.

George A. Preislinger, manager of the Instructional Technology Center at OU, will conduct the class from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the university studies.

Tuition is \$70. Enrollment is limited. Registration information is available by calling 377-3120 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays.

## Finance class to help family

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the city of Detroit and the state Department of Natural Resources.

Detroit officials say their sewage treatment plant has unused capacity, Bobrin said. In past years, Detroit planners also have argued that suburban development would drain revenue sources from the city, and that federal aid shouldn't be used for what is essentially replacement sewer capacity in a no-growth region.

Detroit insists it could serve the northern part of the super sewer region and that Egeland is overestimating the cost of pumping sewage to the Detroit plant.

DNR is raising questions about the design, said Egeland. "The information is there," he said with a trace of irritation. "But DNR is in a constant state of reorganization, and they don't know where to find it."

DNR asked for more detail on super sewer's stream crossings and questioned whether the project is needed in Commerce Township. Another meeting is scheduled for this week.

## OCC corrects adventure film phone number

An incorrect telephone number may have frustrated persons who wanted to reserve tickets to the three-part "World Adventure Film Series" at Oakland Community College's Highland Lakes campus.

Group rates and reservation information are available from Carol Lubin at 360-3041. An earlier story from the college indicated an incorrect telephone number.

Tickets are \$3 per film for the general public or \$8 for all three in the series.

"Life in Austria" will be shown at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11, in the student center building at Highland Lakes, 7350 Cooley Lake Road in Union Lake.

The adventure series will continue with a grand tour of northern Europe on March 25 and Japan on May 20.

THE PROJECT area is a band of cities and townships in the general route of I-275 freeway from Commerce to the mouth of the Huron River on the shore of Lake Erie. It includes Novi, the two Northvilles, Plymouth Township and Canton Township.

At question is the portion north of Canton. If the north service area is dropped from the project, super sewer's dimensions would be scaled down.

At that, Egeland said, the Huron Valley sewage treatment plant would be a small one — 50-million gallons a day (by the year 2005) compared to Wyandotte's 100 MGD and Detroit's 3,000 MGD.

As planned, the federal government (with a state recommendation) would fund 75 percent, the state 5 percent and the local area 20 percent of construction costs, Egeland said.

FEDERAL MONEY would come from the Clean Water Act, under which appropriations were made for the fiscal years of 1972-75. Deadline for qualifying for that money, as Bobrin said, is May 1.

Work must actually be under way by September of 1984, Egeland added. If it

isn't, the federal share could be reduced to 55 percent.

The Area-wide Water Quality Board, an offshoot agency of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, is not officially on one side or the other. SEMCOG/AWQB has used its staff to set up meetings between the governmental agencies, identifying and clarifying issues, according to James B. Cogrove, AWQB chairperson.

SERIOUS PLANNING on super sewer began in 1972, Egeland said.

At that time, the plan encompassed an area stretching up to White Lake Township in northern Oakland County and the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti area in Washtenaw County.

Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti decided to go their own way in 1975. The northern townships in Oakland County and the city of Walled Lake also dropped out. In 1977, the federal government asked for an environmental impact statement, which meant another delay, he said.

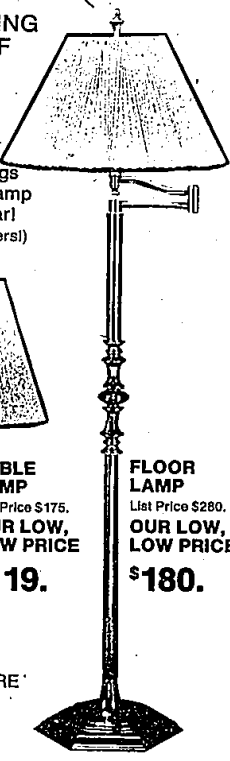
"Delay could be fatal," added Egeland, known as the official father of super sewer. "It's a good tactic. If I opposed this, that is how I would do it."




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