

Wastewater concerns from 0 Carter Dr. Tract A development

The volume of wastewater in our system has not been a concern. The wastewater plant is currently allowed to take in 381,000 gallons a day. Last year the maximum daily load for the entire town when it was at its peak was 239,000 gallons of wastewater. The second highest daily load over the last 2 years was 183,000 gallons and the average looks to be around 130,000 gallons a day.

The town is currently working with the state to allow the wastewater plant to accept more of certain high strength pollutants, discussed further below. As part of this process, engineers and the state felt we could even lower our maximum daily influent load to 306,000 gallons a day. So, the additional volume of wastewater from this development and even the planned development to the East do not look to be a concern.

The concern with our wastewater has been particular pollutants being too high. One of those pollutants is called Biochemical Oxygen Demand or BOD. It should also be noted that the BOD coming out of the plant has been well below the allowable limit. The State has a limit on how much BOD can go into the plant in addition to how much can come out of it. This is where our system has seen much higher numbers than it should, with the amount of BOD in the wastewater going into the plant. The wastewater plant takes these higher levels of BOD and still gets them below the limit allowed on the way out of the plant. The wastewater system is doing its job.

There is a financial cost to our system getting the high amounts of BOD out of the wastewater. The industry standard is that residential BOD levels are very low. Certain industries have wastewater that contain various degrees of BOD from slightly high to extremely high. That is why the town worked with the to develop a classification table based on industry levels of BOD and a surcharge for those industries wastes. Residential wastewater usually averages a BOD level of 250 mg/L and our surcharge classifications for industry range from 1,000 to over 3,000 for high. Residential wastewater is usually not a concern for high BOD levels.

Another concern for Lyons is copper. The copper levels leaving the wastewater plant have exceeded the allowable limit. The State has sent us notices that we must do something about this.

Lyons must also test a sampling of houses for copper and lead in their drinking water. The state has given guidelines of what locations are most at risk, buildings built between 1983 and 1987, then a 2nd level before 1983. So new housing is not a concern for copper in the wastewater system. Some industries do have higher levels of copper in their wastewater and the town is working with all customers in the high classification for high strength waste or pollutants. These are all businesses.

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