



# City of Nampa

## Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Upgrade

### Wastewater Advisory Group

#### Meeting #8 Summary

**May 30, 2012 ♦ 4 – 6 p.m.**

Nampa Civic Center

311 3<sup>rd</sup> St. South

Nampa, Idaho 83651



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## **Overview**

The City of Nampa must implement an extensive program to upgrade how it treats and disposes its wastewater in order to meet anticipated stricter regulations.

The purpose of the Nampa Wastewater Advisory Group (NWAG) is to provide guidance to the City of Nampa on how best to upgrade its wastewater treatment and disposal system.

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## **NWAG Meeting #8 Agenda and Format**

The City of Nampa hosted the eighth Nampa Wastewater Advisory Group (NWAG) meeting on Wednesday, May 30, 2012 at the Nampa Civic Center.

### **The meeting objectives were to:**

- Provide an update on City Council decisions, long-term options and regulatory developments.
- Provide an overview of the cost of service study.
- Discuss and gather input on industrial policies.

### **Agenda:**

- Welcome and workshop objectives – Michael Fuss, P.E., MBA, Public Works Director, City of Nampa
- Housekeeping – Rosemary Curtin, Public Involvement Consultant, RBCI
- Wastewater program updates – Steve Burgos, Senior Associate, Brown and Caldwell
- Review of public involvement process and outcomes – Rosemary Curtin
- Long-term option investigations and regulatory update – Steve Burgos
- Cost of service study overview – Bill Jarocki, Policy Consultant, Voltaic Solutions
- Industrial policy overview – Bill Jarocki
- Next steps – Rosemary Curtin

### **Each attendee was provided the following handouts:**

- Agenda for NWAG Meeting #8
- PowerPoint presentation for NWAG Meeting #8
- Comment form

## **Summary of Presentations**

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### **Welcome and workshop objectives – Michael Fuss, P.E., Public Works Director, City of Nampa**

Michael Fuss thanked all meeting attendees for continuing to participate in the Wastewater Advisory Group (NWAG) process and made the following opening remarks:

- The City greatly appreciates all the time and effort that NWAG members have committed to this process and learning about the wastewater issues.
- The Program Management Team recently presented the work that has been completed over the past year to the Nampa City Council. The City Council approved a phased approach and the upgrade process is continuing to move forward.
- Upgrades will be made to Nampa's wastewater treatment plant to meet the 2018 permit requirements. The Program Management Team will continue to evaluate and gather input on the long-term upgrade options to determine which option is best for Nampa.
- The next major step of this process will be to complete the cost of service study and look at a potential sewer rate increase. The first part of the cost of service study will require the City to review all current policies and procedures related to wastewater activities.
- When the cost of service study is completed, it will be presented to the NWAG. The NWAG will meet again before the rate increase is proposed to City Council.

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### **Housekeeping – Rosemary Curtin, Public Involvement Consultant, RBCI**

Rosemary Curtin thanked all the NWAG members for attending the meeting and reviewed all the meeting handouts. Rosemary also reviewed the following housekeeping issues:

- NWAG members are encouraged to fill out their comment forms. Gathering input from everyone is a very important part of the working group process.
- The next NWAG meeting will be held around the end of this summer. The exact date has not yet been determined.
- The meeting is being recorded in order to accurately record questions and help with the development of the meeting summary.
- All meeting summaries and meeting materials are available on the website [www.cityofnampa.us/wastewater/](http://www.cityofnampa.us/wastewater/)

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### **Wastewater Program Updates – Steve Burgos, Senior Associate, Brown and Caldwell**

- The City is continuing to make good progress in executing the Wastewater Program Action Plan. The plan includes technical evaluation of the upgrade options, financing and rate studies, coordinating with regulators, public outreach and reaching key decision points.

- On March 29, the Program Management Team met with Nampa’s City Council to receive direction moving forward with the phased approach, long-term options and asked for approval on cost of service/rate study. The Program Management Team also wanted to confirm that the City council is comfortable with the consideration of bond financing.
- The City Council approved beginning the design process for the Phase 1 improvements at the plant, while still keeping all the long-term options in consideration. The decision to pursue phasing means that upgrades will be made to the treatment plant to meet the anticipated interim 2018 phosphorus limit of 0.5 mg/L.
- Upgrading the wastewater treatment and disposal system in two phases will allow the City to adjust its options as new permit requirements are determined. The City will have a better ability to navigate through the uncertain regulatory processes if it is given more time to determine a long-term option.
- The City will continue to investigate long-term options for how to best meet the anticipated 2023 phosphorus limit of 0.07 mg/L. A long-term option will be selected between 2013 and 2018 and implemented to meet the 2023 phosphorus requirement of 0.07 mg/L.
- As the first phase of upgrades are being made to the plant, the City will continue to investigate Direct and Rapid Infiltration, Treat and Offset and Treat to EPA Levels as long-term options for complying with the future permit limits.
- Sewer rates will need to be increased to cover the costs of upgrading the treatment plant to meet 2018 permit requirements. Phasing of upgrades could help manage rate increases.
- The anticipated schedule for phasing activities is:
  - Complete permitting activities and planning documents by July 2012.
  - Complete the cost of service study by August 2012.
  - Complete the study of financing options by August 2012.
  - Continue public involvement activities.
  - Continue program coordination, regulatory coordination and consultant management.
- The preliminary design of the Phase I upgrades will be complete by April 2013.

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### **Review of Public Involvement Process and Outcomes – Rosemary Curtin, Public Involvement Consultant, RBCI**

Rosemary presented a high-level overview of the public involvement activities that the City has conducted to involve the community in the wastewater upgrade process:

- Nampa’s Wastewater Program Management Team believed involving and beginning to inform the Nampa community about the wastewater upgrades was important because of:
  - Anticipated high cost of the upgrades.
  - Impacts to industry.

- The complexity of the upgrade process.
- The fact that the upgrades will bring cleaner water but no noticeable improvement to sewer services.
- Based on experience, the public involvement methods early in the process needed to be personal, educational and conversational. To this end, the following groups were formed:
  - Industry Working Group
  - Virtual Focus Group
  - Nampa's Wastewater Advisory Group (NWAG)
- The purpose of these groups was to review technical work, question assumptions, review and provide input on upgrade options, provide perspectives of the Nampa community that should be considered in the process and provide advice on funding options.
- *Industry Working Group* - There are major industries in the City of Nampa. City leadership recognizes the significant role industries have in the community and values their input in the decision making process. Industry representatives were invited to participate in an Industry Working Group to provide input on upgrading Nampa's wastewater treatment and disposal system. The team held seven group meetings and several one-on-one meetings with major industry representatives.
- *Virtual Focus Group* - The City formed a virtual focus group of 500 members, comprised of community leaders, residents and business representatives. The surveys allowed participants to learn about the wastewater upgrade and provide their thoughts and opinions into the decision making process. All Nampa citizens were invited to participate in the surveys. Between October 2010 and March 2012, three surveys were conducted. The surveys could be completed electronically or by mail.
  - The most recent survey (#3) was conducted in March 2012. This survey asked participants to provide input on phasing and funding.
  - Of the participants that completed the survey, 87 percent said they would support phasing the upgrades and 13 percent said would not support phasing the upgrades.
  - Of the participants that completed the survey, 20 percent said they would prefer cash funding. Of the participants that completed the survey, 80 percent said they would prefer bond financing.
- *Nampa Wastewater Advisory Group (NWAG)* - Over the past eight months, the NWAG has worked closely with the City and committed time to learning technical information about the upgrade process. The NWAG has met eight times between August 2011 and May 2012. The NWAG meetings allowed community members to gain a better understanding of Nampa's wastewater issues and contribute well-informed thoughts and opinions. NWAG members also provided unique expertise that has helped the City learn more about Nampa's current wastewater system and evaluate possible options for how upgrades can be implemented.
  - At the most recent NWAG meeting (#7), 27 participants answered the City Council's questions:

- The group unanimously understands why the upgrade is necessary.
- Nearly all of the NWAG participants said they would be willing to speak with members of their community and explain their preference regarding the long-term upgrade options.
- The majority of the NWAG members said they could support either cash or bond financing.
- Many NWAG participants indicated they would like to continue to be involved as the wastewater upgrade process moves forward.
- Moving forward, the NWAG recommended:
  - Public education is most important.
  - The City should use many methods to educate the public, specifically about the need for the upgrades and the upcoming sewer rate increase.
  - The public needs to know the upgrades are mandated by the EPA.
- Throughout this process, the public has brought great value by making the following contributions:
  - Reviewing technical work.
  - Questioning assumptions.
  - Reviewing upgrade options and providing input.
  - Providing perspectives of the Nampa community that should be considered in the process.
  - Providing advice on funding options.

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### **Long-term option investigations and regulatory update – Steve Burgos**

Steve provided the following information about the investigation of infiltration and a regulatory update:

- Three potential sites are being investigated for the possibility of infiltration. The City has drilled exploratory wells and determined that Site 1 has underlying soils less conducive for infiltration. Site 2 has highly variable soil quality but no contiguous clay layers. Site 2 also has the largest available acreage. Site 3 has relatively conducive soils for infiltration. However, this site is the furthest from the treatment plant so it would require the longest pipeline.
- The next step for infiltration will be to discuss the findings of the exploratory drilling with the Idaho DEQ. The Program Management Team will complete the initial field investigations and brief Nampa's City Council on the findings.
- In March the Program Management Team met with EPA Region 10 from Seattle to confirm the permitting process and hold preliminary discussions of discharge criteria. This meeting gave the Program Management Team the opportunity to present Nampa's unique discharge situation.

- It is anticipated Nampa will receive its draft NPDES permit by the fall of 2012.
- In April the Program Management Team met with EPA Idaho Operations to follow-up on action items from the March meeting and identify key questions/issues for resolution.
- The Idaho DEQ has initiated the development process for the Lower Boise TMDL for total phosphorus. The goal is to have the TMDL developed by February 2014.
- Idaho Rivers United (IRU) appealed the City of Boise's NPDES permit because IRU believes that phosphorus limits should be year-round, not seasonal. The City of Boise and IRU are discussing possible resolution of the issue and the result could impact the viability of Nampa's Treat and Offset option.

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### **Cost of service study overview – Bill Jarocki, Policy Consultant, Voltaic Solutions**

Bill explained the following information about the cost of service study:

- The purpose of the cost of service study is to determine a rational basis for distributing the revenue requirement to each type of customer (e.g., industrial, residential, commercial, etc.).
- The cost of service analysis determines what the costs are among the different classes of customers, based on how they use the system.
- The first step of the cost of service study is to develop policies and assess rate revenue needs. The revenue needs are based on operation budget, system replacement needs, capital improvement plan and key policy objectives.
- The second step is to allocate expenses by function and define the customer classes. When defining customer classes, the cost of service analysis will look for distinctions in demand and service and define levels of demand.
- The third step is to design the rates and allocate the costs to the customers.

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### **Industrial Policy Overview – Bill Jarocki**

Bill explained that the City is currently working with Nampa's major industries to develop comprehensive policies regarding industrial capacity reservation (i.e., industrial connection fees) and usage for wastewater services:

- The goals of the process are to develop industrial wastewater capacity reservation policies that are:
  - Complimentary with Nampa's economic development strategy;
  - An incentive for industrial development and existing industry expansion; and
  - Designed to maintain the financial integrity of the Sewer Fund.

- The City conducted research to discover incentive techniques being used by communities throughout the country and evaluate existing incentive programs and the applicability of those studies to the Nampa effort.
- The key themes from the research are:
  - Broad policy statements emphasizing equity and fund integrity are included
  - Tax abatement and fee waivers are included
  - Quid Pro Quo – Industry requirements to earn incentives are included
- Below are the results of cursory research conducted on wastewater policies for other cities in Idaho:
  - Boise – no formal incentive policies; up-front industrial wastewater capacity charges are required; financing is available, but may require security instrument.
  - Caldwell – no formal incentive policies; up-front industrial wastewater capacity charges are required; payment is required before the building permit is issued.
  - Pocatello – no formal incentive policies; up-front industrial wastewater capacity charges are required; payment is required before site occupancy.
  - Twin Falls – No incentive policies; sewer rates may be negotiated.
  - Meridian – Economic development incentive policies are expected to be drafted this year (2012-2013).
  - Idaho Falls – has an economic and community development incentive program; the City may expedite the permitting process; the City may waive all or part of the fees with the establishment of new businesses.
- The City of Nampa does not currently have wastewater capacity reservation policies documented. The City wants to work with the Industry Working Group to develop and document economic incentive policies. Providing Nampa’s City Council with a set of policies to operate within will enable the City to move away from the “deal-by-deal” approach where precedent is set with every negotiated contract.
- The City is considering the following capacity reservation policies:
  - 1) *Lending wastewater system capacity* – The City would give new and/or expanding industries a certain amount of capacity, but the industry wouldn’t own it permanently. If the wastewater treatment plant reaches the level of 85 percent capacity, the City could take the lent excess capacity back from the industry. The City would get the benefit of the economic activity and there would be no cost to industry. However, there would be some risk to industry because their ability to discharge could be interrupted if the City had to take the lent capacity back.
  - 2) *Purchase of wastewater system capacity* – The City would calculate how much it would cost for the new/expanding industry to reserve capacity at the wastewater plant. The industry would buy its needed capacity from the City and obtain a property right to the capacity. Outright purchase of being able to discharge into the plant would guarantee industry the stability and predictability of being able to discharge into the plant. If the industry did not use the capacity that it purchased, the City, as a

- matter of policy, could charge the industry a “holding fee” for not using the capacity that it bought.
- 3) *Lease/purchase of wastewater system capacity* – This policy would be a hybrid of the lending and purchase policies. The industry would make monthly payments (with interest) and accumulate the property right to the capacity over a specified amount of time. There would be no recall of the capacity according to the lease/purchase terms. This option would pose less risk to industry and less risk to the City. It would also enable cash flow orientation.
  - 4) *Tax abatement* – If an industry were to come to Nampa, the City would rebate some portion or all property taxes that the business would otherwise pay to the general fund. The industry could keep the property taxes which would offset the charge of buying or leasing capacity reservations. An important factor to consider with this policy is that the revenue impact to the general fund would be delayed until the industry’s property taxes are collected, which would result in a delayed effect of the tax abatement for the industry.
  - 5) *Transferability of previously purchased capacity reservations* – If an industry were to move from one facility to another within Nampa it could transfer a portion or all of its capacity. This transfer would be dependent on the capabilities of the City’s collection system (i.e. pump stations and pipelines) to handle to relocated industry.
  - 6) *Pretreatment* –If pretreatment benefits the wastewater plant because it allows the City to maximize capacity and reduce the loading, the City could negotiate a cost share of the pre-treatment capital, operations and maintenance costs with the company.
- A cost of service study needs to be developed for the wastewater upgrade process. The City is trying to establish industrial wastewater capacity reservation policies so these policies can be incorporated in the cost of service already being conducted. The cost of service study will determine Nampa’s sewer rate increase that is expected late this summer.

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### **Next Steps – Steve Burgos, Brown and Caldwell**

Steve explained the anticipated schedule of next steps for the upgrade process:

- Next steps for the cost of service study:
  - Develop draft policy documents – Early June
  - Present draft policies to the Industry Working Group – Mid-June
  - Present draft policies to City Council – Mid-July
  - Complete preliminary cost of service study – Mid-August
  - Present preliminary cost of service results to the NWAG – End of August
- Next steps for technical evaluations:

- Draft supplemental WWTP planning documents – Early June
- Finalize supplemental WWTP planning documents – Mid-July
- Initiate Phase 1 preliminary design – Early August
- Next steps for regulatory:
  - Finalize NPDES permit issues and approach – Early June
  - Meet with EPA Region 10 to discuss NPDES permit – Mid-June
  - Meet with Idaho DEQ about infiltration investigation – Mid-June
  - Meet with EPA Region 10 to discuss NPDES permit – Mid-July
  - Attend Lower Boise River Total Phosphorus TMDL Meetings – Throughout
- Next steps for public involvement:
  - Meet with Industry Working Group to develop draft policies – Mid-June
  - Present draft policies to City Council – Mid-July
- The next NWAG meeting is scheduled to be held near the end of August.
- Please fill out and return your comment forms to Kate Nice at RBCI. You can email comments to [kate@rbc.net](mailto:kate@rbc.net) or mail your comment form to 1945 Wildwood, Boise, ID 83713.

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## **Questions and Answers**

Below are the questions asked by NWAG members at the meeting and questions that were submitted on comment forms. The Program Management Team has added information to this summary in order to clarify a point or more accurately answer a question.

### **1) Will the wastewater upgrades change the capacity of the plant?**

The upgrades we are currently planning will not change the capacity of the wastewater treated at the plant. These upgrades are being made to meet stricter effluent limitations.

### **2) If there is significant growth in Nampa between now and 2018, how would this impact upgrading the wastewater plant?**

The City has extra capacity to have growth potential for probably the next 20 to 25 years. If there was a significant growth over a short period of time, the plant would be modified to accommodate the sudden growth.

### **3) Is Nampa's plan to upgrade the plant flexible enough that it could absorb growth?**

The growth rate would need to be significantly higher than current projections. The City still has enough capacity to accommodate the anticipated growth according to Nampa's comprehensive plan. The proposed upgrades are such that they can be easily expanded to accommodate growth in the future, if needed.

**4) Would Nampa build a second treatment plant, rather than expand the existing plant?**

The facility plan talked about a build out capacity of the current plant of 26 million gallons. This capacity is based largely on the collection system infrastructure that is used to transport flow to the plant. If flows were to reach this level, the City may need to look at constructing a second plant.

**5) How did the City find the people who own land that is being tested for infiltration?**

Based on our criteria, the City found property and contacted the owners of those properties and asked if they were interested in selling. During the open house for infiltration, some people volunteered to have their property tested for infiltration.

**6) Are any of the possible infiltration sites close enough to Lake Lowell that it would involve the Bureau of Reclamation?**

No, the groundwater flow direction for all of the sites being investigated is away from Lake Lowell and towards the Snake River, Therefore, it is not anticipated that the Bureau of Reclamation would be involved.

**7) Aren't there also residents around Infiltration Sites 2 and 3 that have wells? Will that be a problem?**

The water applied to the infiltration basins will have to be treated to a very high level to avoid impacts to the surrounding drinking water wells. Additionally, DEQ will require the City to provide sufficient modeling to show that the water quality in these wells will not be significantly impacted.

**8) Does the cost of service study relate to the estimated sewer rate increases?**

Yes, the cost of service study is the next step in the sewer rate increase. The estimated rate increases that have been discussed previously were based on the estimated revenue and typical residential rates. The cost of service study will look at how the revenue requirements should be distributed to the different classes of users. This will help set the rates for each group.

**9) If a new business were to come to Nampa, and the City gives it a break, wouldn't the whole cost of service study "go out the window?"**

The City is looking at implementing industrial policies that may provide incentives for economic development (i.e. industries coming to Nampa). These policies are being developed such that the Sewer Fund can remain whole. Therefore, the cost of service study does not "go out the window" if another industry comes to Nampa.

**10) Does the City know of any industries that are currently interested in Nampa? Is that what these policies are geared toward?**

There are always industries inquiring about locating to Nampa. These policies are not only geared to providing incentives towards having industry locate in Nampa but also set standard policy on how the City will charge connection fees for industry.

**11) Will the cost of service study involve connection fees as well as rates?**

Yes, the cost of service study looks at connection fees as well as rates.

**12) Will the cost of service study take into account factors such as inflation?**

Yes, the cost of service study takes into account factors such as inflation. The assumptions for these factors will be presented to the NWAG so that everyone is clear on what assumptions were made.

**13) What does “payment before occupancy” mean?**

Payment before occupancy means that the City must receive payment for the sewer connection fee prior to issuing the certificate of occupancy for a building.

**14) If an industry leaves Nampa, what happens to the fees that they paid in?**

The City retains the connection fee paid by industry if an industry leaves town. The City is currently looking at industrial policies that may allow the industry to sell this capacity to another industry.

**15) Will the policies being developed by the Industry Working Group pertain to wastewater only? Or will they be applied to other areas within the City government?**

The policies being developed will pertain only to the Sewer Fund. The Public Works Department is working closely with other city departments, such as the Economic Development Department, to ensure the policies developed support their efforts.

**16) As a matter of practicality, will these policies mirror existing policies?**

The industrial policies are being developed to codify ways the City will charge connection fees to the City’s WWTP. Currently, there are no standard policies in place.

**17) Won’t the incentives treat new industries preferentially over the industries that are already established in Nampa?**

The City is working to develop policies that suit the needs of both new and existing industries. There will be no distinction in the policies as to who is able to use the policy. For example, if an existing industry wanted to expand and needed to pay an additional connection fee, they would be able to use the same policy framework as a new industry.

**18) Are there different tiers of industry?**

Yes. Industrial customers are distinct from commercial and produce a higher volume and concentration of waste. The City currently has 9 different customer classes based on variables such as strength of waste and flow. The City will review the customer classes as part of the Cost of Service Study

**19) Since industry can pretreat their wastewater, is there any apparatus that a household can purchase to pretreat their wastewater? Is that an option?**

There are systems that residents can use to pretreat wastewater. However, these are not typically cost effective because of the costs associated with installing and operating the

system. In addition, the City or homeowner would be required to manage the waste products generated from pre-treatment of the wastewater.

**20) Could residential developments pretreat based on their capacity?**

There is an economy of scale for pretreatment of industrial wastewater. This is not present for residential customers, so pretreatment is typically not cost effective. However, residents can help by using less water which results in less wastewater generated.

**21) Could the City provide incentives for high-density development?**

Yes, the City could consider adding policies for high-density development in the future. The City would first need to make sure these policies support the goals of the Strategic Plan, similar to the industrial policies.

**22) Will there be a second cost of service study prior to implementing a long-term option?**

Yes, there will be a second cost of service study prior to implementing the long-term option.

**23) If the rate increase causes the Nampa community to dramatically reduce its water usage, would the cost of service have to be adjusted?**

Yes, if there was a dramatic reduction in residential water usage the cost of service study may have to be adjusted. However, steps are taken in the cost of service study to estimate the typical percent reduction in water usage.

**24) When the City invites a new industry to town, does it calculate how much water the new industry will use? Does the City calculate how much room will be left in the plant after the new industry hooks up?**

Yes, the City goes through an extensive process when a new industry comes to town and requests to hook up to the wastewater system. Part of this process is verifying that there is sufficient capacity at the plant.

**25) What happens if a citizen decides that part, or all, of this wastewater plan cost is viewed as a tax and files a suit?**

The Sewer Fund is a well-established utility within the City. Additionally, it is very clear that a site is connected to the system because of the pipe connections thereby establishing a clear link between rate paid and service received. Therefore, it is not anticipated that the rate increase will be seen as a tax.

**26) What steps will be taken to educate the public about the safety of the water for residents near potential infiltration sites?**

The City has already started a public outreach and education campaign for the residents near the infiltration sites. This will continue through the duration of the project to keep the residents apprised of the decisions and potential safety concerns.

**27) What are other ways, besides a septic system, for households to reduce toxins in the wastewater they send out to the plant?**

There are several commercial systems available for treating residential wastewater. However, these systems do not reduce the amount of flow to the sewer system, which is what residential bills are based on.

**28) If bonding is used, could a lien be placed on new development until its hookup fees are paid for?**

The City requires that connection fees are paid before allowing a development to discharge to the system. Therefore, no liens are necessary.

**29) Does stormwater really get piped to Nampa Wastewater Treatment Plant for treatment? Or does it simply empty into drain ditches and Snake River system?**

No, the wastewater and stormwater systems are separate in Nampa. The stormwater from the City is collected in the storm drainage system and discharged to Indian Creek at various points.

**30) How have other areas (similar to Nampa in residential economy) paid for this process?**

Other cities have used both cash and bond financing to pay for upgrades to the wastewater treatment system. Both have advantages and disadvantages. Ultimately, it is up to the City to decide what is best for its particular circumstance.

**31) Can the old treatment plant be fixed so that the closer and older parts of town can use it and let the newer parts of town use the new treatment plant?**

The City only maintains one treatment plant and both old and new parts of town use this plant. In the future, there may be the need for an additional treatment plant south of town as a means of more efficiently addressing the growth in southern Nampa. The flow to this treatment plant would come from residents in the area.

**32) There are a lot of people on small amount of Social Security. How is their income calculated into the cost of service study?**

The cost of service study does not look at the income of individual users in Nampa. Instead, it looks at the cost of providing wastewater treatment services to all the customers in Nampa. The City of Nampa has recently developed a Share and Care program. The purpose of the program is to help low income residents with their utility bills.

**33) What is the residential fixed cost?**

The cost of service study will determine the fixed and variable portions of the rate for the rate increase. The current fixed portion of the rate is \$14.27 per billing cycle, every two months.

**34) If I quit using any water but am still hooked up what would my bill be?**

This has not yet been determined. This amount will depend on how fixed rates (those rates which everyone pays) and variable rates (those rates based on usage) are developed for the increased rate.

**35) Is there to be one industrial rate? Or will industrial rates be based not only on volume, but on what is in their water?**

The current industrial rates are based on both flow and constituent loading. The industries are all charged the same amount per constituent, but their rates vary based on their flow and loadings.

**36) If a plant were to restart would the new company pay up front fees? And to what extent?**

Yes, the new company would need to pay the connection fees for this facility. Once a company vacates a facility and ceases to discharge to the wastewater system, that capacity is absorbed by the system.

**37) Are there conflicts between what industry wants and what the general public wants?**

Residential, commercial and industrial customers all want to keep their rates as low as possible. Therefore, there is a fundamental conflict because the costs which be distributed between these customer classes to ensure the Sewer Fund remains whole and functioning. The purpose of the cost of service study is to determine what each class of customers should be paying based on how they use the system.