

Town of Kendall & Hamlin Sewer District Frequently Asked Questions Low-Pressure Sanitary Sewer System

GRINDER PUMP & LOW-PRESSURE SEWERS QUESTIONS:

1. What is a low-pressure sanitary sewer system?

- a. A low-pressure sewer system uses small-diameter pipes and grinder pumps installed at each home. The sewer lines are buried just below the frost line and follow the contours of the land ("up and down" hills or a constant grade across flat land, for example).

The grinder pump station collects all of the wastewater from the home and grinds it into slurry. The wastewater is then pumped to a wastewater treatment plant or system, a gravity manhole, a larger sewer main or to a septic system.

2. What is a grinder pump?

- a. A grinder pump is a submersible pump that collects wastewater from a building, grinds up the solids, and pumps it to the sewer system through small-diameter pipes.

3. How does a grinder pump work?

- a. All of the wastewater from the home (from toilets, sinks, dishwasher, washing machine, etc) flows by gravity into the tank. When wastewater reaches a certain level, the pump turns on automatically and pumps the wastewater to the sewer main. As it pumps the wastewater, it draws through a grinding mechanism, turning it into a slurry. The pump will turn off automatically.

4. How much electricity does a grinder pump use?

- a. A typical single-family home uses approximately 250 gallons of water per day. The E/One will use between 9 and 20 kWh per month (60-240 kWh per year). Check your utility bill for the cost per kilowatt hour in your area. For example, if you pay 11 cents per kilowatt hour: $\$0.11 \text{ kWh} \times 120 \text{ kWh} = \13.00 per year cost of electricity to operate the E/One pump.

5. What can I flush in my grinder pump?

- a. The only items that should be going down your drains are water, regular toilet paper, and human waste. The following items should not be introduced into the grinder pump station (or any sewer system); they can damage or cause premature problems (parts wearing out) with your pump, or build up in the tank and block your pump from



working properly.

Do not dump large amounts of grease, paint, strong chemicals, and avoid putting sand, kitty litter, etc. down your drain.

Feminine products and personal/cleaning wipes (even if they're marked "flushable") should be disposed of in a garbage can, not flushed. "Flushable" only means that the wipes will fit through your home's pipes, not that they will break down in water.

6. How do I know if my grinder pump isn't working?

- a. Grinder pumps come with an alarm panel. If your grinder pump is working properly, you shouldn't notice it at all — the pump will turn on as needed and pump down the tank; its noise level is similar to that of a washing machine. The pump will turn off after a few minutes.

If your pump stops working, the alarm panel's red light will blink and a buzzer will sound. If the alarm doesn't turn off after a few minutes, call for service. Look on your panel box for our Service Link phone number.

7. What happens if the homeowner doesn't allow an easement?

- a. You will not receive the grinder pump. They will try to avoid properties opting out for the placement of the main line but it will not be guaranteed.

8. What happens when the power goes out?

- a. The grinder will not function if you have no electricity however there is about 75 gallons of storage (avg toilet flush is 1-1.5 gallons). A generator can run the grinder. Typically water usage decreases during power outages due to lack of hot water.

9. How long do the grinder pumps last?

- a. They are expected to last 15-20 years. The Town as accounted for spare parts in the budget in the event of malfunctions.

10. What will happen if my pump stops working?

- a. The Town will have several additional pumps on-hand. If a pump fails, the Town will replace the core pump at no cost to the homeowner.

11. How noisy are the grinder pumps?

- a. Typically, grinder pumps are quieter than most residential refrigerators

12. How difficult is it to get the manhole cover off?

- a. There are four bolts that hold the cover down.

13. Can it handle a garbage disposal?

- a. Yes



14. Can you hide the grinder with bushes or flowers?

- a. Yes, as long as it can still be accessed for maintenance by the Town. Homeowners may also purchase decorative covers from the pump manufacturer.

KENDALL PROJECT SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

1. What if you choose to opt out?

- a. You are still required to pay half an EDU, however if you decide to connect to the sewer in the future, you will be responsible for all installation and connection costs.

2. Where would the money go if the sewer district is not approved?

- a. The Town would forfeit the grant money.

3. What will happen with property assessments?

- a. There is no expected change due to the sewers going in.

4. How will they measure the amount of disposal water?

- a. A master meter will be placed at the end of the system to monitor flows.

5. When is project expected to start?

- a. Design will begin this summer, permits & approvals will begin in 2023, and Construction is expected to begin in 2024.

6. Where will the grinder pumps be located?

- a. The Engineer & contractor will coordinate the location of each grinder pump with the homeowner. The Town may provide stakes to homeowners to locate their desired location.

7. Where will the force main go?

- a. The location of the force main will be determined during the design process.

8. What are the requirements to abandon the septic tanks?

- a. The Town will abandon the septic system, homeowners will be required to provide access.

9. Does the homeowner have to pay to fix their yard from the construction?

- a. No, restoration is included in the project cost.

10. How do seasonal properties handle the system in the off season?

- a. It's recommended to run clean water through to get the solids out and then the electric and water can just be turned off.



- 11. Is there a max distance that the lines can be run from the pump to the main line?**
 - a. It's not really a concern. It can be run much further than any of the properties will be needing.

- 12. Is there a max distance from the grinder to the house?**
 - a. It's recommended to be less than 20-30 feet from the house.

- 13. How far can the alarm panel be from the pump?**
 - a. About 20 feet, it can be mounted on a post or on the house, it must be outside.

- 14. Who pays for the grinder pump?**
 - a. It is a part of the construction project cost.

- 15. How many grinders will be on each property?**
 - a. One grinder for each single-family home.

- 16. Will flooding displace the grinder?**
 - a. There will be concrete at the bottom to keep it from floating up during any flooding. Grinder pumps located below the 100-yr flood elevation will be provided a

- 17. How will you get to the property if it is flooded?**
 - a. We would have to wait until the property is safely accessible.

ELECTRIC QUESTIONS

- 1. How is the electric for the grinder paid for?**
 - a. The electric will be included on your regular electric bill as your household usage. It will not be a separate line item.

- 2. Can we do the electrical installation ourselves?**
 - a. Yes, homeowners may install the electric connection to the grinder pumps alarm panel. All electric work will require a certified inspection

- 3. Does each homeowner have to hire their own electrician?**
 - a. Yes, they must be certified on this system to do the work.

- 4. What size circuit breaker do I need?**
 - a. For a standard 240V single-phase installation, a dedicated 30A breaker is required, with #10 wire, to the E/One panel. You need to bring L1, L2, N and Gnd. A standard 120V single-phase installation requires a dedicated 40A breaker. A 50A breaker is required for a quadplex (4 pumps) installation.



GENERAL / MISCELLANEOUS

- 1. Is there enough force to continually push through the pipes or will it back up?**
 - a. All of the pumps are positive displacement; enough to push all of it.

- 2. Do homeowners need to get permits for the work being done on their properties?**
 - a. No, the permitting is all apart of the main plan.

- 3. Why not address the lake level problem?**
 - a. The REDI grant has requirements, and the sewer project must stay within the grant guidelines.

- 4. Are there other communities that have this system?**
 - a. Yes, Port Bay, Warren County, Blind Sodas Bay, Fairhaven, Town of Milo, Town of Hamlin.

- 5. Will this make improvements to the lake quality?**
 - a. It will make notable improvements to the lake; water quality and ecology

- 6. Where are the flood level requirements for the manhole?**
 - a. Guidance at this time is the top of the lid be at 251'.

- 7. Is it possible to include a gas line or other utility in the same trench as the sewer lateral?**
 - a. No, for safety they are not put in the same trench and they have different requirements. This would fall under RG&E.

Please note: We do not have detailed information about individual properties at this time.

