

The Future of Kingston's Waterfront

December 21, 2005

Concerns:

#4 Sewage Treatment

Waterfront Project Would Strain Sewage Treatment, Impact Water Quality and Thwart Future Development

Smaller project or sewage treatment investment would be required

Developer's Plan: Analysis of The Landing's wastewater study reveals that sewage from the project would exceed capacity of Kingston's sewage treatment plant during peak periods. The developer claims the plant can handle the demand and doesn't plan to pay for improvements.

Reality Check:

- ▶ The Landing, and anticipated Sailors Cove development adjacent to it, would use up existing capacity without a plant expansion. This could stymie future development.
- ▶ AVR Realty says the plant is consistently below 5.5 million gallons per day (mgd). This is not accurate. In the past two years, there were 10 months when volume exceeded 5.5 mgd. Also, the plant has received 20 permit violations in the past three years.
- ▶ The developer doesn't acknowledge capacity needed for contract treatment of sewage from Port Ewen or treatment capability for East Kingston, a community AVR has promised to tie into the wastewater facility.
- ▶ At its present location the plant is wedged between the East Strand and the Trolley Museum and has no room for physical expansion.

see back page



Info:

Call Victor Melendez at 845 473 4440, ext. 211, or e-mail vmelendez@scenichudson.org.
Visit us on line at www.FriendsofKingstonWaterfront.org or www.scenichudson.org.

Quotes:

“The city has identified improvements to the sewage treatment facility as key to attracting and keeping business and tourism downtown. I live two blocks from the plant, so I see that it can barely handle the load now. How much worse will the odor and overflow get with another 6,000 people? And that’s just The Landing – consider all the other development in the area that would be placing demands on the facility.”

—Ann Loeding, a member of FoKW

“How will the wastewater treatment plant handle the sewage from The Landing and Sailors Cove, plus all the additional proposals already in the pipeline and on the drawing boards?”

—Manna Jo Greene, environmental director for Hudson River Sloop Clearwater

Based on the 30-day average flow, the treatment plant presently operates at 77 percent of capacity. Addition of The Landing and Sailors Cove and the Port Ewen flows would push the plant to within:

- ▶ 90% capacity 87% of the time
- ▶ 95% capacity 41% of the time
- ▶ 98% capacity 30% of the time

Based on maximum flows, the plant is projected to be overloaded approximately 15 percent of the time under future conditions.

Note: This does not include the East Kingston flows or any other development that will occur in the City of Kingston.

Continued from front:

More Facts:

- ▶ Plants operating well at below 90 percent typically display deficiencies when reaching greater than 90 percent capacity.
- ▶ The Kingston plant is on the state DEC priority list for a full technical review.
- ▶ As the plant nears capacity, routine maintenance or equipment failure can reduce capacity significantly. The developer fails to recognize this in its analysis.
- ▶ Recognizing that plant odors could affect waterfront redevelopment, the city conducted an odor study in 2003. Study recommendations have begun to be implemented; however, additional odor control is needed. Additional odor impacts from The Landing proposal are not addressed in the environmental review and should be.

Additional

Sources: Testing the Waters, Natural Resources Defense Council: <http://www.nrdc.org/water/oceans/ttw/titinx.asp>
Swimming in Sewage, Natural Resources Defense Council <http://www.nrdc.org/water/pollution/sewage/contents.asp>