

Clinton Oakland Sewage Disposal System (COSDS) Inter-municipal Contract Fact Sheet

The original deadline for approval of the COSDS Inter-municipal Contract was May 2013.

What has been happening over the past several of months?

1. Ongoing discussions, including multiple council meetings were held with the City of Rochester to clarify questions and attempt to alleviate concerns regarding the COSDS Inter-municipal Contract.
2. The Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner's office updated the COSDS communities regarding the status of the COSDS Inter-municipal Contract on July 31, 2013.
3. The proposed contract has been amended as outlined in further detail below.

What is the current status of this proposed contract?

Eleven of the 12 communities approved the contract. The contract was not approved by the City of Rochester.

Why didn't Rochester approve the contract?

The City of Rochester has a separate agreement with the WRC for sanitary sewer service. It is not a member of the COSDS. That agreement is set to expire in 2034. The Inter-municipal Contract proposed to include Rochester as a member of the COSDS. Rochester had concerns regarding the new Inter-municipal Contract and decided to continue under its existing sanitary sewer contract with the WRC.

How does that affect the contract?

The contract requires approval by all communities listed in the contract, so the proposed contract is not valid. In other words, there is no contract.

What other options does the WRC have?

One of the goals, when the proposed Inter-municipal contract was developed, was to eliminate multiple contracts with different expiration dates. As noted above, the City of Rochester has an independent contract with the WRC that expires in 2034, thus the proposed contract can be modified to exclude the City of Rochester and resubmitted to COSDS communities for approval.

Is this how the WRC plans to proceed?

Yes. A significant amount of community collaboration was dedicated to creating the proposed contract. The WRC sees no reason to defer resubmittal to the COSDS communities and request their approval.

Does this mean Rochester will be treated differently than the COSDS communities?

No. Consistent with past practices and its existing contract with the WRC, Rochester will be treated the same as the COSDS communities. Its existing contract states that "the rates and charges to the City (of Rochester) shall be the same as the rates and charges to the Clinton-Oakland Municipalities."

Does anything else need changed in the contract?

Yes. The other necessary change to the contract is to exclude references to the Perry Street Diversion project (see Perry Street Diversion Project Fact Sheet).

What is the timetable for resubmitting the revised contract to the COSDS communities?

The revised contract is being resubmitted with this fact sheet.

What do the COSDS communities need to do next?

The WRC is asking communities to approve the revised contract as originally proposed, but modified to exclude references to the City of Rochester and the Perry Street Diversion Project, at their next council or board meeting.