

New Whitestown treatment plant up and running

By Matt Werner For The Lebanon Reporter | Posted: Wednesday, December 2, 2015 7:00 am

The largest public utility project in Whitestown has finally been completed after more than one year of construction.

The town's new wastewater treatment plant is fully operational and will service all of Whitestown by the end of the year.

The \$25-million plant was built on a 21-acre site in southern Perry Township, near the intersection of County Roads 750 South and 450 West. The plant was designed by GRW Engineers and constructed by Bowen Engineering Corporation. The town received a loan from the Indiana State Revolving Fund program to pay for the project.

"The plant itself was \$15 million," said Whitestown Public Works Director Jason Lawson. "There was a force main relocation, and four lift stations that had to be upgraded, and that was another \$10 million. We were actually able to build this facility without a rate increase to customers. Over time and the next couple years, there's a great chance there will be a decrease in rates to our customers."

Lawson said the project had been in the works for three years.

"Our old plant in original Whitestown, we were getting close to our limit on capacity," he said. "We did a cost of service study because we knew we needed to build a new plant, and the study showed it would be cheaper to build a new one than sending all of our flow to Citizens (in Indianapolis)."



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Whitestown's new wastewater treatment plant is able to process 1.7 million gallons of waste per day. The old station could only process 225,000 gallons per day.

Plant Director Danny Powers said the new plant has a capacity of 1.7 million gallons per day. The original plant's capacity was 225,000 gallons per day.

"It's a sequencing batch reactor plant for the type of treatment it does," he said. "We do grit removal, screen everything before it goes to the tanks for aerating and treatment."

Powers said the plant has monitors throughout the lab so personnel can see what processes are going on, how they are running and if there are any alarms.

"All of the treatment is biological, so there is a bacteria that will clean it all up," he said. "After the waste runs through those sequences, we have ultraviolet bulbs to help clean when that's required before it goes through a flow meter and is discharged (into White Lick Creek)."

Lawson and Powers said the new plant will accommodate the town's rapid growth for the next 20 years easily.

"With the way it was designed, we're able to upgrade it easily," Powers said. "We're at 500,000 gallons per day now, and it'll probably go up another 200,000 gallons when we get Walker Farms and original Whitestown flipped over to it. So we still have more capacity before we need to expand."