Victor F. Weaver Announces Plans to Build $1 Million Sewage Plant

Victor F. Weaver, Inc. recently filed notice of its intention to apply for a permit to treat and discharge industrial wastes.

This action is in conjunction with the company's master plan to build a third stage water treatment facility which will process all plant waste water into a purified state for discharge directly into Mill Creek.

The new facility, incorporating the second stage facilities already under construction on South Custer Avenue below Denver Wood Products, Inc., will be designed to handle one and a half million gallons of waste water daily and will be built in such a way that future expansion would be possible. The company's present discharge is 850,000 gallons per day.

The plant will also be designed with a degree of exterior eye appeal and the grounds appropriately landscaped. The total cost of the entire water treatment project is to exceed $1 million.

Third Stage Treatment

Third Stage (tertiary) water treatment is the most sophisticated form of water treatment available and a comparatively new application to pollution control. The process as it will be applied at Weaver's facilities is as follows:

Waste water discharged by the company is carried via pipelines to the water treatment plant.

Through the use of pumps, air bubbles force grease and fat to the water's surface. Once surfaced, the fats and grease are removed by skimmers and discharged into a disposal area to be hauled away.

The water, now through the primary screening process, enters a wet wall where the water is pumped through the continuous treatment facilities or sent into a storage tank where it will be held until the peak processing time diminishes.

Water, which continues through the process, enters a chemical injection mixing chamber where it is subjected to various chemical solutions. These various chemicals combine with the solids causing them to coagulate, and rise to the surface of the water in the flotation tanks.

The water is then discharged into aeration chambers where it is in contact with air for eight hours, causing more solids to be extracted. A final screening process eliminates any solids still remaining, after which chlorine is added to the water.

The water is now pure enough for cattle to drink and fish to live in, and is ready for discharging into Mill Creek.

Through the treatment in these facilities, the biological oxygen level (B.O.D.) will diminish from a raw sewage count of 1,000 upon entering to a B.O.D. level of 10 when discharged into the creek.

These figures are significant since the higher the B.O.D. level, the lower the oxygen content in the water.

Why Build Facility?

In announcing this project, company officials cited two major reasons for their decision to apply for a permit to treat and discharge industrial waste and construct a complete water treatment facility.

1 — Weaver alone is presently feeding approximately 850,000 gallons of waste water per day into the (New Holland) borough's treatment plant, which has a designed capacity of 900,000 gallons per day. If the company were to stay in the borough system, future plans for company expansion would be stunted and could not be considered for a period of at least two to three years.

2 — The substantial cost factor involved in enlarging or building a new borough water treatment facility would require additional monies from already tax-burdened citizens. Even with such monies on hand, the project could not be completed before 1973.

Weaver is currently in the process of building a pre-treatment facility designed to eliminate initial water treatment burdens. By continuing this project and including the building of a tertiary water treatment system, Weaver would provide the borough with full relief by early 1972, or at least one year earlier than if they (the borough) were to conduct such a building program.

In weighing these factors and its sense of civic responsibility to the surrounding community, Weaver has thus charted its course, and has filed for permission to treat and discharge industrial wastes, the company explained.

Editor's Note: We have reported that waste disposal is not just a farm problem, but is increasingly a problem for everyone as production of livestock and goods expands to meet higher standards of living.

One of the more highly publicized waste problems locally in recent years has been the one involving New Holland borough, some local industries and nearby Mill Creek.

In the adjoining statement, Victor F. Weaver, Inc., New Holland agri-business firm, explains its plans to spend more than $1 million to take care of its own waste problems. At the same time, the project would help solve the borough's problems at no cost to the taxpayer, according to Weaver.

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