

campus

Campus sewers may need update

By CAROL HANCOCK
Battalion Reporter

Texas A&M University Physical Plant Department officials aren't just concerned with present construction on the campus, they're interested in what lies below the surface — the sewerage collection system.

The department is wondering how the collection system will handle increased sewage flow from current campus construction and future building programs.

Two engineering firms have been consulted about any problems that may result from University construction and expansion.

The most recent additions to the sewerage lines, the Sterling C. Evans Library expansion and the two modular north side dormitories — Haas and McFadden halls — have not caused any problems. However, the possibility of overloading the lines in the future has not been ruled out.

"We anticipated that there might be problems from the addition of the dormitories, Haas and McFadden," systems civil engineer Calvin Reigel said. "That's the reason the collection system went under study."

The study shows that the dorms' waste water runs in to the Houston Street line, which is not functioning properly.

However, Lee Harvey, Haas and McFadden head resident, said there haven't been any reports of sewage problems in the dorm.

Larry Holderly, a Texas A&M graduate student who worked with the engineering firm, said if there is any overloading of the Houston Street line, much of the north area of the campus will be affected. The two modular dorms probably would be directly affected because of their close location to the manholes, he said.

A Physical Plant official, who asked that he and the engineering firm not be identified, said department officials know the Houston Street line does not function properly. Since its construction in 1971, the line has not flowed properly due to accumulations of grease from Sbsia and areas of adverse grade, he said.

To lessen the problem, Sbsia outflow was diverted a few years ago to another line. The engineering firm did the study as if the Sbsia line were to be routed back into the Houston Street line, as has been requested.

The 15-inch Houston Street line runs from Sbsia Dining Hall to the University Police Station. It is one of three lines that the firm reported

would pose problems if more flow were added.

All three lines flow to the Jersey Street outflow line. The outflow line carries the sewage to a waste water treatment plant off FM 2818, south of the entrance to Easterwood Airport.

As a result of the adverse grading in sections of the Houston Street line, sewage has to build up considerably before it can pass the uphill inclines, the study showed. Since there is not much slope to it, the line

A Physical Plant director, who asked that he and the engineering firm not be identified, said his department knows the Houston Street line does not function properly. Since its construction in 1971, it has not flowed properly due to areas of adverse grade and accumulations of grease from Sbsia, he said.

has a slow velocity, and particles have a tendency to settle out and clog the line. In some places, manholes contained more than a foot of sludge, the firm said.

The study showed that with frequent flushing of the Houston line, the Sbsia line could flow into it without any major problems.

Flushing the line requires ex-

The firm recommended rebuilding the entire line north of Joe Routt Boulevard to Hogg Street (northwest of Sbsia) at a cost of \$177,000. To handle flow from the additions to C. Rollie White Coliseum and Kyle Field, the firm advised that a new \$54,000 line be built parallel to the Houston Street line.

sive and costly maintenance and is also a constant nuisance, Reigel said.

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The second line of concern is the Bizzell Street lift station and the line which serves the east part of campus.

The lift station regulates the outflow of sewage in the sewer reservoir by pumping it out at timed intervals. Lines from east campus con-

struction, the married student apartments, the Engineering Research Building, and the under-construction Academic and Agency Building will be handled by the station.

The firm said the decision to put the library expansion flow into an 8-inch tributary of the 15-inch Bizzell Street line was the best alternative. The lift station, however, is not adequate to handle flow from the other construction, the report said.

The firm reported that they found waste water backed up at times in one of the manholes near the station. It concluded there is a lack of either pumping or wet well storage capacity.

The firm suggested that the pumps be either adjusted or replaced. The estimated cost for replacing the pumps is \$35,000.

Added waste to the Veterinary Medicine Complex line is another problem area studied by the firm.

The 10-inch line is expected to serve west campus additions such as the Medical Science Building and the addition to the Veterinary Medicine Complex. The line crosses Highway 60 near Agronomy Road and runs southwest through the Horticulture Farm.

Flow meter readings showed that the line was overloaded during the peak hours of the work week, 10 a.m. until noon and between 4 and 5 p.m. During these times, the firm found waste water accumulated in at least one of the manholes, forcing the line to operate under pressure.

The firm offered three recommendations, ranging in cost from \$100,000 to \$160,000, all with the basic plan of building larger lines.

Another engineering firm, Binkley and Holmes, is doing a preliminary study before designing adjustments to the collection system.

Binkley and Holmes has more or less accepted what the original firm suggested as far as routing the lines, Reigel said. They have made some adjustments that might save some money.

Since the original firm's study, the Physical Plant has decided to keep the Sbsia waste flowing into the line it is currently using.

Not only does that allow for estimated improvement costs to be lowered, it enables an area with a slope

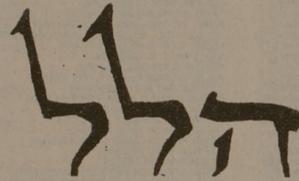
problem (where the Sbsia line connects into the Houston Street line) to be cut out entirely, Reigel said.

By keeping the Sbsia line where it is, the Houston Street line should be able to handle waste from all flow lines without having to be totally rebuilt, Reigel said.

"The new dorms aren't contributing as much as the Sbsia line would be," he said. "Without all the grease, I think the Houston Street line can be lived with after a few adjustments are made."

Parts of the line will still have to be torn up and rebuilt, but it can be done in a section where the line does not cross with utility lines or steam tunnels, he said.

Sewage from the modular dormitories being built north of Sbsia will either run into the line Sbsia connects with or will enter the Houston Street line. What effect waste from the dorms will have won't be known until it is decided where the line will go, Reigel said.



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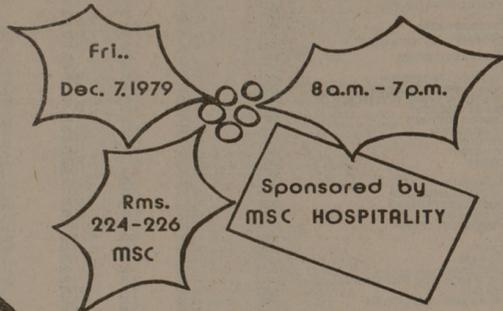
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