

Sanitary District of Decatur Reclaimed Water Pipeline Project Survey Permission Questions & Answers:

1. What is the Sanitary District of Decatur reclaimed wastewater pipeline?

The reclaimed wastewater pipeline will be an approximately 25-mile pipeline to transport reclaimed water from the Sanitary District of Decatur (SDD) to the proposed Taylorville Energy Center (TEC), being developed near Taylorville. The SDD will be responsible for constructing and operating the pipeline.

2. Why was this route for the reclaimed waterline chosen?

After a study of alternatives, the selected route had the most advantages. The route was chosen based on the shortest distance that avoided developed areas and minimized residential, agricultural, and commercial impact. Most of the line parallels closely the Norfolk Southern Railroad from Decatur to Taylorville and is adjacent to an existing utility easement. Effects on buildings, fences, crops, water supplies, soil, vegetation, wildlife, air quality, noise, safety, landowner interests, and more, are taken into consideration. To avoid residential and business areas of communities along the route, the pipeline will follow rural roads to circumvent the communities.

3. What is Reclaimed Water?

Reclaimed water is the result of taking wastewater that has been fully treated and tested to meet State standards for discharge to the Sangamon River and applying advanced treatment to ensure that the water meets all quality standards for use at TEC. Reclaimed water is safe enough to be used for irrigation

4. What is the Taylorville Energy Center?

The Taylorville Energy Center (TEC) will be a 600-megawatt (net) electric generating power plant. TEC will use a process called IGCC—Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle—generation. In this process, coal is converted to syngas using intense heat and pressure. The syngas will be further refined into methane, or substitute natural gas (SNG), which will be used to fuel a power plant. Significantly, the plant will capture more than half of the carbon dioxide (CO₂) it produces, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions. TEC will be able to generate electricity comparable in terms of emissions to a natural gas-fueled power plant.

5. Why is the TEC using reclaimed wastewater?

Using reclaimed water to meet the TEC's production water needs is sustainable and has significantly less impact on the environment than using drinking water. Even though the latest dry cooling system will be used to cool the steam turbine condenser and reduce water consumption to a fraction of the amount used by other similarly sized power plants, the facility will require up to four million gallons of water per day.

6. Who is Contract Land Staff?

Contract Land Staff (CLS) is a respected, experienced, and nationally recognized company that has been engaged by the Sanitary District of Decatur to acquire survey permission and easements vital to the completion of the reclaimed wastewater pipeline. The CLS organization has expertise in researching property titles, identifying owners and serving as a representative for entities obtaining easements that cross private property. The CLS staff members have received background checks and are veterans in real estate transfers or property title research and have other expertise important to the successful completion of this project.

7. Why am I being contacted by land agents?

If you are contacted by CLS land agents on behalf of the SDD, your property has been identified as a potential route for the reclaimed water pipeline. The land agents first priority is to obtain your permission to perform surveys required to determine a viable path of the pipeline. If the alignment across your property is the path selected, then CLS will work with you to obtain an easement agreement to allow the pipeline to cross your property.

8. Can the people working for the Sanitary District of Decatur come on my land without permission?

Before any agreement is signed by the landowner, the SDD does have limited rights to survey the proposed pipeline route without permission from the property owner. After the landowner signs an agreement with the SDD, anyone working on behalf of the SDD will be required to abide by the terms of the agreement and State or local trespass laws would prevail for property outside the scope of the agreement.

9. Is the Sanitary District part of the City of Decatur?

No. The Sanitary District is a separate governmental unit from the City of Decatur and is regulated by the State of Illinois. It is a regional wastewater facility that serves several communities across 30 square miles in Macon County. The Sanitary District is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Chairman of the Macon County Board, and only shares a name with the City of Decatur. The District treated more than 40 million gallons of wastewater per day in 2009, and can treat a maximum flow of nearly 130 million gallons per day. The District is well-positioned to support the industrial water needs for economic development in the region, and looks forward to the job creation partnership with the Taylorville Energy Center.

10. How can I contact the Sanitary District of Decatur?

We have named two representatives to help with the reclaimed water pipeline project. Kent Newton, Director of Administration for the Sanitary District of Decatur, and consultant Stu Ellis serve as liaisons and are working to ensure that questions that the land agents cannot answer are answered to the best of our ability. You may reach Kent by e-mail at Kentn@sdd.dst.il.us or by phone at (217) 422-6913 ext 213, and Stu at StuAgNews@aol.com or (217) 433-7246. You may also utilize the project Web site, www.sddreclaimedwater.info.