Protecting Seattle's Waterways

Preventing Sewage Overflows Into Lake Washington

Updated March 6, 2014

Options Overview Fact Sheet

What are sewage overflows?

Each year, rain washes millions of gallons of stormwater into Seattle's waterways. During storms, this polluted runoff combines with untreated sewage to produce sewage overflows that spill into neighboring waterways. In 2012, nearly 2 million gallons of raw sewage and stormwater overflowed into Lake Washington from the outfall connected to this basin during heavy rains (see map). Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) must correct this problem to protect public health and the environment, and comply with the federal Clean Water Act and state regulations.

What improvement is SPU planning in this area?

Seattle Public Utilities is evaluating options to reduce sewage overflows and meet state and federal regulations. Seattle Public Utilities is looking for feedback from the community for input on which option to select. Features of the options include:

- Cost of about \$20 \$24 million (total project cost).
- Some impacts to neighbors and the traveling public during construction.
- About 18 months to complete construction.
- Control or store approximately 800,000 gallons of storage - slightly more than an Olympic size swimming pool



This project will keep untreated sewage and stormwater from overflowing into Lake Washington.

Contact Us:

Rick Johnson, Project Manager Rick.Johnson@seattle.gov (206) 233-7861



Updated March 6, 2014

What are the project options?

West of Rainier Ave S Option

- Underground storage tank on private property west of Rainier Avenue S
- SPU is working with the property owner to discuss options for using this property for the project
- Approximately 108 feet long, 73 feet wide, and 13.5 feet deep
- Separate underground facilities vault would house electrical, mechanical and odor control equipment
- Small above-grade electrical panel and vent pipe
- Permanent catchment wall along the southwest perimeter of the site to stabilize the steep slope
- Surface would be restored after construction, allowing for access and parking to the commercial business the property is developing on this site
- SPU operation vehicles would access the area periodically for maintenance, parking onsite along Rainier Ave. S.

East of Rainier Ave S Option

- Partially underground storage tank on SPU property on the east side of Rainier Avenue S adjacent to the Lake Washington shoreline
- Approximately 117 feet long and 55 feet wide, and 16.5 feet deep
- Approximately 7 feet of the tank would be above ground
- Above-grade building would house electrical, mechanical, and odor control equipment
- Site paved after construction with access hatches for maintenance
- Restorative landscaping and improvements to the bulkhead along the shoreline
- Potential aesthetic treatments to the aboveground portion of the facility
- SPU trucks would access the area periodically for maintenance, parking on site or along Rainier Avenue S
- Public access will not be provided, keeping the same use and access as is present today

Underground in Rainier Ave S Option

- Underground storage tank underneath the Rainier Avenue S right-of-way between 68th Ave S and S Roxbury Street
- Approximately 950 feet long, 16 feet wide, and 7 feet deep – about 3 football fields in length
- Travel lane and sidewalk closures anticipated during construction
- Parking, bicycle, and pedestrian impacts during construction
- Street surface would be reconstructed to current Seattle Department of Transportation design standards
- Access hatches would be located along the tank length for maintenance
- Periodic one-lane closures would be required for maintenance, the current practice for the existing storage located to the south

Flow Transfer to King County

- Install 4,200 feet 18-inch diameter line underneath the Rainier Avenue S and Seward Park Ave. S. rightof-way – about 12 football fields in length
- Collaborative option

 transfers additional
 flows to the King County
 portion of the system for
 conveyance and treatment
- Bicycle lane, sidewalk and possible travel lane closures during construction
- Two travel lanes would remain open on Rainier Avenue S during construction
- Street surface would be reconstructed to current Seattle Department of Transportation design standards
- Likely will require upgrades to downstream storage and pumping facilities, which would cost more and result in community impacts in addtional locations.

What are the next steps?

We are here

The next public meeting is expected in late 2014.

