Protecting Seattle's Waterways

Preventing Sewage Overflows Into Lake Washington

Updated September 10, 2014

Preferred Alternative Overview

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?

SPU recently identified a preferred option for reducing sewage overflows in this basin. Features of the option are described on the reverse. The total project cost will about \$28 - \$32 million. Design of the project has been rescheduled to begin in 2020, and construction is expected to be completed by late 2024. Delaying the project provides an opportunity to construct high impact projects early. SPU will also be monitoring two other nearby projects that will be built in the next few years. This will help us better understand volumes of stormwater and sewage flows, and determine with more accuracy how much storage will be needed in this basin.



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

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What is the preferred option?

Description of Potential Facility

- Partially underground storage tank on SPU property on the east side of Rainier Avenue S adjacent to the Lake Washington shoreline
- Above-grade building would house electrical, mechanical, and odor control equipment
- Site paved after construction with access hatches for maintenance
- Restorative landscaping and habitat restoration improvements to the bulkhead along the shoreline
- Potential aesthetic treatments to the above-ground portion of the facility
- SPU trucks would access the area periodically for maintenance, parking on-site or along Rainier Avenue S
- Public viewpoint with minimal amenities will be included as part of this alternative
- SPU is investigating both a cylindrical and rectangular tank design to manage flows of sewage and polluted stormwater.

We are





Property as it looks today

Project Schedule

2013 2014 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025

Options Analysis

Design
SEPA/Permitting

Construction

Public Involvement

FPA Compliance Deadline

Design

Freferred Alternative