



PRESS release

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City Moving Forward with CSO Projects.

Today, City Council will be asked to approve the purchase of land necessary for the City to move forward with two CSO projects – the Rack 25 sewer separation and the Rack 8 sewer separation.

In 2002, Mayor Don Plusquellic introduced a plan to address the issue of combined sewer overflows in the City of Akron. Since then, the City he has been prevented by the U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA from moving forward and addressing the issues. Now, the matter is in the federal court of appeals. In the court proceedings, a long term control plan was initially agreed to by all parties (the City, the U.S. EPA, and the Ohio EPA); however, that agreed upon plan was rejected by Judge Adams.

“But for the U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA, these projects could have taken place nine years ago,” says Mayor Don Plusquellic. “And now that the parties have all agreed on a long term control plan, a federal district court judge has decided that he knows better than the EPA experts, and has refused to approve the plan. Well the City is not waiting any longer. The citizens of Akron deserve better.”

In spite of the obstacles put in the City’s way by the U.S. EPA, the Ohio EPA, and the federal district court, the City is now moving forward with its long term control plan to separate Rack 25 and Rack 8. Even without an approved long term control plan, the City has already completed Rack 40 improvements that capture more than 36% of the combined sewer overflow at a cost of over 21 million dollars.

“Moving forward now, despite the anticipated long court process, proves that the Mayor is serious about addressing the issues. These sewers need to be separated and the sooner the better,” said Rick Merolla, Akron’s Service Director.