



THE ROUGE RIVER PROJECT  
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# OAKLAND COUNTY SEPTAGE UNLOADING FACILITY

*A publication of the Wayne County Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project*  
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## Objective

The objective of the Oakland County Septage Unloading Facility grant was to provide a septage disposal facility that was easy for septage haulers to use, could accommodate vector truck waste and would be fully automated and accessible 24 hours a day.



## Owner / Operator

Oakland County is the owner of the facility. The facility is operated by the Oakland County Drain Commissioner's Office, John P. McCulloch-Drain Commissioner.

## Location

The site is on Dixie Highway in the City of Pontiac

## Dates

The construction was finished in August 2001 and was opened to receive septage October 2, 2001.

## Total Cost

The total project cost reported by Oakland County is \$1,209,435. The Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project funded a portion of this project.

## Demonstration Aspects

- The design and construction of a septage receiving facility that operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week without staff at the site.
- Provides a year-round solution to maintaining septic tank systems.
- Provides an environmentally sound method to dewater and dispose of waste vectored from storm drains, wet wells, manholes and catch basins.
- Non-point pollution is reduced when septic tanks are maintained and when septage is properly disposed

## Project Highlights

- The new site is convenient for septage haulers to use and is located to reduce complaints of odors and visual objections.
- The facility provides a safe, convenient method of disposal of septage and solids removed from sanitary and storm drains.
- The site is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and is fully automated, i.e., debit cards open the gate, record a payment and the exit gate opens and closes automatically.
- Vector trucks empty their contents onto the concrete pad. The waste water drains to the sewer and sun dries the solids for disposal at a landfill.

- Hoses for cleanup of spills, trucks and operators have been appreciated by the haulers.
- The project received the 2002 American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) Michigan Chapter "Engineering/Surveying Excellence-Honorable Conceptor Award" and the ACEC National Chapter "Engineering Excellence National Recognition Award".

## Major Elements

- The site is on a truck route and conveniently located for access by trucks.
- The site is not near private residences.
- The site provides for disposal of septage and waste that is vacuumed from sewers, wet wells, manholes and catch basins.
- The site functions without the need for attendants and requires little maintenance. There are cameras and lights for security and safety.
- The site has 24-hour access and ingress and egress is automated with the use of debit cards.
- The septage is discharged to a manhole that has a sump. The sump catches sand, grit and solids to reduce the chance of clogging the sewer. The sump must be cleaned every two to four weeks.
- The sanitary manholes are lined with a material that is corrosion resistant.

## Project Results

The four stations for disposal of septage and other sewer wastes has almost eliminated customers waiting in line. This location is now receiving more septage than the other three-septage receiving stations in Southeast Michigan. Use has increased from 10 septage haulers per day at the old Oakland County Campus site (now closed) to 30 customers per day at the new Oakland Septage Unloading Facility.



In a survey sent to septage haulers, the feature most liked was the 24-hour access. In general the survey showed that the facility was effectively meeting their needs.

To obtain further information on the Rouge Project, including documents, maps and general information, visit us at:

<http://www.rougeriver.com>

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