



To: Property Owners in Catlett and Calverton
From: Rick Gerhardt
Fauquier County Board of Supervisors
Cedar Run District
Date: June 12, 2020

**Subject: Sewer Project “Notice to Proceed” Construction Order Signed;
Construction Starts by the End of June 2020**

It has taken generations to reach the day when I can send you this good news.

The Catlett / Calverton Wastewater Treatment Project
construction begins in days.

**The Problem
Is Finally
To Be Solved!**

The problem of failing septic systems in Catlett and Calverton has been well known for years. We estimate this to be the 14th effort by the county to solve the problem. Yet, neither the science nor the funds became available until just the past few years, finally getting us to this announcement.

In fact, on Feb. 16, 1967, one local paper printed, *“The need for a central water and sewage system for the Catlett community was underlined by Clark Cox, of the Fauquier Health Department in a presentation before the Catlett-Calverton Ruritan Club meeting Feb. 9 (1967).”*

In 1993, the health department’s Environmental Health Supervisor at the time wrote in his memo to the Health Commissioner:

“This is written in response to a request to comment on the status of drainfields and existing or potential health hazards for the (Catlett / Calverton Service District).” In a Sanitary Survey conducted in 1978 found that, *“(A)Almost all of the existing dwelling units utilize subsurface sewage disposal with individual water supplies. The soils of the area ... have been proven over the past 20 to 30 years to be poorly suited for subsurface disposal of sewage. Due to the soil conditions, lot sizes and location of existing wells, repairs on the vast majority of these systems are virtually impossible and/or feasible.”*

It goes on to say, *“Results of our first Sanitary Survey confirmed that at that time over 50% of the sewage disposal systems were (1) not in accordance with current standards (2) malfunction (3) or creating a health hazard in some manner.”* *“In 1975... ‘61% of the subsurface disposal systems were considered to be actually malfunctioning and causing a hazard to the public health.’”*

The Solution

The Design-Build Team – English Construction/ Bowman Consulting Group– is preparing to begin construction by purchasing the equipment that will be a part of this overall system. The County has contracted with Downey & Scott Construction Management to oversee the project on the County’s behalf.

The English team will be installing a Septic Tank Effluent Pumping (STEP) system using a system known as decentralized treatment. The system's design has been approved by the Virginia Department of Health. When completed, the County will own the system and likely contract with a third party to operate and maintain the system. Its performance will be monitored by the County and reports made regularly to VDH to assure it continues to work properly.

How it works-- Effluent is collected into a STEP tank at each home or business enrolled, pumped through underground collection pipes to a treatment plant to be located on Route 28 just south of Calverton. Solids are separated from the effluent. Treated or clean effluent will then be discharged from the plant into the ground nearby through another series of pipes. The solids will be collected from the plant and transported to another treatment plant for final treatment.

The construction is scheduled to begin before the end of June 2020 and will take at least 18 months to complete. The collection system will be constructed from as far south as Southeastern School to almost ½ mile(?) north of Trenis Exxon. The system includes force mains to be built along Catlett Road with portions of Bristersburg, Bastable Mill, Old Calverton, Boteler, Old Dumfries, Catlett School, Elk Run, Old Catlett, and Tenerife roads as well as Prospect Avenue.

You should start to see the first construction activity at the treatment plant site just off of Rt. 28 about a quarter mile south of Casanova Rd. From there, English will work north and south installing the force main along Rt. 28 and other roads while simultaneously constructing the treatment plant. There will be 111 buildings connected to the system in this effort throughout the Catlett and Calverton Sewer Remediation Districts.

Watch your mail next for an announcement for a Groundbreaking Ceremony. COVID-19 will cause a delay, but it is my hope that we will one day soon hold an event to celebrate the new system and the residents of Catlett and Calverton who have worked hard with the Board of Supervisors, the County staff and others to get to this day.

Thank You

Until then, let me personally thank Sara Lee Armstrong, Jim Craun, Charlie Padgett, and Joel Barkman for volunteering their time as members of the Project Management Team to represent the community's interests to the staff and contractors working on the project. Guy Hinkler also represented the local Chamber for a time. Earlier members of the PMT we also remember – in particular Virginia Copeland and Will Russell.

The Project Management Team will remain active throughout construction, meeting at least monthly, to hear about progress and to help solve any problems that may arise.

Check out ccwtp.fauquiercounty.gov to see meeting notes and documents about the Project.

Questions?

For questions about the project please contact **Tim Harms** of Downey & Scott, LLC at **540-347-5001 ext. 125** or tharms@downeyscott.com

For questions about purchasing a tap please contact **Regina Dodson** of the County Administrator's Office at **(540) 422-8001** or Regina.Dodson@FauquierCounty.gov

Or call or email me -- (540) 422-8020 or rick.gerhardt@fauquiercounty.gov