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City's Modern Sewage Plant Can Be Complete With Final Phase Started

By JAMES HERNDON

A 20-foot by 40-foot chemical laboratory is the main item in Moscow sewage plant construction plans, which will be re-bid at the regular city council meeting Monday night.

The first set of bids was opened in May, but contractors' costs were $26,000 over City Engineer Keith Stokes' estimate. ¼ ¼

Same construction specifications will be let for re-bidding. But lower cost estimates are expected. When plans were offered for bidding before, contractors were busy with other work and their estimated costs ran high, Stokes explained. Under the re-bidding, work is to begin during the building slack period this fall.

Also included in the project is a shop building addition of automatic chlorination, underground sprinkling system, and paving sludge beds and driveways.

Concludes Project

This project concludes building and remodeling which was first started in 1958 and '59. Then the entire plant received a new face and modern equipment. It cost $300,000. Money was not available at that time for the laboratory.

The remainder of the present project are items, which through the past five years, have been found necessary.

The city plant is rated one of the best in the state for a city of Moscow's size, according to Stokes. It is a two-step treatment plant capable of handling wastes from 20,000 people.

The original plant was built in 1939, but it was greatly enlarged in 1958. Now two 24-inch mains connect Moscow with the plant. The system is built to receive a maximum of 3½ million gallons of flow every 24 hours.

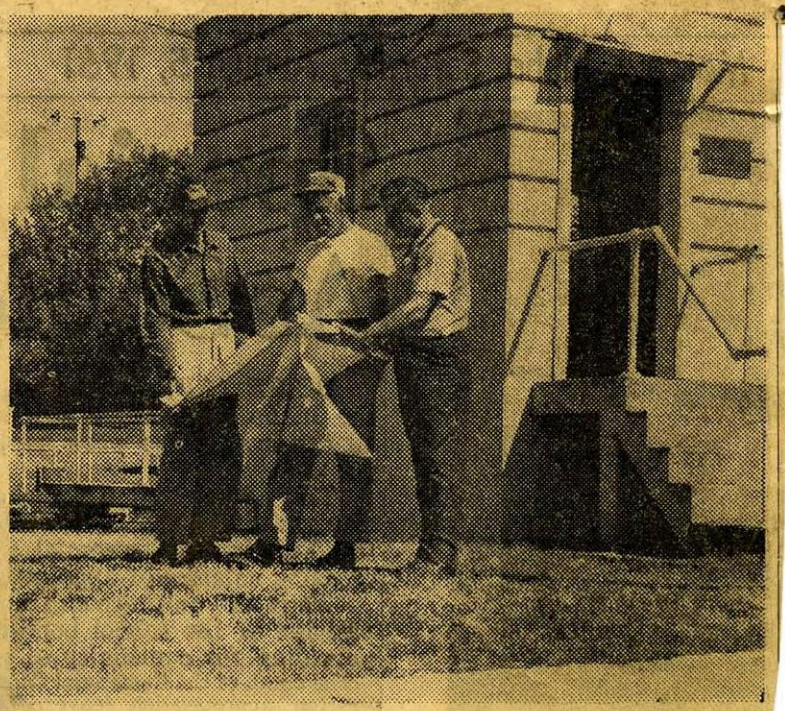
There are times, now, however, when an average of four million gallons is registered, Orrin Crooks city sewage commissioner, states.

The two-step operation is a system of settling tanks and rock bed filters. The first half of the process takes raw sewage from the city and channels it through a settling tank, 55 feet in diameter. Then the refuse is sent to a sludge thickener and finally to a large tank which looks like a miniature grain storehouse. This is the digester. All throughout this first segment of the process solids are forced out of the mixture.

From the digester, the solids are directed to one of four sludge beds. The liquid wastes take another route.

Liquid is then channeled through one of two rock bed filters. This starts the secondary part of the process. Here algae work the waste particles that are suspended in liquid or in solution.

Next the liquid goes into another settling tank and finally into the creek. At this last settling tank, the liquid is murky, but not poi-



NEW LAB — Orrin Crooks (center), city sewage commissioner, shows Arthur Van't Hul, state sanitation engineer (left), plans of the proposed chemical laboratory. Looking on is sewage plant caretaker, Charles Laherty. The threesome is standing where the center of the laboratory will be. In the background is the present plant office.