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Euclid approves sewer upgrade

■ City council opts for more expensive technology pending OK from EPA

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Euclid City Council has decided that the more expensive, advanced technology will be used for a sewer system upgrade if the United States Environmental Protection Agency approves the city's selection.

Several options were considered that ranged in price from \$104 million to the \$136 million that the membrane technology will cost.

At a previous council meeting, members felt uncomfortable approving the membrane technology without more detailed information from engineers and EPA officials.

Now, after council's unanimous vote at its Monday night meeting, the city will submit the plan to the EPA and wait for final approval.

Although there are still some wrinkles to iron out, Law Director Chris Frey said he expects the EPA's decision by April 12.

In addition to the wait for membrane approval, the city also must investigate other options to either eliminate stormwater that runs into the sanitary sewers, or devise a way to treat the water after an overflow.

The EPA has asked city officials to look at multiple alternatives to remedy the problem.

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Frey said he hopes that every part of the sewer project will be finalized by the end of the year with a firm construction schedule.

Council did not approve the rate increase associated with funding the technology

upgrades at the meeting.

The city's administration recommended that council pass the rate increases in order to secure the revenue by later this year. In order to do that, the city must submit the rate changes to Cleveland Water by March 31, Frey said.

Frey said that not approving the rate changes before the cutoff date will place

"serious strain" on planning ability. But he added that some council members felt that the administration needed to take a closer look at "green" technology, or focus on eliminating the possibility for stormwater to enter the sanitary sewers, which can cause overflows of untreated waste water into the lake.

At a Public Service Com-

mittee meeting Wednesday, all members of council were present to discuss the rate increases further, and make clear to city

administration — Mayor Bill Cervenik, Frey and others — that they were serious about incorporating green technology into the plans.

Councilman Daryl K. Langman said that including green technology into the engineer-

ing has the potential to save the rate payers money.

He also said that he felt the plan and membrane technology were good, but not quite ready for "prime time."

They forwarded the resolutions related to the rate changes on to next week's council meeting and plan to review their options and take a vote at that time.