

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROJECTS UPDATE – JUNE 23, 2017

Lehigh Hanson brought suit against the Village of La Grange in July 2016 which has delayed the start of construction of a high priority storm sewer that is funded from proceeds approved in April 2015 by Village-wide referenda. The storm sewer is planned for underneath 50th Street in La Grange from approximately Stone Avenue into the Hanson quarry. The pipe previously had continued underground in an easement across the quarry into a drainage ditch until it was destroyed in the early 1990s by Hanson. Storm water would flow into the McCook Ditch and beyond. Since the pipe was destroyed the water has flowed into the quarry and then is pumped into the remaining segment of La Grange's severed pipe on the east side of the quarry.

The Village's storm sewer project would be approximately 50% complete at this point if there was no lawsuit. The Village had been working with Hanson on mutually optimal solutions.

This spring, Cook County Commissioner Jeff Tobolski previously convened three meetings with the Village and Hanson which were very productive and aimed at settlement. Ultimately, Hanson quarry did not make a settlement offer. We appreciate his attempt at resolution.

Of note, Hanson is proceeding with an expansion of its operations adjacent to La Grange to mine underground for decades to come. The Village has no complaint with Hanson's commercial success, but we feel Hanson has not sacrificed as we have by allowing its project to move forward while stopping the Village's project. We believe the Village has proposed the best, time-tested option for passing its clean storm water for both Hanson and the Village. The Village has also worked closely with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and its professional team on this and other projects over the years to improve the quality of life for residents.

LAWSUIT UPDATE

The last of the depositions and other discovery are being completed and the matter is before Cook County Circuit Court Judge Cohen. The trial date has been postponed for a short time, and we are awaiting a revised trial date which we expect to know within 30 days or so. We will communicate with residents in a timely manner on key trial matters.

La Grange is committed, on behalf of the several thousand residents impacted by this delay, to vigorously pursue a successful outcome from the litigation and begin construction of the storm sewer as soon as feasible.

Sincerely,
Tom Livingston