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WATER LINE REQUESTS TRICKLE IN

By Lisa Miller

Even with a deadline extension, the number of Tiro and Sulphur Springs area residents wanting to tap into proposed new county water lines didn't exactly flood in.

Out of 414 households, 160 signed up to tap into the lines that would bring drinking water to those two areas of the county. The original deadline was July 1 but the commissioners extended it to Nov. 1.

"It's not a dead project at all," Commissioner Carl Watt said Wednesday evening after a hearing on sanitary sewer improvements planned for the Sugar Grove Lake area (see related story).

The original plan would have cost residents \$1,000 each for a tap-in fee, plus the resident would have to pay for an access line from the water main to the home. Residents have complained for years about the sulphur water in the area.

Greg Wright of GRW, Indianapolis, the firm the county has been working with on the project, is searching for grants, Watt said. The money would be used to help finance what was estimated to be a \$1.6 million project when commissioners met with residents in the spring.

Watt said the commissioners want to have another meeting with Tiro and Sulphur Springs residents before the end of the year. Originally, it was thought that construction could start in 2005 and water service begin in fall 2006.

"We're still working on it," Watt said.



Photo by Lisa Miller

Project engineer Eldon Bauer explains plans for a new sanitary sewer system to Sugar Grove Lake residents John Dailey and John Hutchinson. Area residents Wade Bukovich and Carl Scott are pictured behind them at Wednesday night's public hearing in the county administration building.