

Village of Corrales
Second Public Meeting – October 25, 2007
Collections System and Hydrogeology
Questions and Answers

- Q. Can some folks have the STEP system and some have the STEG system?
- A. Everyone must have the same pressure to get into the main sewer line whether they have the STEP or STEG systems.
- Q. Can you use a grinder pump and STEP as long as the pressure is the same?
- A. Yes, but you must decide if you are going to have solids going into the wastewater treatment plant (grinder pumps) before you design the system.
- Q. The City of Rio Rancho always has trouble with their Lift Station. Is there any reason to think that we won't have those problems?
- A. A good Operations and Maintenance system should take care of that.
- Q. Does a Vacuum Collection System Valve Pit also have a grinder pump?
- A. No, you don't need one. It works under vacuum.
- Q. How much space does a Vacuum station require versus the Lift Station?
- A. The Vacuum station – small building, several 100 sq. ft., under 500 sq. ft. It depends on how much you have in it. The vacuum station can be located right next to treatment system.
- Q. Additional cost of Directional Drilling vs. conventional trenching?
- A. Several more dollars per foot.
- Q. How do you deal with cultural resources when using Directional Drilling?
- A. You won't see it to identify it. Directional drilling with smaller diameter pipe is very minimal disturbance as compared to trenching.
- Q. Given the situation in Corrales with easements, how do you deal with private easements?
- A. Private easements would have to be obtained. 20 ft. is the standard minimum width of easement.
- Q. Can you use existing utility easements?
- A. Yes, existing utility easements can be utilized. It depends on the utility company, width, etc.



- Q. How deep are your Hydrogeology studies?
- A. Some wells used in published studies are as much as 5,000 ft. deep (studies by Hawley and Haase, 1992). Most of the well logs available for the Corrales area are for wells 400 ft. deep or less.
- Q. Does groundwater flow horizontally in the area?
- A. The sediments underlying Corrales are transmissive, and groundwater flows horizontally. Groundwater velocity is dependent on several factors, including transmissivity and the hydraulic gradient (slope of the water table). We'll review published studies on flow velocity for our report.
- Q. Is the water under Corrales moving elsewhere and naturally flushing the area?
- A. Further review of published data should show us more detail.
- Q. Do you have any more data on the wells?
- A. We have some data gaps, including the adequacy of well seals. Impacted shallow groundwater can travel down improperly sealed wells. As Corrales has many wells (in excess of 2,000), there is potential that the wells may be acting as conduits for groundwater contamination.
- Q. What prevents accidental discharges, like has happened at the Town of Bernalillo and Rio Rancho?
- A. They have older systems and discharge to the river. You are at an advantage because you are starting with a new system, new technology, and with better controls.
- Q. The City of Albuquerque, Western Meadows, is that a Vacuum system?
- A. Yes. There are vacuum systems at the City of Albuquerque, Dora Ana County, and Truth and Consequences.
- Q. How long have Vacuum system been in use?
- A. Vacuum systems were patented in 1888. Vacuum systems were first used commercially 1959 and really started to be used widely in 1970. The City of Albuquerque started using them in 1994 (according to an informed member of the public).

