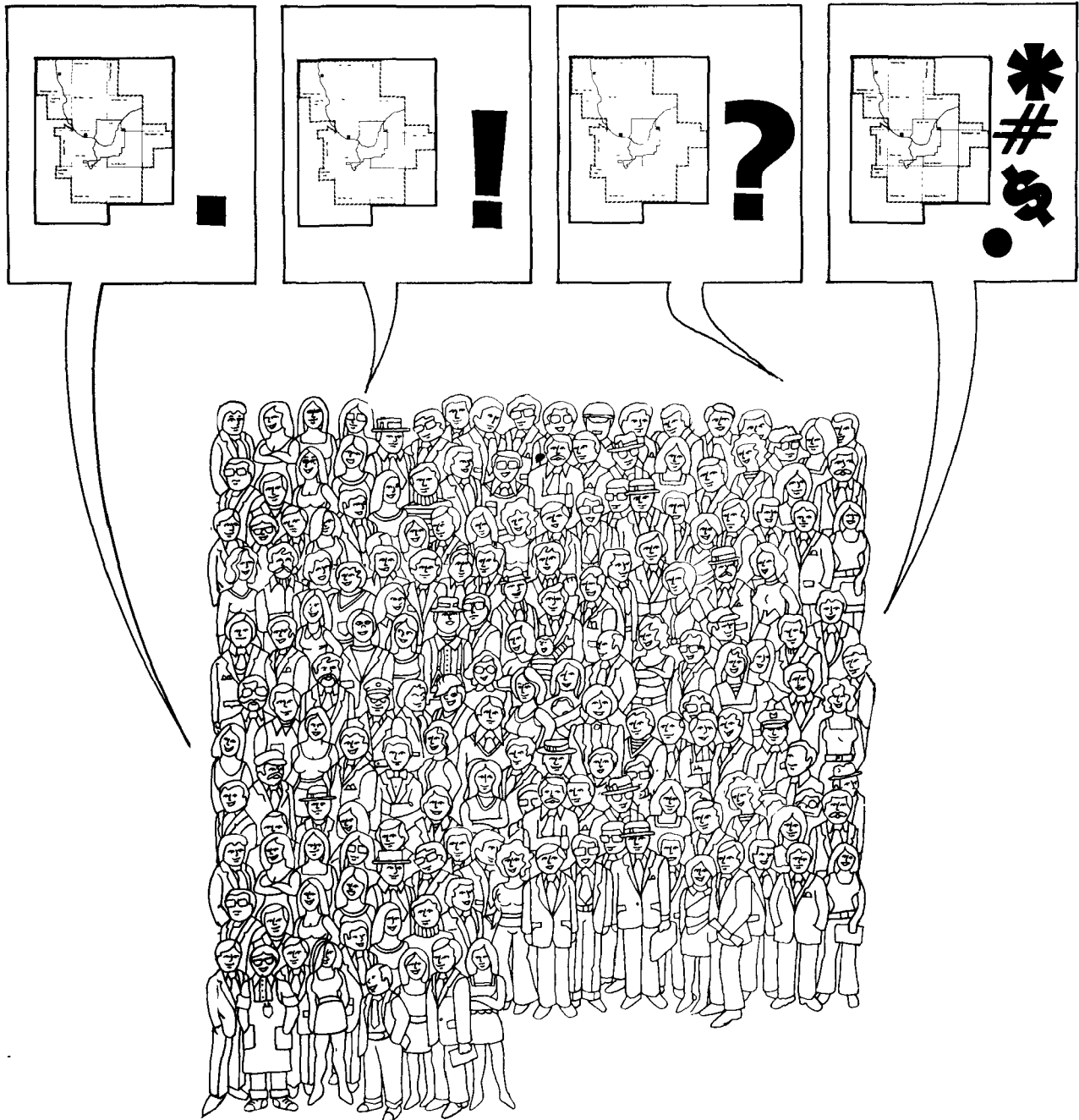




# Genesee County Wastewater Treatment Project

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## Background To Date

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The Genesee County Division of Water and Waste Services has prepared a facilities planning study of various collection alternatives and alternatives for the expansion and upgrading of its existing wastewater treatment facilities

There are two major existing wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) in the Genesee County Plan of Study area. Each of these WWTP have separate collection and treatment facilities; the Anthony Ragnone plant treating the waste from the County and the City of Flint plant treating waste from the City.

The existing Ragnone WWTP is experiencing capacity problems, poor effluent quality, and equipment reaching the end of its service life. The Ragnone WWTP is designed to treat an average sewage flow of 20 million gallons per day (MGD). The plant is currently averaging 17 MGD with up to 20 MGD in wet weather. The existing capacity does not allow for additional growth. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) has proposed effluent limits for the Ragnone plant that would require a level of treatment greater than is capable of being produced at the plant. There are a number of pump stations in the sewer collection system that are nearing the end of their service life and causing operational problems. The facilities plan has looked at upgrading and expansion of the existing plant to provide treatment capacity to the year 2000, to treat the sewage to meet new effluent limits, and to eliminate the collection system problems.

The facilities plan has been prepared under a Step 1 planning grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that covered 75% of the planning costs. Subsequent Federal grants may be requested for Step 2, design and Step 3, construction of the facilities recommended, as a result of the facilities planning.

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## Effects On Citizens

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The proposed plan for wastewater treatment systems can affect Genesee County in many ways. The upgrading and expansion of the Ragnone WWTP to meet the effluent limits can help improve the water quality of the Flint River. The expansion of the plant sewer capacity will permit the treatment of wastes generated by reasonable growth. Although this growth can be welcomed, careful planning needs to be done so that the amounts and location of this growth does not cause negative impacts. These negative impacts can include the loss of prime farm land, infringement on historical or archeological sites, loss of open space, loss of natural habitat, reduction in aesthetic appearance and population shifts that place burdens on local governments to provide and pay for public services such as roads, schools, and libraries.

The proposed wastewater treatment and collection system may have an economic impact upon the residents of Genesee County. Any upgrading of existing facilities and construction of additional capacity must be partly funded by local jurisdictions. These costs will be passed on to the local user so your bills for sewage treatment may rise to cover the cost of these future facilities. These costs will usually be in addition to what you are currently paying for sewage treatment. These environmental, social and economic impacts can be reduced or avoided by acting effectively through careful planning. A strong collective effort by all the parties is needed to ensure that the best decisions are made.

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UNITED STATES  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION V  
230 SOUTH DEARBORN ST.  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604

Reply To Attention Of  
5WEE

JUL 22 1980

**NOTICE OF INTENT**

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared by Region V on a proposed project to address the wastewater needs of Genesee County, Michigan. The planning area is located within Genesee County and covers all or part of thirteen townships and seven cities including the City of Flint that has separate wastewater facilities. The proposed project consists of the design and construction of interceptor sewers and the upgrading of existing or construction of new wastewater treatment facilities in the County. The existing sewerage collection system has pump stations that are nearing the end of their service life and performing poorly. The proposed effluent limits for the existing Anthony Ragnone Wastewater Treatment Plant requires a level of treatment more stringent than that currently capable of being produced at the plant without upgrading or other action.

The issues to receive major consideration are secondary impacts that include induced growth, the redistribution of population, and the ability of the County to finance additional community services; loss of prime agricultural land; reduction in water quality from increased wastewater loads in the Flint River; controversy among the City of Flint, Genesee County and various township units that has prohibited a potentially less costly regional approach to wastewater treatment, and the possibility for multipurpose use of the wastewater treatment facilities for open space or recreation purposes.

If you or your organization want to comment on this EIS decision, attend the EIS scoping meeting, provide information for the EIS, or want to be placed on the mailing list, please contact the EIS Section, Environmental Engineering Branch (5WEE), at the letterhead address.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John McGuire".

John McGuire  
Regional Administrator

The EPA is committed to involve you, the public, as fully as possible in all our decisions since you will be most affected by them. The more information that we are able to obtain from people familiar with the local situation and particular problems of the community, the better our decisions will be.

The EIS process is your personal opportunity to influence an EPA decision which will have a direct impact on your environment. Therefore we encourage you to participate in any way you can to make your concerns known and to offer any information or suggestions which could improve the solution to this wastewater management problem.

Future public meetings will be scheduled to open lines of communication and find out what issues you think are most important and deserve special consideration in this EIS process. If you have questions about the Genesee County EIS, please contact

**Gene Wojcik, Chief, EIS Section (5WEE)  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
230 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60604  
312-353-2157**

A form is provided in this folder for those who want to be on our mailing list. If you fill it out and mail it in, you will receive further information about the Genesee County project.

The EPA needs the support and cooperation of the general public. EPA will be holding public meetings throughout the EIS process to inform you of what is going on and for you to inform us of your concerns.

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## EPA's Involvement

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The U.S. EPA is a Federal agency which was created in 1970. One of its prime goals is to attain a level of quality for our Nation's water which would make them safe for swimming and fishing by 1983. Because urban sewage is one of the major contributors to water pollution, Congress has given EPA the authority to grant funds to local governmental bodies for wastewater treatment. EPA may provide a county, township, or municipality with 75% of the money necessary to clean up existing wastewater treatment for a reasonable amount of future growth.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act, EPA has the responsibility to ensure that no significant environmental harm occurs as a result of funding the proposed project. Because certain questions have been raised regarding the impacts that this project may have on your community, the Environmental Protection Agency has decided to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

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## The EIS Process

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The EPA, with your help and the information provided by your State and local officials, will identify significant problems and issues. The County's proposed sewage project will be evaluated, along with other possible alternatives which would solve the wastewater pollution problems of the area. The impacts of each alternative plan on the air quality, water quality, water supply, energy resources, growth, land use, economy, and people of your community will be evaluated.

A Draft EIS containing these findings and suggestions on minimizing the potential adverse effects resulting from each alternative will then be circulated for public review. A 45-day comment period will follow. During this time, you will have a chance to analyze the impacts of each wastewater alternative, decide which one is best for you and your County, and raise additional questions which you may want us to address. Based on the Draft EIS and comments from citizens, other Federal agencies, and State and local officials, the EPA will then issue a Final EIS. The Final EIS will incorporate the comments received on the Draft EIS and present an outline of the acceptable wastewater treatment plan or plans which would solve the sewage disposal problems of your community. After a 30-day comment period following the release of the Final EIS, the Regional Administrator of the EPA will decide whether or not to fund the County's proposed project.

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PLEASE DETACH AND MAIL

**Please include my name on the mailing list for information on the Genesee County Wastewater Treatment Project**

Name .....

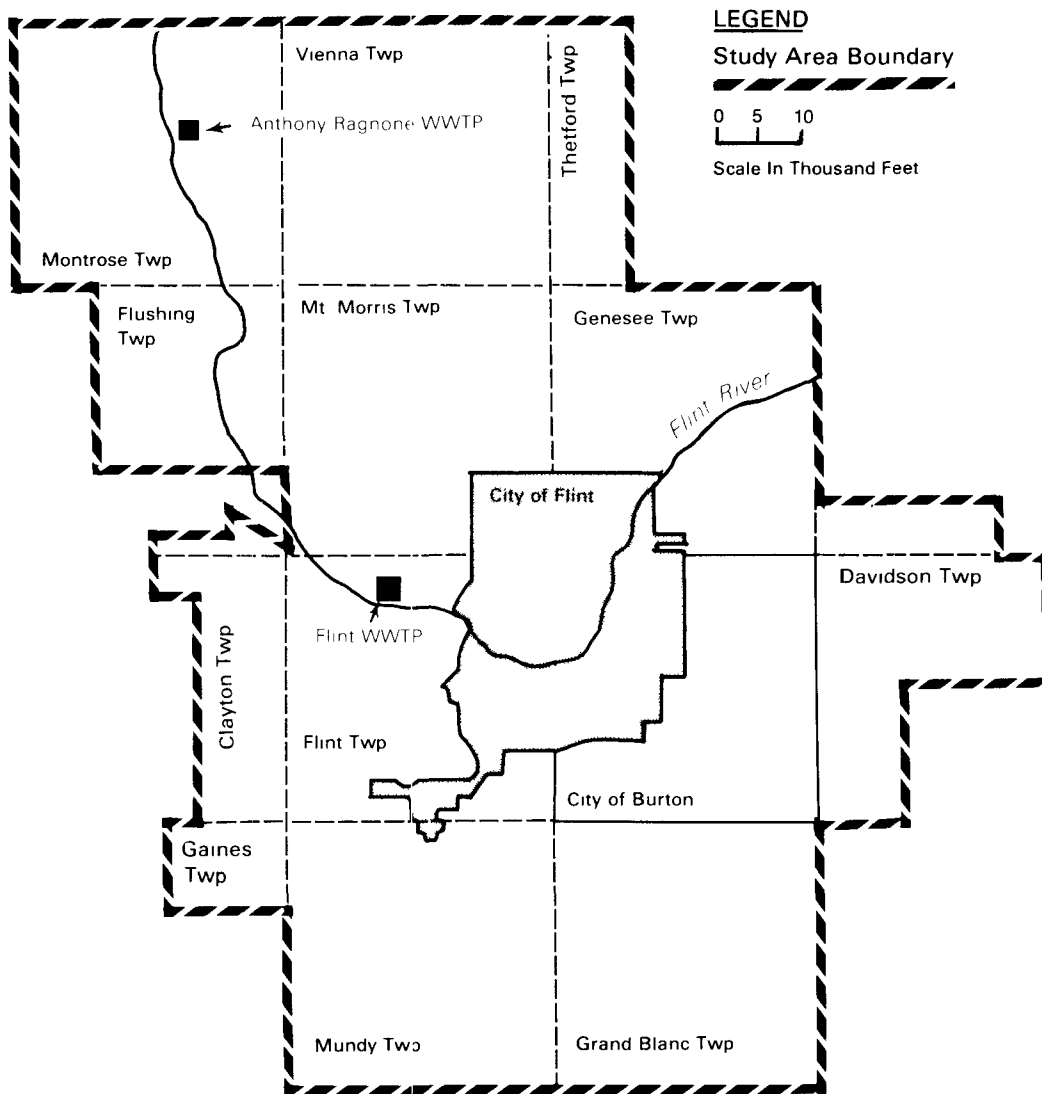
Group Affiliation .....

Address .....

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Date .....

# Genesee County Metro Planning Area



Place  
Stamp  
Here

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
EIS Section  
Environmental Engineering Branch (5WEE)  
230 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60604