



WLSSD Secondary Clarifier Rehabilitation

Every year, Minnesota’s wastewater treatment plants clean trillions of gallons of dirty water from our communities - safeguarding public health and protecting the environment. We depend on this infrastructure for quality of life and for business to thrive and grow, but we don’t think much about it until it fails.

Project Scope:

Structural rehabilitation and repair of secondary clarifiers

Project Budget:

\$35 M Total Project Cost
\$17.5 M WLSSD Investment
\$17.5 M 2023 Capital Budget Request



Secondary clarifiers allow wastewater solids to settle out and be removed from clean water in the treatment process. If the clarifiers fail to remove solids, we risk public health and pollution to the St. Louis River and Lake Superior.

The emergency repairs will be funded through WLSSD’s reserve fund. However, the remaining \$35 million will ideally be funded through a combination of bonding support and PFA loans. If bonding funds are not secured in this session, the necessary repairs will need to be funded through additional loans and rate increases to our industrial and community customers.

WLSSD is in urgent need of support to proceed with the structural and mechanical renovation of all four secondary clarifiers.

Summary Timeline:

2022

Capital Budget Request

WLSSD requested funding for structural rehabilitation of two of our four clarifiers with the intent of completing renovation of the remaining clarifiers in 2023.

October 2022

Critical Failure

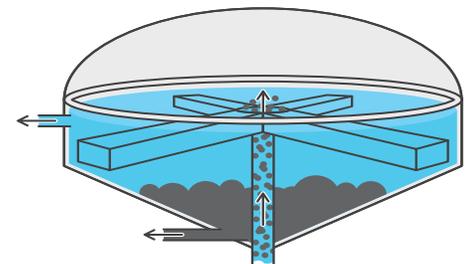
A critical failure of the internal mechanism of Clarifier #2 rendered it inoperable. WLSSD is proceeding with emergency equipment replacement.

The mechanisms were not previously identified as part of the required rehabilitation needs and have increased the cost and escalated the urgent need to complete the renovation of all four secondary clarifiers.

2023

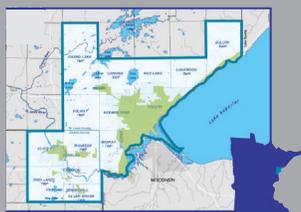
Capital Budget Request

WLSSD is requesting \$17.5 M to fund the structural and mechanical renovation of all four secondary clarifiers.



▲ Diagram of clarifier structure and function.

**WESTERN LAKE SUPERIOR
SANITARY DISTRICT**



WLSSD is a special purpose unit of government created in 1971 by the Minnesota Legislature to address serious pollution problems in the lower St. Louis River basin. WLSSD treats wastewater and manages solid waste for a 530-square-mile region in northeastern Minnesota, serving 16 communities and four large industrial facilities.

