

of better maintenance and because of their backup capacity to avoid pollution during malfunctions. In a larger plant, he said,

You have generally multiple units, which, if one of the particular units becomes inactivated for some reason, you can increase the load slightly to the remaining unit without markedly affecting the efficiency.

If you are sitting here with a small plant that has one primary clarifier and you have to shut that clarifier down to replace the mechanism then all the water is bypassed, and in the past it has been letting raw sewage into the stream

So far as our hearings have disclosed, everybody agrees, and has agreed for years, that the present proliferation of small plants is intolerable and that they should be promptly replaced by eight to a dozen relatively large plants each serving a relatively large area. The County has been pressing for regionalization since 1956 (R. 27). The DuPage County Association of Sanitary Districts endorsed a plan for regional treatment in 1966 (R. 20). The DuPage County Mayors and Managers Conference in February of this year adopted a plan for regional treatment (R. 9).

Thus the various governments responsible for sewage treatment in DuPage County-- the municipalities through their Mayors and Managers, the Sanitary Districts, and the County itself--all agree as to what should be done. But they are unable to decide who is to do it or how it is to be paid for. A 1970 bond issue to establish a county-operated regional system was roundly defeated, apparently chiefly because it was thought to impose an excessive proportion of the financial burden on areas of the county that already had provided for their own sewage treatment (R. 9, 22, 23). Even today there remains disagreement. The County apparently expects to run the regional plants (R. 27-31); the municipalities want to control a county-wide waste water board operating several subregional plants (R. 16-17); the sanitary districts want the county divided into several independent sanitary districts (R. 202, 235-36).

In the meantime it is alleged that cities sometimes refuse to accept sewage from outside their boundaries, necessitating the construction of inefficient small plants or the undesirable use of septic tanks in densely populated areas (R. 251, 263) and that the county has blocked the expansion of existing sanitary districts (R. 229-30). At the same time the cities and sanitary