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 three years to implement--or longer--; consequently Kings Mountain could not add another heavy water user to the existing system.

The city can still, at this point, request allocations for additional customers, however, since the average usage by residents is approximately 300 gallons per day. But some huge industrial clients could use half a million gallons a day, so the city is compelled to write to the State and request the allocation.

"In terms of economic development," Wood said, "the question becomes: Can we afford to wait three years, until Crowder's Creek comes on line? In another sense, the issue is how much money we have left and whether we do both Pilot Creek and Crowders Creek.

"The initial planning on Crowders Creek was for us to put in between \$3 million and \$4 million. So here we are with extremely limited capacity, and how much time will elapse before we can add anything of any significance in size?"

"And even more important, in a sense, is how much more capacity will we be getting? Our share of the Crowders Creek plan would be 2.28 million gallons per day; however, that plan would take McGill out of service. Since McGill treats one million gallons, the net increase would be 1.28 millions of gallons per day."

The bottom line, according to Wood, is that if the Crowders Creek proposal is accepted, Kings Mountain would have to wait three to four years and pay \$3.5 to \$4 million. Under the Pilot Creek proposal, since the plants are connected, the pump system would be able to balance flows and make available treatment at whichever plant has the greatest demands placed upon it.

Rather than implement a new system, it would be more practical, Wood feels, to expand the existing plant. There are several advantages to the expansion proposal: "It would be faster to do so, because it is not necessary to purchase land. We have the land. We would not have to buy easements. We think we can expand to two million gallons per day within 18 to 24 months. The cost would be \$2.183, which is considerably less than it would cost to enter the Crowders Creek proposal; the area already has three aeration basins. It is possible, by timing construction carefully, to add another clarifier basin within a year for an extra million gallons per day capacity. This would give us some breathing room.

"At this point, at 92 per cent capacity, we are asking quite a lot of our operators to expect them to experience no problems," Wood said. "This is all machinery that can go down. The equipment is in reasonably good shape, but there are no guarantees. The equipment at Pilot Creek is about 17 years old, and McGill equipment is older."

The plan Wood favors is to upgrade Pilot Creek capacity from four million gallons per day to six million gallons per day, which would provide two additional millions of gallons per day at a cost of \$2.183, and time-wise there is a possibility of having an extra million gallons per day capacity within one year.

So the Pilot Creek Proposal, Wood says, is not only faster and less expensive, but in addition Kings Mountain would net an extra two million gallons per day versus 1.28 million gallons per day.

"The bottom line," Wood says, "is that water and sewage treatment must come from the municipality. So we are talking about the economic development of Kings Mountain and a large segment of Cleveland County."

Wood added, "The thing that we have to get across to the citizens of Kings Mountain is that

these projects are necessary if we are to benefit from the growth that is coming into this region. If


we don't have the necessary systems ready, to accommodate that growth, it's going to pass us

by. Ultimately what we are talking about is jobs, better paying jobs, higher income, expansion


of the tax base, new housing, new customers for existing commercial enterprise, and the other

growth that is coming along I-85. We have a great location and stand to benefit tremendously."

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