

Both cities have experienced growth resulting in a need for increased wastewater disposal and are therefore studying what they should do next, resulting in the increased discharge proposals from both. (Both facilities have many units at or near the end of their useful lives and anticipate a dramatic increase in maintenance expenses to occur soon.)

→ Gatlinburg's STP was built in the late 1970s and the Pigeon Forge plant was built in 1984. (Both have I/I and capacity problems at the plant or collection system to varying degrees, although not as bad as some towns.) Gatlinburg, for example, bypassed its sand filters intermittently for 3 days over the Thanksgiving holidays as a result of only 3.5 inches of rain over 3 days. Pigeon Forge has at least 2 gravity sewers that are overloaded during peak flows.

TDEC needs Gatlinburg to expand its sewer service inside its city limits. Much of Ski Mountain and other parts of Gatlinburg still utilize subsurface sewage disposal in areas where the terrain is steep and there is little soil, thus contributing to the bacteriological problems in the WPLPR and its tributaries.

The state antidegradation rules are a barrier, or at minimum, a complicating factor for more conventional solutions to the capacity problems. Rule 1200-4-3-.06(3)(a) states: