



CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT/ CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION

Steven Grimm | Wastewater Technician

Recently, well, actually, not so recently, full time construction inspection has been one of the items cut from the proposed project in order to lower the overall cost of the project. I am not a novice in this area. I speak from practical experience. I have been both inspector and operator. In my travels I have heard success and, well, not success. The success has come from systems that value not only the advice of their engineers but also that of their operators. Unfortunately, the non-success stories come from systems that didn't listen and instead rely on the opinion of the operators. Harsh, perhaps, but reality.

So, let's get back on track. I'm not picking on any one aspect of the process. I'm picking on all of them. From engineers to inspectors to municipalities to funders, I'm picking on them all.

Let's start with the contractors. They are out there to make a buck. If they can get something by, they will. That's business. That's where the inspector comes into play.

The inspector is supposed to ensure the project not only meets specs but is completed according to deadline. We've all heard the stories – the inspector was in the diner drinking coffee.

The funders want to see a project move forward. They allocate the funds and EXPECT that you will do as you say. Question your engineer if you disagree.

The municipality: I left this for last because this is the most important. Don't think that just because something is "handled", it is. Ultimately, you are the one paying back the loan. Be involved. Let your wishes/wants be known. Direct the project.

P.S. Thanks Phil 💧💧💧