

STATE OF INDIANA

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION


IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF THE
TOWN OF WINFIELD, LAKE COUNTY,
INDIANA, FOR APPROVAL OF A
REGULATORY ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A
SERVICE TERRITORY FOR THE TOWN'S
MUNICIPAL SEWER SYSTEM PURSUANT TO
IND. CODE § 8-1.5-6 *ET SEQ.*

CAUSE NO. 45992

**PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY AND EXHIBITS
OF JEREMY C. LIN, PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER**

Prefiled Direct Testimony of Jeremy C. Lin	<u>Petitioner's Exhibit 7</u>
Preliminary Layout of Future Expansion to WWTP	<u>Petitioner's Exhibit 8</u>
IDEM Permit Approving Current Expansion	<u>Petitioner's Exhibit 9</u>
IDEM Approval of Future Expansion	<u>Petitioner's Exhibit 10</u>

Respectfully submitted,



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OF

JEREMY C. LIN

ON BEHALF OF

THE TOWN OF WINFIELD, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA

I.

INTRODUCTION

1
2
3 **1. Q PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.**

4 A My name is Jeremy C. Lin and my business address is Lintech Engineering, Inc., 8052
5 Monticello Avenue, Suite 207, Skokie, IL 60076.

6 **2. Q MR. LIN, HOW ARE YOU EMPLOYED?**

7 A I am a registered professional engineer with Lintech Engineering, Inc., a consulting
8 engineering firm located in Skokie, Illinois. I currently serve as the President of Lintech
9 Engineering, Inc.

10 **3. Q HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED FOR LINTECH ENGINEERING, INC.?**

11 A I founded Lintech Engineering, Inc. in 1998 and have worked there since that time.

12 **4. Q PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND, EXPERIENCE,**
13 **AND PROFESSIONAL STATUS.**

14 A I received a Master's and Bachelor's in Civil Engineering from Kansas State. After
15 receiving my Master's in 1998, I worked at a national engineering firm, Camp, Dresser
16 and McKee, in Kansas City, Missouri, for one year. I then worked at a regional firm,
17 Baxter and Woodman, in Crystal Lake, Illinois, for another year. I then formed Lintech
18 Engineering in 1998. I am a registered professional engineer in the States of Indiana
19 and Illinois and a Board Certified Environmental Engineer. I have been in the
20 wastewater treatment field for almost twenty-eight (28) years.

1 **5. Q PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE.**

2 A My professional experience includes municipal engineering, consulting, and design of
3 wastewater treatment plants, lift stations, sanitary sewers, water and sewer master
4 planning, water treatment plants, and storage tanks. My expertise includes wastewater
5 process design, advanced biological treatment, sludge digestion and dewatering,
6 chemical precipitation, disinfection processes, and overall plant control strategy.

7 **6. Q HAVE YOU TESTIFIED AS AN EXPERT WITNESS BEFORE ANY INDIANA**
8 **GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE INDIANA UTILITY**
9 **REGULATORY COMMISSION (“COMMISSION”)?**

10 A No.

11 **7. Q PLEASE DESCRIBE THE TYPES OF ORGANIZATIONS WHICH YOUR FIRM**
12 **TYPICALLY REPRESENTS?**

13 A My firm typically represents municipalities, private developers, mobile home parks, and
14 industrial companies.

15 **8. Q WHAT IS THE NATURE OF YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF**
16 **WINFIELD, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA (“WINFIELD”), INCLUDING YOUR**
17 **INVOLVEMENT IN THE SUBJECT OF THIS PROCEEDING?**

18 A I have provided engineering services to Winfield for four (4) years. In Winfield, I
19 typically work cooperatively with utility staff, the Town Manager, Mr. Nick Bellar, and
20 another professional engineer, Mr. Michael Duffy with DLZ Indiana, LLC (“DLZ”).
21 My duties are generally divided with Mr. Duffy such that I provide engineering services
22 related to Winfield’s treatment plant and related processes and Mr. Duffy provides

1 engineering services with respect to Winfield's transmission and collection facilities. In
2 this case, I will provide testimony and exhibits regarding the status of the Town's current
3 and planned wastewater treatment facilities.

4 **9. Q WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?**

5 A The purpose of my testimony is two-fold. First, I will discuss the ability of Winfield to
6 provide wastewater treatment service to the proposed service area ("Winfield Service
7 Area") as described in Ordinance No. 358 (attached to the Petition as Exhibit 1).
8 Second, I will discuss the potential impact of the Winfield Service Area (if it is
9 approved) on current and future economic development in the area.

10 **II.**

11 **ABILITY OF WINFIELD TO SERVE THE WINFIELD SERVICE AREA**

12 **10. Q BASED ON YOUR BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE WITH WINFIELD**
13 **AND ITS MUNICIPAL SEWER SYSTEM, DO YOU BELIEVE THAT**
14 **WINFIELD WILL BE ABLE TO TREAT THE ANTICIPATED FLOWS FROM**
15 **THE WINFIELD SERVICE AREA?**

16 A Yes, I do. Consistent with the testimony from Ms. Jennifer Wilson and Mr. Mike Duffy,
17 the Town has planned, designed, obtained regulatory approval for, financed, awarded
18 bids, and will soon be in the process of constructing an expansion to its wastewater
19 treatment plant. The expansion will double the treatment capacity of the existing plant
20 from .80 million gallons per day ("mgd") to 1.6 mgd. Based on our analysis, we believe
21 this capacity will be sufficient to serve the flows from both the current and future

1 economic development within the Town's existing municipal limits and the Winfield
2 Service Area for the foreseeable future.

3 **11. Q HAS THE TOWN ALSO PLANNED FOR A FUTURE EXPANSION TO ITS**
4 **WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, IF NEEDED?**

5 A Yes, it has. In addition to expanding Winfield's treatment capacity to 1.6 mgd, Winfield
6 has already planned for the next expansion of its wastewater treatment plant from 1.6
7 mgd to 4.0 mgd. In fact, I have prepared a proposed layout for what I refer to the Phase
8 III improvements to the wastewater treatment plant. For the Commission's reference, I
9 am attaching as Petitioner's Exhibit 8 a copy of the layout of the future expansion of the
10 wastewater treatment plant to 4.0 mgd (i.e. the Phase III improvements).

11 **12. Q HAS THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL**
12 **MANAGEMENT ("IDEM") PRELIMINARILY APPROVED THIS**
13 **EXPANSION?**

14 A Yes, it has. Not only has IDEM issued Preliminary Effluent Limitations and a
15 Construction Permit approving the expansion from 0.8 mgd to 1.6 mgd (see Petitioner's
16 Exhibit 9, IDEM Permit), IDEM has also issued Preliminary Effluent Limitations for
17 Winfield's next expansion to 4.0 mgd, noting "As the proposed activities would not
18 result in a significant lowering of water quality, the Antidegradation Standards and
19 Implementation Procedures do not apply". For the Commission's reference, I am
20 attaching as Petitioner's Exhibit 10 a copy of IDEM's preliminary approval of the
21 expansion of Winfield's wastewater treatment plant to 4 mgd.

1 **13. Q WHAT IS THE TIMING FOR COMPLETION OF THE CURRENT**
2 **EXPANSION OF THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT?**

3 A Winfield recently awarded a construction contract for the plant expansion to 1.6 mgd. I
4 anticipate that the expansion will be constructed within one (1) year and available and
5 in service by the end of 2024. Upon completion, the capacity made available by this
6 expansion will be ready to treat current and future economic development in and around
7 Winfield.

8 **14. Q WHEN DOES WINFIELD PLAN TO EXPAND ITS WASTEWATER**
9 **TREATMENT PLANT TO 4 MGD?**

10 A As I testified above, Winfield anticipates that the current expansion (i.e from 0.8 mgd
11 to 1.6 mgd) will meet the anticipated flows from current and future economic
12 development in Winfield's existing service territory and the Winfield Service Area for
13 many years to come. However, Winfield, Mr. Duffy, and I continue to monitor the flows
14 from all parts of Winfield's service territory to determine when it is appropriate to begin
15 final design, permitting, financing, and construction of the next phase of the wastewater
16 treatment plant expansion. While no one knows for sure how development will occur
17 in the Winfield Service Area, I, along with officials from Winfield, are anticipating
18 beginning the planning for the next wastewater treatment plant expansion in two (2)
19 years.

1 **15. Q BASED ON YOUR ENGINEERING EXPERIENCE, DO YOU BELIEVE**
2 **WINFIELD HAS THE FINANCIAL, TECHNICAL, AND MANAGERIAL**
3 **CAPABILITY TO SERVE THE WINFIELD SERVICE AREA?**

4 A Yes, I wholeheartedly agree with the conclusions of Mr. Duffy and Ms. Wilson on this
5 issue. While I am not Winfield's financial advisor, it has been my experience that
6 Winfield has the financial wherewithal to make the improvements necessary to its
7 wastewater treatment plant to ensure that it complies with all state and federal
8 guidelines. At the same time, the wastewater treatment plant is operated by licensed
9 wastewater operators with an aggregate of over fifty (50) years of experience with a full
10 functioning laboratory and operations equipment. I am well acquainted with their
11 capability and wholeheartedly believe that Winfield and its existing staff and
12 management have the technical and managerial capability to treat the anticipated flows
13 from the Winfield Service Area.

14 **III.**

15 **PRESENT AND FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
16 **IN THE WINFIELD SERVICE AREA**

17 **16. Q WILL APPROVAL OF WINFIELD'S REGULATORY ORDINANCE HAVE AN**
18 **IMPACT ON CURRENT AND FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN**
19 **THE WINFIELD SERVICE AREA?**

20 A Yes, I believe it will have a positive impact. At this point, the Town has planned,
21 designed, permitted, obtained regulatory approval for, and financed construction of
22 treatment facilities with sufficient capacity to serve the anticipated needs of the Winfield
23 Service Area. As explained by Mr. Duffy, this treatment capacity will be made available

1 to the Winfield Service Area by simply extending Winfield's existing nearby facilities
2 which should, in turn, facilitate economic growth in the area. By approving the
3 regulatory ordinance and authorizing Winfield to be the exclusive provider to the
4 Winfield Service Area, Winfield will be able to spread its fixed costs of operating its
5 treatment plant over a greater number of customers and thereby have the financial ability
6 to maintain its competitive rates. Undeniably, the ready availability of sewer service at
7 competitive rates will encourage economic development in the area.

8 **17. Q WHY SHOULD WINFIELD BE THE EXCLUSIVE PROVIDER IN THE**
9 **WINFIELD SERVICE AREA?**

10 A As an initial matter, I believe it is a question of fairness. Winfield has planned, designed,
11 financed, and obtained specific regulatory approval to expand its facilities with
12 sufficient capacity to serve the area in and around Winfield, including the Winfield
13 Service Area. From my perspective, it makes sense (and is fair) that Winfield be
14 authorized to be the exclusive provider in order to protect the investments made in order
15 to make service available to the area. As the exclusive provider, Winfield would also
16 have the assurance to make the future investments necessary to its treatment facilities so
17 that treatment capacity is available when needed by users in the Winfield Service Area.
18 I am very familiar with the Town's sewer transmission and collection facilities, and I do
19 agree with Mr. Duffy that the Winfield Service Area is a logical extension of Winfield's
20 existing service territory. By approving the regulatory ordinance and authorizing
21 Winfield to be the exclusive provider, it should be a seamless process for developers and
22 other stakeholders in the Winfield Service Area to simply extend and interconnect with

1 Winfield's nearby facilities. The ease of connection, the ready availability of treatment
2 capacity, and the lack of potential confusion caused by duplicative facilities support a
3 finding that Winfield should be the exclusive provider to the Winfield Service Area.

4 **V.**

5 **CONCLUSION**

6 **18. Q DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?**

7 A Yes, it does.

VERIFICATION

I affirm under the penalties for perjury that the foregoing testimony is true to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.



Jeremy C. Lin, Professional Engineer

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of the foregoing was served upon the following by electronic mail this
26th day of December, 2023:

Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor

infomgt@oucc.in.gov

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Christopher Janak", is written over a horizontal line.

J. Christopher Janak