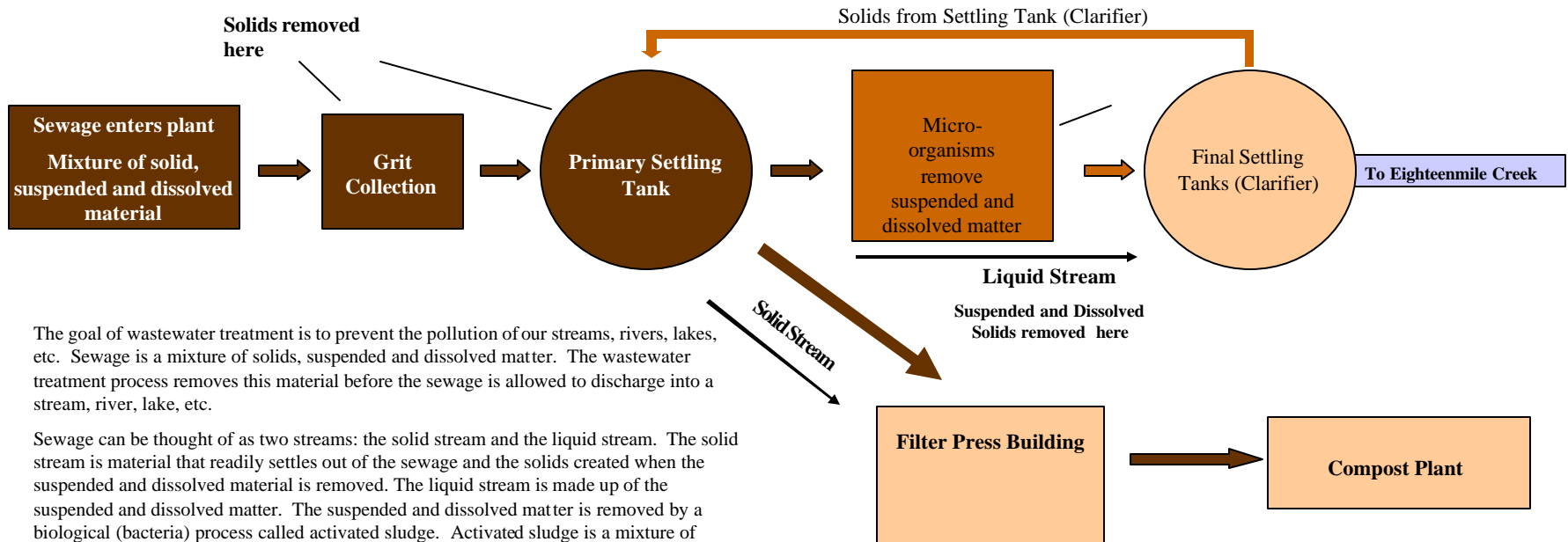


The Wastewater Treatment Process



The goal of wastewater treatment is to prevent the pollution of our streams, rivers, lakes, etc. Sewage is a mixture of solids, suspended and dissolved matter. The wastewater treatment process removes this material before the sewage is allowed to discharge into a stream, river, lake, etc.

Sewage can be thought of as two streams: the solid stream and the liquid stream. The solid stream is material that readily settles out of the sewage and the solids created when the suspended and dissolved material is removed. The liquid stream is made up of the suspended and dissolved matter. The suspended and dissolved matter is removed by a biological (bacteria) process called activated sludge. Activated sludge is a mixture of microorganisms that use the suspended and dissolved matter in the sewage as food. After this process, the liquid stream meets all Federal and State requirements for discharge into a receiving body of water (Eighteenmile Creek).

After treatment the liquid stream can be discharged into a body of water (Eighteenmile Creek). The solid stream, however, must be prepared for composting (or landfilling). The water content of the solid stream is 98% or 2% solids. The solid content must be increased to 20% before it can be used for composting. This is accomplished by pressing out the water (Filter Press). The solids are placed between two porous belts and run between rollers, similar to the old wringer washing machines.

The solids are transported to the Compost Plant and mixed with wood chips before composting. The compost process takes a minimum of 51 days. During this time the mixture is naturally heated to 55 degrees Fahrenheit for three consecutive days killing pathogens and viruses. The compost meets all Federal and State regulations and can be released to the public for use (\$5.00/cuyd).