Echo Hills' water, sewer plans move

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WALHALLA — Oconee County is slowly making progress in working with city of Walhalla officials to get water and sewer into the proposed Echo Hills industrial site on Highway 11.

Engineering firm BP Barber recently delivered a revised sewer plan for the city to review.

Walhalla Utilities Director Scott Parris said Wednesday that he's seen the revised sewer plans from the engineers and will take them before Walhalla City Council for approval at the regular meeting Aug. 16.

Parris said that once the revised plans clear council, he would notify the engineer and the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority.

"It would then be up to the county's engineer to apply to DHEC (Department of Health and Environmental Control) for the sewer permit," Parris said.

Walhalla already obtained a water permit from the state DHEC, Parris said.

City water and sewer lines would be placed within the state Department of Transportation right-of-way. City officials are waiting for an encroachment permit from SCDOT.

The Oconee County Council approved the purchase of the 400-acre site for $2.5 million late last year.

County officials are banking that the investment — to include an additional $10 million over three phases to put roadways, water, sewer and electricity throughout the industrial development — will pay off by attracting new business, creating jobs and expanding the county's tax base.

Councilman Paul Corbeil said last month at a town hall meeting that he expects big dividends from Echo Hills.

"I expect to see over a 10-12-15-year period as many as 2,000 jobs when (Echo Hills is) maxed out," he said.

Council Chairman Joel Thrift said the property is an attractive investment because of its central geographic location and availability of nearby infrastructure.

"This is a good move for Oconee County," Thrift said at the town hall meeting.

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