

# ***There's just too much water'***

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By John Miller

The \$6 million water and sewer renovation project in South Torrington is on indefinite hold due to the excessive ground water present from the heavier than usual rains this year.

The project's contractor, Hedquist Construction of Casper, submitted a request to terminate the project until further notice with the project developer, WLC Engineering. The contractor's crews have already vacated the area, leaving behind a few 20-foot sections of sewer line and a slew of dirt roads where there used to be asphalt.

According to project manager Shane Porter of WLC, the crews have been fighting groundwater from day one, pumping trenches out as they lay pipe. However, with the Platte River as high as anyone can remember, the situation has gotten completely untenable.

"The river is the highest it has been in 20 years," South Torrington Water and Sewer District Representative Sylvia Anaya said. "Our data analysis tells us that groundwater won't be low enough to resume work until mid-September."