

Milton to decide on controversial sewer request

By [DOUG NURSE](#)

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The Milton City Council on Thursday will address the controversial issue of whether to allow commercial development to have sewer service.

The city needs to resolve whether a project on Ga. 9 can actually use the Fulton County Sewer system. Although the county has already given the development a permit to connect, the city needs to give its blessing as well.

The sewer issue is controversial because many Milton residents are adamantly opposed to extension of sewer service for fear it will open the gates to more, and denser, development. The residents argue that higher-density development and commercial projects will ruin the pastoral feel of the community that makes it different from anywhere else in metro-Atlanta.

The question has been hanging since the city incorporated Dec. 1, 2006. As development pressures have grown, the need to settle the city's stance on sewer also has grown.

Resolution of this question is urgent because Sembler's SuperTarget and Kohl's are expected to open within the month on Ga. 9.

Thursday's discussion probably will center on technical and legal issues focusing on the specific Sembler development, but it sets the stage for future dialogue among the council.