

Boulder City's remarkable sewage disposal plant, which will produce enough natural gas to furnish its own heat needed in its operation, went into operation today for the first time.

Capable of producing excess gas enough to burn all of Boulder City's garbage, and also an appreciable quantity of fertilizer, this modern disposal plant today was put thru its paces for the first time.

Not so much for sewage disposal was it put into operation today, as for inspection and necessary regulation by its designer, Burton Lowther, Denver consulting engineer who designed both the water filtration plant and the sewerage plant for the community.

LOWTHER WILL check on the sewer plant and see that it is operating properly, then he will devote a few days to inspection of the water treating plant, between Colorado, Birch and Railroad streets just south of the small regulating tank at the foot of the hill.

"The government engineers of the bureau of reclamation told me to build the best, most modern plants possible," Lowther said yesterday. "That is what we set out to do and believe we have done."

Having had 25 years experience in this line of work, Lowther is acknowledged to have background for a piece of advanced and excellent piece of work on these Boulder City plants.

He was for 10 years chief engineer and general superintendent of water works for Kansas City, Missouri, holding the same position for eight years in Denver.

AT THE COLORADO metropolis he designed the huge \$1,250,000 plant there, which is capable of filtering 80,000,000 gallons of water a day—or 40 times the amount which can be held in the tank at the Boulder City hilltop. This plant was built in 1924.

The Boulder sewer plant is located half a mile south of Fifth street.

It works on the plan of first, mechanical sedimentation, for separation of solids from water, and second, digestion, for purification.

The mechanical sedimentation, in a large reservoir is followed by "digestion" of the solids by means of bacteria, while the water, comparatively free of impurities, is allowed to flow out upon the desert and evaporate.

TEMPERATURE OF 80 to 90 degrees is necessary to produce perfect digestion, Lowther explained. Methane (natural) gas is produced in this process. This gas is piped to a boiler and burned to heat water, which in turn circulates thru pipes in the digester, keeping its temperature up to the required point.

Sufficient gas will be produced in this manner not only to heat the digester, but also to burn all of Boulder City's dry and wet garbage, producing intense heat as great as 1800 degrees for the purpose, it is computed.