

NOTES from PUNDITALIA

Sewage Treatment

The City of Todi is one of the biggest polluters of the Tiber, and as such is under threat of sanctions from both the EU and the Italian Government for its delayed upgrading of its inadequate sewage treatment plants, as well as the loss of EU subsidies already allocated for that purpose.

The center-left Marini Administration had proposed a new treatment plant in Monte Mulino, then when faced with local objections, proposed a new installation in the industrial zone of Pian di Porto, where a smaller treatment plant already exists. When the Ruggiani Administration came in four years ago, they changed the location, without any public debate, to a pristine green area below Porchiano along the Tiber, near the border with the Region of Terni. While this raised significant objection among environmentalist groups, Mayor Ruggiani was undeterred and proceeded to award a construction contract prior to the issuance or approval of an environmental study. The ruins of an old Roman villa were discovered on the the proposed site, thus ending its eligibility for realization. The outgoing administration identified three other sites where the proposed plant could be constructed without major modification.

It remains to be seen how the Rossini Administration will deal with this emergency but it is everyone's economic and environmental interest that the plant be constructed without further extended delay.