

UP date

News about activities and development at MSD

January 27, 2000

Participation in research groups to continue

MSD will continue working with two national research groups on wastewater and process-instrumentation activities.

Since 1986 MSD has belonged to the Instrumentation Testing Association (ITA), which helps wastewater treatment utilities get the most out of automated instrumentation and control systems. Through ongoing studies, ITA helps member organizations by comparing the effectiveness of instruments and developing innovative testing procedures designed to save time and money.

MSD specifically benefits from ITA's instrumentation testing and maintenance evaluation program, according to Director of Research and Productivity Assessment Mike Sweeney. "We've learned what instruments work best, especially in the measurement of flow, suspended solids and oxidation-reduction-potential of chlorination and dechlorination processes at the Morris Forman Wastewater Treatment Plant," he said.

MSD also is participating in an ongoing ITA study that will identify monitoring and automation methods now used in industry that can be transferred to wastewater treatment processes to improve plant operations and reduce costs. Another study about testing and evaluating ammonia analyzer equipment will help MSD comply with its state permit, according to Sweeney.

ITA is currently developing online testing mechanisms for pH, suspended solids and turbidity analyzers, as well as for biological oxidation demand. If online testing becomes viable in the future, MSD could save as much as \$200,000 per year in sampling and lab charges.

ITA is funded in part by contributions from more than 70 public and private treatment works that participate in its studies. "The benefits

MSD receives from continued participation in ITA are far greater than the \$25,000 contribution we're making," Sweeney said.

MSD's decade-long affiliation with the Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF) will continue through the foundation's Utilities Subscription Program.

A member of the WERF Utility Council, MSD and 153 other publicly owned treatment works fund comprehensive research projects focused on collection and treatment systems, watershed and ecosystem management, and human health effects and products.

WERF funds more than \$30 million in research activities, including 150 ongoing projects and 50 new projects scheduled to begin this year. Of the 25 reports WERF published in 1999, MSD has benefited from studies of protecting wastewater treatment plant workers from exposure to chemical and physical hazards, evaluating use of constructed wetlands in urban areas and other completed research reports. "The research is results-oriented and practical," according to Sweeney.

MSD is sharing its experiences with the continuous deflective separation demonstration project with participating WERF members, Sweeney said. MSD's project is one of the first uses of this technology to separate stormwater liquids and solids, lessening combined sewer overflows in the project area.

MSD's funding contribution to WERF is \$41,808. "It's a cost-effective means of leveraging our water quality and operations research investment, as well as obtaining current state-of-the-art technology for our industry," Sweeney said.

MSD Executive Director Gordon R. Garner currently chairs the WERF Board.



Upcoming Events

Feb. 4 - Public Meeting, Clayton Rd. Sanitary Sewer Assessment Project, 7 p.m. Atherton High library, 3000 Dundee Rd.

Feb. 9 - Public Meeting, Beulah Church Rd. Sanitary Sewer Assessment Project, 7 p.m., Fern Creek High cafeteria, 8815 Ferndale Rd.

Feb. 14 - MSD Board Meeting, 10 a.m., 700 W. Liberty, first floor

Feb. 15 - Public Meeting, Feyhurst Sanitary Sewer Project, 7 p.m., Southwest Government Center, 7219 Dixie Hwy.



North County watershed area

Sewer project planned for Lyndon area

Approximately 101 residences in the City of Lyndon will be connected to sanitary sewer service.

The Witawanga Avenue Sanitary Sewer and Drainage Improvement Project was initiated by the City of Lyndon, which asked MSD to pursue plans to extend sewer service to an area off LaGrange Road.

In addition to constructing nearly 7,000 feet of sewer, property service connections and manholes, the project includes roadside and yard drainage improvements. The project will serve properties on Witwanga Ave., Etawah Ave., Blue Vale Way and Autumn Ridge Rd.

At the request of the City of Lyndon, MSD will also widen roadways as part of the project. The City of Lyndon is contributing \$100,000 to cover the cost of the road improvements.

MAC Construction & Excavating, Inc. will construct the project at a cost of \$738,581. It is expected to take about one year to complete.



MSD

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New CNG vehicles cleaner, more economical

This year when MSD replaces six sedans in its fleet, it will save money and reduce air emissions.

MSD is buying six 1999 Honda Civic GX Natural Gas vehicles, designed to operate only on compressed natural gas (CNG). While each vehicle lists for \$19,116.25, the Kentucky Department of Energy will reimburse MSD \$4,500 for each car purchased that runs only on alternative fuel.

Vehicles that operate on CNG only will save MSD an estimated \$250 per vehicle per year in fuel savings, according to Director of Physical Assets James Hunt. "MSD's average cost per gallon for CNG is 55 cents, including the cost of fuel and the cost of electricity to pump it," Hunt said. "Compared to the \$1.30 per gallon cost of unleaded gasoline, MSD can save about 75 cents per gallon by fueling vehicles with CNG."

Since 1998 MSD has operated a CNG station at its Cabel Street yard for its vehicles that use CNG. MSD's fleet includes 32 vehicles that have been converted to use CNG, but also will operate on unleaded gasoline or diesel. Last year MSD used about 10,724 gallons of CNG and saved \$4,800 in fuel costs. Hunt estimates that the new CNG-powered Honda Civics will save MSD about \$1,500 a year each in fuel costs.

Hunt said clean-burning CNG has virtually no emissions and vehicles operating on CNG get better mileage and have reduced maintenance costs than vehicles running on gasoline.

Federal and state energy programs require that the majority of new vehicles MSD purchases to operate on alternative fuels.

Veteran customer service manager leaving MSD

Jolyn Colon is leaving MSD after serving as Customer Service Manager for more than 10 years.

Colon was instrumental in developing policies and procedures that have standardized both customer service records and how MSD staff responds to them. She also managed development of MSD's 24-hour customer service line.

"Jolyn ushered in an era of ensuring that our records best reflected our customer's needs and that we responded to them consistently," said Customer Service and Public Affairs Director Trish Burke.

The search is underway for a new Customer Service Manager and the position has been posted at MSD. Burke hopes to begin interviewing internal candidates the week of Jan. 31.

Colon will remain at MSD to help the new manager transition into the job, according to Burke. After the new manager is on board, Colon will focus on the Customer Response System replacement project, which is projected to be in place by the end of July.

The new response system will easily integrate with other critical software programs used throughout MSD, including SAP and LOJIC. It also will enable MSD to better track and report on customer requests, while eliminating double-entry of customer request data into two programs as staff now do. "Jolyn's knowledge and expertise will be critical to the success of this project," Burke said.

Doutrick honored as Millennium Maker

MSD Board Chair Reba Doutrick has been named a Millennium Maker for her volunteer work at Riverside, the Farnsley-Moremén Landing.

Doutrick and 23 others were the first recipients of the community service award given by Jefferson County Judge-Executive Rebecca Jackson. They were recognized in a ceremony Dec. 31, 1999.

This award was established to recognize people who help make Jefferson County a better place to live. Recipients are nominated by their peers. During this year, 2000 people will be recognized with Millennium Maker awards.



Mill Creek watershed area

Assessments set for Johnstontown project

The 201 property owners in the Johnstontown Rd. will pay between \$5,900 and \$7,670 for sanitary sewer service.

MSD's Board approved the range of guaranteed maximum assessments for the project area, located in southwest Jefferson County east of Greenbelt Highway and south of the Riverport. The assessments are the most property owners in the project area will pay as their shares of sewer construction and connection costs.

To extend service to the area, MSD will construct 10,500 feet of collector sewer.



Pond Creek watershed area

More drainage work planned in Scottsdale

The third phase of drainage improvements is planned for the Scottsdale area between Outer Loop and National Turnpike.

The project will provide drainage facilities to relieve some flooding problems, addressing 45 customer requests and affecting about 120 properties.

Drainage channels and backyard swales in the area are not well-defined, causing water to pond during rains. To promote better drainage, the project will install nearly 3,000 feet of concrete V swale and about 400 feet of two-foot flat bottom ditch.

Precision Contracting, Inc., Glendale, will construct the project for \$123,700.