



MSD

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement by Bud Schardein, Jr., MSD Executive Director  
On Comprehensive Settlement  
Related to Clean Water Act and Sewer Overflows

MSD has reached a comprehensive agreement with federal and state agencies on a consent decree that will address sewer overflows on MSD's wastewater system. Overflows occur when groundwater is put into MSD's sewers by homeowners in order to prevent basement flooding or by leaky systems inherited by MSD over the past thirty years. For the past ten years MSD has worked towards eliminating these overflows in a cost-effective manner. MSD received partial success in reducing overflows by its back flow prevention program which disconnected homeowners' sump pumps and down spouts from the sanitary sewer system and with sanitary sewer rehabilitation.

The consent decree recognizes MSD's commitment to protect people's property as well as the environment. The consent decree places additional requirements on MSD, including the elimination of approximately 80% of MSD's sanitary sewer overflows by 2013. MSD was given adequate time to plan a solution that will be effective and economical. The actual amount required to meet the consent decree will not be known until the planning process and construction bidding is complete. MSD negotiated a reasonable fine and supplemental environmental projects, all of which will benefit the Commonwealth of Kentucky and Louisville Metro. These supplemental environmental projects include the following:

- Funding the Board of Health for cancer screenings
- Planting vegetation along urban streams
- Funding outdoor classroom programs on the environment with JCPS
- Helping the Commonwealth with eliminating pollution
- Expanding the bicycle and pedway connections
- Converting Lee's Lane Landfill for recreational use

MSD will do all we can to mitigate the impact on our customers. Rates will, of course, have to increase to pay for the required capital improvements. However, even with the increase, MSD will remain one of the lowest cost providers of sewer services in our region.

MSD credits the Commonwealth, through its Secretary of Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet, Lajuana S. Wilcher, for her leadership in bringing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Justice and MSD together in a reasonable cooperative solution. MSD agreed to the consent decree to avoid lengthy and costly litigation, and to clarify MSD's compliance with sewer

overflow requirements. Over the past two years, our state regulators and the federal government have made it clear that the original pace of MSD's improvements would not meet the higher standards now required.

From the beginning, everyone, including MSD, agreed on the ultimate goal to make capital improvements necessary to improve water quality in our area. All of us at MSD are committed to meeting these new requirements in the most efficient and effective way possible. We welcome the input and support of our partners in this process as we move forward.