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News Release

For Immediate Release

Ground Broken for Ozone Disinfection System

EPA Region 7 Administrator Karl Brooks and DNR Deputy Director Dru Buntin joined City leaders to break ground today for the new Ozone Disinfection System at the Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The $16 million project award was made possible through a combination grant and low-interest loan of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding awarded by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources through a federal grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The EPA Region 7 office, which covers Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska and nine tribal nations, selected Springfield’s project to represent the one-year anniversary of the federal stimulus program. Mr. Brooks said this project represents the goals of meeting both economic and environmental needs in offering a shared federal, state and local improvement for regional water quality.

The state DNR is administering the grant and loan funds to help local communities, including Springfield, support water and wastewater infrastructure improvement projects that also produce financial savings. Mr. Buntin noted that Missouri has exceeded the federal requirement of using 20 percent of the Recovery Act funding on “green” infrastructure projects.

Springfield’s new system will increase the SWWTP’s disinfection capacity by more than 50 percent while it also is projected to save about $6 million over 20 years in reduced energy consumption and maintenance requirements. The two-year project is expected to create 30 new full-time equivalent jobs.

Dr. John Moore, president of the Upper White River Basin Foundation, praised the downstream regional impact the project will have on the flows going into Table Rock Lake and Lake Taneycomo, which are vital watersheds for recreational and economic development in Missouri.

The direct grant and loan covers two projects under three contracts:

- The Ozone Disinfection System was separated into two bids because of the different types of work involved.
  - Section 1 is the purchase and installation of the ozone-generation equipment and replacement of oxygen compressors and existing electrical equipment. The notice to proceed has been issued to the general contractor, Grimm Construction Company, Inc. The project is expected to be completed in about two years.
  - Section 2 is the installation of 42-inch and 54-inch pipe to increase the hydraulic capacity for disinfection. The notice to proceed on this project has been issued to
the general contractor, Ridge Hill Construction Company. Construction is expected to take 12 months.

- The second part of the project is the new Spring Branch Trunk Sewer, which includes installation of 9,486 feet of 36-inch pipe, 28 manholes and abandonment and demolition of the Airport Lift Station. The project is in the northwest part of the service area and is needed to relieve the existing Airport Pump station which is at or exceeding its expected serviceable life. The notice to proceed on the nine-month project has been issued to the general contractor, Beemer Construction Company.

The Springfield project was well-positioned to be considered for ARRA funding because these improvements were already planned and were “shovel ready” when the application process was announced last year. The final impact on sewer rates to users of Springfield’s wastewater treatment system will be determined in a fee study to be completed later this year.

The ARRA direct grant of $3 million, which doesn’t have to be re-paid, and the low-interest loan rate anticipated to be about 2 percent, will represent significant savings over the cost of the project without the ARRA funding. The City also is applying $1 million in previously approved state Revolving Loan Funds. Over the long term, the improvements are necessary for Springfield to comply with state and federal wastewater treatment mandates.

For more information on operations at the Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant, visit: www.springfieldmo.gov/sanitary/southwest.html

For more information, contact: Steve Meyer, Public Works Assistant Director of Sanitary Services, 864-2047.

Ozone benefits paper.
Explanation of ozone disinfection process.