Ozone Disinfection System Groundbreaking

The City of Springfield will host special guests from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Ozone Disinfection System at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2010.

Karl Brooks, the new Regional Administrator for the EPA’s Regional Office in Kansas City; and Dru Buntin, DNR Deputy Director, will join Mayor Jim O’Neal for the groundbreaking ceremony, which will take place at the ozone facility within the Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant.

This project is made possible through a $16 million combination low-interest loan and direct grant of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding. It will improve the City’s disinfection capacity by about 50 percent, which will create regional downstream water-quality improvements for flows into Table Rock Lake and Lake Taneycomo.

Following the ceremony, the City will provide a short tour and briefing for Mr. Brooks to learn more about Springfield’s award-winning Brownfields program. Congressman Roy Blunt will participate in the Brownfields tour and program as an opportunity to meet Mr. Brooks, who began serving in this post this month.

Here is itinerary information for media interested in covering these events.

- The pre-tour of the current ozone facility is scheduled to begin at 11:10 a.m. This will be the best opportunity to see the control room and current disinfection equipment as well as where the facility expansion will occur and a nearby outflow point for the disinfected effluent.

  Media interested in covering the pre-tour should notify staff at the treatment plant gate so their vehicles can be directed to the tour entrance of the ozone building.

- The groundbreaking ceremony will take place at 11:30 a.m. Media arriving for that will be directed to parking in an area near the groundbreaking site.

- The West Meadows tour will begin about 12:10 p.m. at the Butler, Rosenbury & Partners building parking lot at 319 N. Main Ave. The driving tour of several Brownfields sites will include the West Meadows, the former Willowbrook processing plant, the IDEA Commons and the Butler, Rosenbury site. The best opportunity for photos or videography will be at the Butler, Rosenbury lot adjacent to the West Meadows at the end of the tour about 12:30 p.m. There are no other stops planned.
Following the tour, Congressman Blunt, Mr. Brooks and Chris Cady, Director of DNR’s Brownfields program, will meet with several community leaders and City staff members to discuss the Brownfields program during an informal lunch session. Media are welcome to attend that session, which will begin immediately after the tour and take place in Butler, Rosenbury’s community room.

For more information, contact: Louise Whall, Director of Public Information, 864-1010.

Media packets with more background information about the ozone disinfection process will be available at the groundbreaking ceremony.