



NEWS RELEASE # 10 - 2016
Hopkinsville Water Environment Authority
For Immediate Release

Date: November 18, 2016
Subject: **HWEA Plans Water & Sewer Infrastructure Projects**

The Hopkinsville Water Environment Authority is pleased to announce two water and sewer infrastructure projects which are necessary, not only to improve service for its customers, but also to expand and upgrade facilities for future growth.

HWEA President / CEO Derrick Watson says, "The time to act is now. We have secured funding and delaying these projects is simply no longer an option because of our need for more capacity and to make sure we stay ahead of federal and state regulations."

The water project consists of constructing a two-million gallon elevated storage tank in the Southpark Industrial Park, a 4.5 mile 20" water main extension along U.S. 41-A and painting the Gainesville Hill water tank located near the Pennyriple Parkway. The total cost for the water improvements is \$9.3 million dollars. The Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA), who provides low interest loans for public works projects, has ranked HWEA's water project as the # 1 project in the state of Kentucky for funding.

The sewer project includes an expansion and renovation of the Hammond-Wood Waste Water Treatment Plant located on Gary Lane. Watson says, "The plant was originally constructed in 1983, expanded in 1995 and now, nearly all the mechanical and electrical components are at the end of their life cycle and need to be replaced. We also need to make changes in the treatment process in order to ensure that we do what is necessary to remain in compliance and that we have plenty of capacity for future growth." The total cost for this project is \$39.4 million dollars and includes an expansion from 6 million gallons per day to 9 million gallons per day providing capacity through the year 2035. KIA has ranked HWEA's sewer plant expansion and renovation project as # 5 in the state of Kentucky for funding.

Another reason for urgency, according to Watson, "These projects will take up to three years to complete. Generally, it takes at least one year for design and two years for construction and we are ready to issue a notice to proceed on the design as early as January 2017."

Watson says water bills will go up 12% in July 2017 and the sewer bill will rise 14% per year for the next (4) years, beginning July 2018 and ending July 2021.

Watson stated, "These projects are about improving service, maintaining compliance, and expanding for future growth. We are thrilled they are approved for funding and look forward to beginning as soon as possible."

For more information, please contact the HWEA Main Office at T # 270-887-4246 or visit our website at www.hwea-ky.com.

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