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MSD's cIAIRity Update – January 15, 2025

MSD's cIAIRity Program is our ongoing work to mitigate the natural odor related to organic materials that decompose as a part of wastewater treatment and management. This monthly brief provides updates on the status of various projects under the cIAIRity initiative over the past month.

December Odor Reports Down with Increased Rainfall

This past December, our community received 3.81 inches of rain, a 51 percent increase from December 2023's 1.86 inches. With the increased rain, odor reports continued to decline for the fifth consecutive month. MSD received 92 service requests related to odor throughout December, down from 120 in November. The requests came from 21 different ZIP codes, and each resulted in an MSD crew investigating and responding as appropriate. For the majority of service calls, MSD crews on-site cleaned, deodorized and flushed with water the nearby sewer mains, catch basins or manhole covers where necessary. In a few cases, all MSD assets were checked and no odor was detected.

cIAIRity Community Meetings Returning in 2025

In 2024, MSD brought its cIAIRity Community Meetings to several neighborhoods to foster discussions with the community about odor management. The meetings provided a space for residents to share their experiences, voice concerns and learn about MSD's ongoing and planned efforts to reduce odors, including updates on current projects and initiatives. We're pleased to share that the cIAIRity community meetings will return in 2025. We are currently in the process of identifying dates and locations, and will share them well in advance.

In addition, MSD continues to engage with smaller groups, such as churches, nonprofits and other local organizations, for more personalized discussions. If your group would like to host MSD for a conversation tailored to your group, you can request a visit by emailing CustomerRelations@LouisvilleMSD.org.

2025 Project Preview at Morris Forman

The \$255 million, multi-year construction project underway to enhance our biosolids processing at the Morris Forman Water Quality Treatment Center will take several strides during 2025.

For the rehabilitation of the facility's primary sedimentation equipment, basins 1 and 2 are being prepped for construction, with completion expected by late spring 2025. We also will complete this year the hydrogen sulfide removal from the digester gas that fuels the dryer system. This work will cut utility costs and reduce emissions. Meanwhile, construction is underway to build a thermal-hydrolysis system that, when complete, will process biosolids in a way that supports long-term sustainability. This system will result in Class A material – meeting strict regulations for the highest quality level of treated sludge that may be used as a natural fertilizer or soil additive.

Our work at Morris Forman will also add to the community's resiliency and preparedness. We are enhancing the facility's electrical reliability by modernizing two load centers and adding a backup for another. Also, during the dry season, we will begin construction of a gate at the facility's final pumping station that will create the proper redundancies to further protect the community from Ohio River flooding. Together this extensive work at Kentucky's largest water treatment facility is improving our operations particularly in biosolids handling, while also enhancing the environment for the community.

For more information or to report an odor, visit LouisvilleMSD.org/odor or call 502.540.6000.

About MSD

The Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) works to achieve and maintain clean, environmentally safe waterways for a healthy and vibrant community. More than 670 employees provide wastewater management, drainage and flood protection services across the 376 square miles of Louisville Metro and wastewater service in portions of Bullitt and Oldham Counties. In addition to operating and maintaining Louisville Metro's sewer system, floodwall system, water quality treatment centers and flood pumping stations, MSD invests in hundreds of infrastructure improvement projects each year, plants more than 1,000 trees and other vegetation annually to enhance water filtration and reduce runoff and provides numerous outreach programs to inform and educate the community about protecting our waterways.