



700 West Liberty Street | Louisville, KY 40203-1911
Phone: 502.540.6000 | LouisvilleMSD.org

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CONTACT:

Sheryl Lauder
Sheryl.Lauder@LouisvilleMSD.org
502.919.0325

MSD Hosts Podcast Discussion on Use of Wastewater Surveillance Information

Water industry and public health professionals share insights

LOUISVILLE, KY — Louisville MSD, in collaboration with the Water Environment Federation (WEF) Utility Management Community, has released a new episode of its podcast, “Talking H2Oonestly.” This episode focuses on the use of wastewater surveillance information in the water industry and its implications for public health.

The podcast discusses how water utilities, public health organizations, and technology companies are working together to utilize wastewater surveillance data for more informed decision-making. Key topics include how this data has been utilized and shared with the public at both regional and national levels. Although the use of wastewater surveillance grew rapidly during the COVID-19 pandemic, the guests also explore how its application has evolved and continues to benefit utilities, schools, and public health organizations. Additionally, the discussion covers how this information is communicated to the public across the United States and how other countries are leveraging this technology to inform public health decisions.

The panel featured a distinguished group of leaders in the water industry and public health, including:

- Dr. Rachel West, Senior Scientist at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), National Wastewater Surveillance System;
- Dr. Rochelle Holm, Associate Professor at the University of Louisville; Christina Lee Brown, Envirome Institute, School of Medicine;
- Jennings Heussner, Biobot, Government Partnerships Consultant; and
- Scott Broski, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS), Superintendent of Environmental Services.

To learn more and to listen/view the Talking H2Oonestly podcast, visit:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2340409>

<https://www.youtube.com/@LouisvilleMSD>

Background

Talking H2Onestly is dedicated to creating content that assists utilities across the United States in addressing their water challenges and sharing their expertise. This podcast aims to provide all utilities with access to critical information, empowering them to optimize their funding and staffing resources. Additionally, these discussions will offer ratepayers insight into the complex issues that utilities encounter while delivering essential services to our communities. The podcast will also introduce listeners to various dedicated water professionals.

Talking H2Onestly is produced by Zonetta English, the MSD Strategic Initiatives and Project Delivery Director, along with the WEF Community Leadership Council Director, and with the support of MSD Executive Director Tony Parrott. “This podcast covers a variety of perspectives from across America. We hope it will be beneficial for utility employees, local communities, and political stakeholders,” states Parrott.

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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. The organization's 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 it provides numerous outreach programs to inform and educate the community about protecting our waterways.