



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

MEDIA ADVISORY

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CONTACT:

Sheryl Lauder
Sheryl.Lauder@LouisvilleMSD.org
502.540.6552
502.919.0325

MSD Ohio River Flood Protection System is back in service

LOUISVILLE, KY– It is raining again and MSD's Ohio River Flood Protection System is back in service. Current projections show an Ohio River crest by Wednesday, April 4 of 20.5 feet on the upper gauge and 51 feet on the lower gauge. Normal pool on the upper gauge is 12 feet. Low stage on the lower gauge is 9 feet.

MSD currently has four of its 16 flood pumping stations in service and anticipates having a total of six to seven in service by Sunday.

No floodwall roadway closures are needed with this crest level.

Damage from the previous flood

MSD staff have been inspecting and evaluating the flood protection system since the February/March flooding. Each of the 16 pumping stations has multiple pumps and process gates. However, 10 of these stations experienced damage in that flooding event. The system had a total of five pump failures and multiple process gate and motor control failures. The assessment and repair work is ongoing. We do not anticipate any issues concerning the damaged equipment with the level of flooding that is projected at this time.

MSD Flood Protection staff work year-round to maintain these flood pumping stations, 150 floodgates, and 29-miles of floodwall and earthen levee. Nine MSD pump stations are 70 years old and were built when Louisville had much less impervious surface.

Background

MSD maintains Louisville Metro's Ohio River Flood Protection System—keeping the river at bay and out of the city. The system protects more than 200,000 people, 87,000 homes and \$24 billion in property throughout 110 square miles of Louisville Metro. It includes 29 miles of floodwall and earthen levee, 16 flood pumping stations, nearly 150 floodgates and 80 floodwall closures.

Where creeks and storm drains pass through the floodwall, gates can be closed to keep the river from flowing up the streams, and large pumps at the flood pumping stations are used to lift the water from the creeks into the river. Additional gates and pumping stations keep the river from backing up through storm drains, and pump the stormwater into the river.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built the system after the city's two highest floods of record in 1937 and 1945. MSD has been responsible for the Flood Protection System since 1987.



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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 more than 600 employees provide wastewater management, drainage and flood protection services across the 376 square miles of Louisville Metro. 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.