



**MSD**

Louisville and Jefferson County  
Metropolitan Sewer District

# Update

News about activities and developments at MSD

**April 10, 2002**

## Pilot program spurs change in discharge regulations

MSD's revised wastewater discharge regulations feature changes in local discharge limits and a modified pretreatment component impacting some industrial customers in the Jeffersontown area.

"Kentucky Division of Water requires MSD to evaluate local limits every five years," says Director of Research/Productivity Assessment Mike Sweeney. "Their final review of the proposed changes is completed."

Local limits help control pollutants discharged by large industrial sewer customers into MSD's sewer collection system, through the treatment plant and eventually into surface water. The revised regulations provide limits for what's in the wastewater—from ammonia to



*EPA's Office of Wastewater Management Municipal Branch Chief Jeff Lape presents the long-range benefits of Project XL.*

zinc—that's discharged into sewers. "The regulations help us control what goes into the sewer system and on to each wastewater treatment plant," Sweeney said.

MSD has already reviewed local limits changes, only affecting five substances, with its industrial customers and state Division of Water personnel. These changes become effective in six months.

The revised regulations also incorporate Project XL, a U.S. EPA pilot program in place at MSD's Jeffersontown Wastewater Treatment Plant since September 2000. It is one of five pilot programs in the U.S. Project XL tests new approaches to meet environmental goals and responsibilities through pretreatment of industrial sewer discharges.

Project XL's goal is to achieve water quality excellence. With this

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## Watershed Watch training planned

Want to help keep Jefferson County streams clean but fear you lack the skills to make a difference?

MSD is sponsoring a workshop to teach volunteers how to collect



*Jerry Terhune trains a Salt River Watershed Watch group in Beargrass Creek.*

samples from area streams that will help evaluate stream quality.

The training workshop will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 27

at MSD's Floyd Forks Wastewater Treatment Plant, located off U.S. 60 east of the I-265 interchange.

It's part of the Salt River Watershed Watch, a volunteer-driven program that monitors stream quality in an area that's home to 27 percent of Kentucky's population. The program monitors Salt River and major tributaries—Floyds Fork and Rolling Fork—which drain an area that includes Springfield, Bardstown, Shelbyville, Taylorsville and LaGrange. Tributaries of the Ohio

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## Celebrate Earth Day at the Zoo

Celebrate Earth Day Sunday, April 14, at the Louisville Zoo.

The annual event features displays, puppet shows, music and demonstrations promoting the environment and natural resources. MSD staff will be on hand to distribute water quality reports at the MSD display.

Earth Day admission to the Zoo is free and the celebration lasts from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.





## Customer First at Work

*Editor's note: Following are excerpts of customer comments.*

**"Calvin Davis and his crew—Phil Bradley, Virgil Brown, Marcus McCampbell, Charles Woods and Ron Wordlow**—took the time to do an excellent job restoring my property,"  
—Tony Kennon,  
Jeffersontown, 40299

**"Thanks to Mike Anderson, Chris Hardin and Tony Porter,** the area looks better now than it did before."  
—Robert Risinger, Louisville, 40229

**"Don Dunn, Greg Meredith and Alonzo Spencer** did a fine job on my property service connection repair. MSD is lucky to have employees like them."  
—Alvin Wedding, Louisville, 40229

**"My compliments to Julie Blanford** in Customer Service for taking details about the sewer installation work I was not pleased with. She has a hard job, listening to people complain while remaining so nice."  
—Betty Schulten, Louisville, 40216

**"PC Support Specialist Karen Craft's** skill and knowledge have helped me troubleshoot problems and made my work easier to accomplish."  
—Bonnie Ramsey, MSD Customer Service Supervisor, 40203

**"Thanks for sending a great crew (R. Harris, L. Hatchett, W. Jackson, S. Marino, G. Moore, T. Moore, S. Thomas and J. Trammell)** to repair the sewer backup. What an excellent job they did in front of my house!"  
—Carl Hardin, Louisville, 40211

## Floyds Fork plant honored for engineering excellence

The Kentucky Consulting Engineers Council has recognized the Floyds Fork Wastewater Treatment Plant as one of the best projects in Kentucky, honoring the facility with the 2002 Engineering Excellence Grand Conceptor Award.

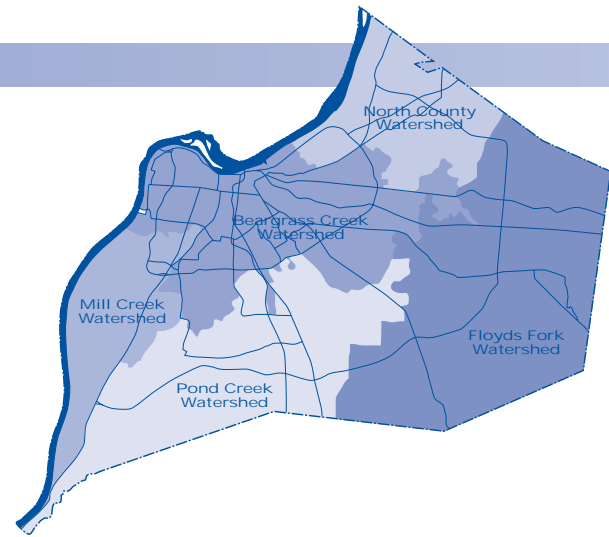
Designed and constructed for MSD by Quest Engineers, Inc. and Judy Construction Co., the Floyds Fork plant was planned to be unlike any other sewage treatment facility. "It was to be a model facility and environmental resource for the community," said MSD Project Engineer Tony State.

Design specifications of the first municipally-owned design-build wastewater treatment plant in Kentucky included the Ellen Swallow Richards Ecology Learning Center, wheelchair accessibility, a geothermal system—reducing heating and cooling costs by half—and remote operations capabilities reducing labor costs.

Even during construction, project contractors took special care to prevent erosion and control sediment runoff from the site, according to State. While a county ordinance calls for a minimum of 80 percent reduction in sediment leaving the construction site, directing drainage to a sediment basin during construction prevented any offsite sediment loss, State said.

With the Floyds Fork plant on line, three inefficient neighborhood wastewater treatment plants have been removed from service and an additional eight plants can now be taken out of service. That will reduce future

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## Sponsors needed for River Sweep 2002

Volunteers and corporate sponsors are needed for the largest single environmental cleanup project in the U.S.—the 2002 River Sweep. The 14th annual event, scheduled for June 15, will clean up debris and trash from more than 3,000 miles of the Ohio River and tributaries from Pittsburgh to Cairo, Illinois.

The event, coordinated locally by MSD and regionally by the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission, needs sponsors to provide incentives for the non-profit group that collects the most trash.

Last year, 20,000 volunteers, including more than 500 from environmental organizations, civic groups, recreational clubs, scout troops, businesses teams and others from Louisville and Jefferson County collected trash and debris. "More than 13,000 tons of debris—from cars to aluminum cans—was collected and each volunteer received a River Sweep T-shirt to prove it," said Bud Schardein, MSD's River Sweep coordinator.

To volunteer or obtain sponsorship information, phone MSD's Janice Lewis at 540-6366.

## Floodplain report examines progress

How is Jefferson County coordinating floodplain management activities and reducing community flood losses? The 2001 Floodplain Management Plan Progress Report, now available to the public, has the answers.

The Floodplain Management Plan identifies areas in the community at risk for flooding, warning siren locations, critical facilities and mitigation projects. It also contains the community's history of flooding and a description of programs in place to alleviate chronic flood losses. The plan details actions for the

*Local residents pay 20% less for flood insurance.*

next five years that include flood gauges in viaducts, Floodplain Ordinance changes and mapping of the community's open space.

Louisville and Jefferson County's regulation, preventive measures, natural resource protection, property protection, emergency services and public outreach have resulted in a Class 6 Community Rating System rating. The rating rewards local residents with a 20 percent reduction in flood insurance premiums. Only six communities in the nation rank higher.

Marking the first year of the five-year plan, the 2001 Progress Report is available at these locations: Louisville & Jefferson County Planning & Development office, Louisville Free Public Library, Louisville/Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency office and Louisville & Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District main office.

It also is available on the Internet at <http://msdlouky.org/programs/crssite/fpmp.html>

## Pilot program

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goal in mind, MSD is enhancing pretreatment efforts to directly impact water quality. The EPA hopes the pilot studies will give it the data needed to spur changes in national pretreatment standards.

Project XL will allow MSD to redefine Significant Industrial Users not only by the amount of flow they discharge, but also the amount of

pollutants of concern in those flows.

"Project XL showed that the sewer collection and treatment plant systems are impacted by discharges from industries with the highest mass loadings, not just by the number of gallons," Sweeney said. "Since flow alone isn't an automatic indicator of environmental risk, we've asked for some flexibility to expand the definition



of Significant Industrial Users to include those with high mass loadings."

Identifying large customers with high mass loadings in the Jeffersontown plant's service area is simplified through Project XL, which

includes on-going monitoring and one-on-one sessions with area industrial customers. "Our communication with stakeholders

has helped identify areas of concern," says Sharon Worley, Project XL manager for MSD. "That in turn helps us target resources for the greatest environmental impact," she said.

Sweeney noted that MSD and its industrial customers have an overall significant non-compliance rate of less than 10 percent, which is below the national average.

## Stream monitoring program

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River also are tested.

Volunteers are asked to collect samples three times a year, in May, July and September, checking for different pollutants each time. After the samples are analyzed, the results are compiled, posted on the Internet and shared with the Kentucky Division of Water for its monitoring programs, according to MSD's Aquatic Restoration Specialist Barry Nichols.

Over the years, Watershed Watch has found that major sources of water pollution are urban runoff from parking lots and lawn chemicals, storm sewers, septic tanks, package wastewater treatment plants, construction sediment and agricultural runoff. About one-third



*Watershed Watch volunteers collect samples for stream quality analysis.*

of streams in Jefferson and surrounding counties are unsuitable for fishing and swimming.

To sign up for the training session, contact Russ Barnett (phone, 852-1851; e-mail [r.barnett@louisville.edu](mailto:r.barnett@louisville.edu)). To download a registration form from the Internet, visit <http://water.nr.state.ky.us/watch/salt.htm>.



# MSD

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Metropolitan Sewer District

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## Inside Update

- Revised regulations seek environmental benefits
- Progress report available on floodplain management
- Spend Earth Day at The Louisville Zoo
- Training scheduled for watershed watchers

## Upcoming Events

### April 14

Earth Day at the Louisville Zoo, 1100 Trevilian Way, free admission from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### April 17

Neighborhood meeting, West County Wastewater Treatment Plant odor control and expansion projects, 7 p.m., Southwest Government Center, 7219 Dixie Hwy.

### April 19

Retirees Club meeting, 11 a.m., Masterson's Restaurant, 1830 S. Third St.

### April 22

MSD Board meeting, 10 a.m., 700 W. Liberty, first floor

### April 23-25

Five Cities Plus Conference 2002, Galt House Hotel, phone Sheila Lusco, 540-6432

## Floyds Fork

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environmental impacts on Floyds Fork—the highest quality stream in Jefferson County.

Selection criteria for the Grand Conceptor award includes original or innovative application of new or existing techniques, technical value to the engineering profession, social and economic considerations, complexity of the project and the ability to exceed client needs.

As winner of Kentucky's Grand Conceptor award, the Floyds Fork project competed against other state winners for the national Grand Conceptor award, but did not take the national honor.

But in March 2002, the American Council of Engineering Companies awarded the Floyds

Fork plant a National Recognition Award for Engineering Excellence.

“These awards demonstrate that the Floyds Fork plant truly is recognized as one of the best engineered projects in Kentucky and in the country,” said Executive Director Gordon Garner.

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