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MEDIA RELEASE
PROJECT UPDATE

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Excavation of work area allows inspection and repairs of broken sewer line under Harrods Creek

LOUISVILLE – Contractors continue excavating a 35-foot deep work area inside of a protective metal box—which will allow workers to safely descend 35-feet to inspect and repair the broken sewer pipe that runs under Harrods Creek in Prospect. Rainfall is compounding this challenging situation.

Installation of the metal sheeting more than 35-feet down was completed on Sunday afternoon, allowing excavation of soil inside the box to begin. A ring of bracing was installed around the upper rim of the box, and another ring was installed 10-feet down. This process of excavating and bracing with every 10-feet of depth will likely continue into Wednesday, December 18. Upon completion of the protective structure, workers will descend 35-feet into the ground to inspect the break and make the repair.

Due to the proximity of Harrods Creek and the Ohio River, a temporary containment tank is onsite to capture and disinfect groundwater before it reaches Harrods Creek.

We are working 24/7 to complete this repair as soon as possible. Construction may continue into the week of December 22. We will know more once the excavation reaches 35-feet of depth.

Background

A break in a 30-inch force main in the Prospect area was initially confirmed on Monday, November 25. Contractors unearthed sections of the pipe that are 10-feet below the surface and determined the break was in a significantly deeper part of the pipe.

The break is in a section of the 30-inch force main that runs near and 35-feet under Harrods Creek behind Harrods Run Road and Timber Creek Court.

It is essential to reduce flow from the pipe for the repair to go forward. MSD is dewatering the pipe at the construction site by using tanker trucks and a temporary treatment containment unit at an MSD pumping station located in the Ken Carla Subdivision. Drivers should use caution in the area of U.S. 42 and Ken Carla Drive due to the traffic from these tanker trucks.

MSD stopped the overflow of sewage into Harrods Creek, but not before 1,050,000 gallons of sewer water entered the stream. All regulatory agencies have been notified. The public should continue to avoid contact with the creek from the Harrods Run Road area to the Ohio River.

MSD customers will not see any problems with their sewer service.

Force mains are pipelines that move wastewater under pressure from the discharge side of a pump or pneumatic ejector to a water quality treatment center.



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 670 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.