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## **MEDIA UPDATE**

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## **MSD flood protection crews working to protect the city from the rising Ohio River**

LOUISVILLE – As the Ohio River waters rise, MSD is taking steps to protect Louisville Metro from flooding. River levels are projected to continue to rise throughout the week with a crest of 29-feet on the Upper Pool and 60.3-feet on the Lower Pool by Saturday, March 6. Then the river is expected to recede slowly.

In anticipation of the rising waters, MSD is installing a floodwall roadway closure today on 27th Street. There are no plans for other floodwall roadway closures at this time.

Currently, MSD has seven of our 16 Flood Pumping Station in service, with one more in service later today.

The normal level on both pools is 12-feet. The McApline Locks and Dam defines the end of the Upper Pool and the beginning of the Lower Pool.

### **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, 137,000 structures, and \$34 billion in property throughout 110 square miles of Louisville Metro. It includes 26.1 miles of floodwall and earthen levee, 16 flood pumping stations, nearly 150 floodgates and 79 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 lift the water from the creeks and pump it into the river. Additional gates and pumping stations keep the river from backing up through storm drains and pipes, pumping 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 670 employees provide wastewater management, drainage and flood protection services across the 376 square miles of Louisville Metro, and wastewater service in portions of Oldham County. 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.