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Community Message

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Admiral Drive Pump Station Returned to Service

On February 18, at 3:15 PM, the Admiral Drive Pump Station, located on Pennsylvania Run about 1/3 of a mile upstream from McNeely Lake, experienced what appears to be a electrical system failure that resulted in an unauthorized discharge of sewage into Pennsylvania Run Creek, and subsequent reporting to EPA and Kentucky Division of Water.

In response, Louisville MSD activated an emergency repair to restore the pump station, which was back online at 8:00 PM. Crews stopped the discharge at 8:15 PM.

MSD monitors the waterway's water quality at Mt. Washington Road, and uses pH and dissolved oxygen levels to detect untreated sewage. Due to the high volume of rain during the discharge, the pollution was highly diluted, and no unusual patterns of pH or dissolved oxygen were observed in the waterway. However, there was a spike in specific conductance on the afternoon of February 19, likely caused by roadway runoff containing salt or brine. Regardless, MSD will perform sampling in McNeely Lake, and agrees to coordinate on necessary mitigation with Metro Parks and Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

As part of the Consent Decree involving Louisville MSD, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Kentucky Division of Water, and the U.S. Department of Justice, this facility is scheduled to undergo a major capacity upgrade. The design phase for this modification is currently underway, and the project is expected to be completed by December 31, 2030. This pump station is one of more than 300 managed by MSD, many of which have faced stress due to recent flooding.

Residents are advised to avoid downstream waterways in Penn Run Creek and McNeely Lake through February 21.

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 750 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 provides numerous outreach programs to inform and educate the community about protecting our waterways.