MDEQ ensuring proper cleanup and remediation at Kuhlman Electric

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is working with Kuhlman Electric in Crystal Springs to ensure proper cleanup and remediation of contamination located at the facility. Kuhlman Electric notified MDEQ that it had uncovered a substance at their Crystal Springs facility while excavating the property for a future building expansion.

Kuhlman Electric notified MDEQ that prior to the discovery of the contamination, some soils were removed from the site. Kuhlman Electric had identified the location of the potentially contaminated soils that were removed from the property and are taking appropriate measures to recover the soils and bring them back to the Kuhlman site. The company will be taking samples to confirm that no contamination remains on-site.

The potential contamination exposure to the public is by direct contact. At this point, the direct contact is limited outside the Kuhlman Electric property. Kuhlman Electric has hired a certified contractor to properly clean up and remove the contaminated soil.

The identified contamination is PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls). PCBs generally attach themselves to the soil and typically do not migrate far from the initial source. In addition, PCBs do not typically migrate into the groundwater but remain attached to the soil.

MDEQ is working with Kuhlman Electric to assure that the contaminants do not pose a risk to workers and residents of Crystal Springs.
Kuhlman clean-up operation underway

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is working with Kuhlman Electric in Crystal Springs to ensure proper cleanup and remediation of contamination located at this facility. Kuhlman Electric notified MDEQ that it had unearthed a substance at their Crystal Springs facility while excavating the property for a future building expansion.

Kuhlman Electric notified MDEQ that prior to the discovery of the contamination, some soils were removed from the site. Kuhlman Electric has identified the location of the potentially contaminated soils that were removed from the property and is taking appropriate measures to recover the soils and bring them back to the original site. The company will be taking samples to confirm that no contamination remains off-site.

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MDEQ is working with Kuhlman Electric to assure that the contaminants do not pose a risk to workers and residents of Crystal Springs.
It's budget adjustment time in the city

City officials in regular monthly session last Monday adopted the annual budget adjustment document which will be published in the legal section of this newspaper. Basically the city received $25,000 more revenue than anticipated during the year bringing the total general fund to $2,352,548 after adjustments. Permanent sources of this revenue were playground donations and recovery. The separate water and sewer fund revenues were as expected but total expenses exceeded revenue by $7,149.

General fund expenditures totaled $192,746 over the original budget amount of $2,231,149. General government was over by $27,500, primarily in contractual services; police department over $45,484 primarily because of contractual services; public works was under budget by $6,500 primarily in lease payments; parks and recreation over $23,444 primarily because of playground equipment purchases which were largely donated.

The city adopted a resolution basically reaffirming its intention to use some city funds or cap loan funds to match a Community Development Block Grant to provide for construction of the private industrial park being developed on Highway 27 north of the city.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Webb pointed out that budget workshops for the next fiscal year were due at city hall.

He reported that a minor franchise agreement with Crystal Cablevision has been reached and city officials need to understand the franchise fees that the city will receive from the company. Five percent of the legal firm and the present cable supplier has been paying fees because they rely on basic services. Under the new agreement, the franchise fee is expected to be handled in a manner the city expects.

The mayor also reported that a large donation is anticipated for the playground equipment for Chickasaw Park, but a definite amount is not known yet.

Tolleson Island of the Park district at Lake Chickasaw are being studied as the cleanup there can move forward. The city expects to meet with the principals in the matter by the end of the month to see what the next step is.

Other items in the mayor's report included a list of legislative bills impacting municipalities and a letter from Senator Lynn booty updating the city on the progress of the White Pavilion. Recreation & Parks looks expected to be contracted west of Crystal Springs beginning this August.

Other Matters

The reinstatement of a police officer was approved and an advertisement for a replacement was authorized.

Public Works Assistant Deputy Bill was advanced to Deputy Supervisor as he has passed his written examination.

A citizen and her attorney were present to question the city about regulation of parking in front of her building. The attorney requested that they be studied the related ordinance and have a response at the next meeting.

Deadline received until Thursday, July 18, at 7 p.m.
Some PCBs found in fish in Chautauqua

The Environmental Protection Agency has completed analysis of water and fish samples from Lake Chautauqua at Crystal Springs. Preliminary results indicate PCB contamination in the lake water. Further testing of the four fish samples contained measurable levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). MDEQ is working to determine the concentration of PCBs found in fish. Lake Chautauqua at Crystal Springs remains closed until more definitive results are available.

PCBs are a group of persistent, toxic, chemical substances used as dielectric and heat-transfer agents in electrical appliances and other electrical devices. The use of PCBs was banned in 1977.
NO FISHING signs were posted at Lake Chautauqua late Friday after the DEC issued a warning that the fish from the lake should not be eaten because of PCBs found in some fish samples. Robert Shinn, public works superintendent, and Salt Garand, parks and recreation director, urge citizens not to fish in the lake until further notice.

Lake Chautauqua water clean, limited consumption of fish advised

The Missouri Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has completed analysis of water and fish samples from Lake Chautauqua at Crystal Springs, and the preliminary results indicate no contamination in the lake water. However, those of the fish samples contained measurable levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). MDEQ is advising that the consumption of fish from Lake Chautauqua at Crystal Springs be limited until more definitive results are available.

PCBs accumulate in the fatty tissue of fish and are usually higher in the larger to older fish. Because of this MDEQ is concerned more with the consumption of larger fish in the lake. MDEQ will be conducting additional sampling and analysis of fish from Lake Chautauqua at Crystal Springs and will post results with residents as they become available.

PCBs are a group of organic chemicals in various forms that are used primarily as cooling agents in electrical transformers and other electrical devices. The use of PCBs was banned in 1977.

Additionally, the MDEQ has completed surface sampling and analysis of water at the city's swimming pool on Lee Avenue. The MDEQ has advised the city that they may open the swimming pool. Test results show no contamination from the Crystal Springs water supply also indicates no contamination.
Crystal Springs drinking water safe to drink according to DEQ

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) announced today that the drinking water supply in Crystal Springs is safe to drink. MDEQ has taken samples of the city's drinking water supply and test results confirm that it is not contaminated.

"We sampled the Crystal Springs' water supply after learning that bacteria contamination was possible in the drinking water following the discovery of potential contamination at the Brandon Water Supply," said Jerry Sauer, MDEQ's Jackson Water Division chief. "The results confirm that we have a safe drinking water system and we are happy to say to the residents that their water supply is safe." MDEQ is working with the Department of Health (MDH) to ensure that the drinking water supply remains safe to drink. MDH will be monitoring sampling the Crystal Springs water supply to ensure residents that they have safe drinking water.

County receives grant for solid waste

Innabough County recently received $9,312 for the completion of a solid waste and recycling study. The purpose of the study was to develop and improve the environmental quality of the county. The study recommends solid waste management along with other issues and provides a plan to protect and clean up contaminated areas.

The study was prepared by Tewksbury Associates, Inc., in the amount of $2,310 and the amount of $1,880 for developing programs for Innabough County and $300 for any other fees, respectively.

The Innabough County Urban County is preparing a solid waste grant to provide funding assistance to Innabough County in the amount of $17,717 to improve an existing environmental program and to provide public health education in the project.

The County also completed a comprehensive environmental program assessment through the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. The next stage of the project is expected to be completed by the end of the year.
City's treatment plant honored

The Mississippi Water Environment Association has named the City of Waynesboro's Water Treatment Plant as the Outstanding Facility of the Year.

The facility award is based on a nationwide competition among all public and private wastewater facilities. Plants are evaluated on a number of items, including maintenance records, lab results, plant appearance, and cost of operation.

The original Waynesboro plant, located at the same location as the new facility, was constructed in 1975 and began operation in 1978. It has the capacity to treat 1.5 million gallons of wastewater per day. The current plant, which was constructed in 1993, increases the area's capacity to 3.5 million gallons of wastewater per day. The combined capacity of the two plants can now handle the wastewater from a population of approximately 30,000.

During the past 25 years, the Waynesboro Water Treatment Plant has expanded the city's wastewater treatment capabilities, and it currently serves over 11,000 residents, with a design capacity of 3.5 million gallons per day.

Crystal Springs water safe to drink, says MDEQ

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) announced June 3 that the drinking water supply in Crystal Springs is safe to drink. MDEQ has taken samples of the Crystal Springs water supply and test results confirm that it is not contaminated.

"We remapped the Crystal Springs water system after listening to citizens concerned of possible contamination in their drinking water following the discovery of potential contamination in the Rankin County Galli family," said Jerry Bonds, MDEQ Hazardous Waste Division Chief. "The results confirm and we are happy to say that the residents can drink their water without fear."

MDEQ is working with the Rankin County Health Department to ensure that the drinking water supply remains safe to drink. MDEQ will be routinely sampling the Crystal Springs water supply to ensure residents that they have safe drinking water.
Further PCB complications close pool, cancel swim lessons

Further complications from PCB (polychlorinated biphenols) have surfaced in Crystal Springs according to Mayor Hugh Webb.

The Department of Environmental Quality notified the mayor at the end of last week that PCB's have been detected at the Lee Avenue swimming pool and along a drainage ditch under Fulham Avenue which makes its way to Lake Chautauqua.

Tests completed this week indicate that there is no contamination of the city's drinking water, and arrangements have been made for follow up testing.

The city has cancelled its plans to open the Lee Avenue swimming pool until further tests are completed and health authorities say it is safe to open the pool. Plans for swimming lessons, etc. at the pool have been cancelled.

Problems at the pool are thought to center around an old water well that is used exclusively to fill this pool but the extent of the problem will not be known until tests are complete. The PCB's at the pool are structurally different from the problem material at the Kuhlman site according to the preliminary assessment.

DEQ has been asked to advise the city whether to limit the recreational use of Lake Chautauqua or not. Levels of contamination at the entry of the drainage ditch into the lake are low and tests several yards into the lake do not show contamination.

City, Kuhlman/Burg/Warner cleanup contractors, and DEQ representatives have scheduled a meeting for Wednesday at city hall.

Tom Connerty of Backflow Solutions, a city contractor, has agreed to assist the city in dealing with the contamination issues. Connerty has previous experience with PCB's in the county with the Potter cleanup in Wesson.

Crystal Springs is beginning to look at what funding or assistance will be available if the city has a problem that is not related to the industrial cleanup.

### THIS WEEK — In Crystal Springs

*Please call 652-2281 by Friday at noon to place notices in the calendar.*