



THE CARN'S CHRONICLE

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Carns Oversees Termination of the Consent Decree in Warrior, Trussville, and Turkey Creek

The Jefferson County Environmental Services Department (ESD), under the leadership of Commissioner Jim Carns, recently accomplished feats unrealized in the thirteen year history of a federal consent decree: release of the Warrior, Turkey Creek and Trussville basins from the EPA decree.



Warrior WWTP

work of the ESD which placed Warrior, Turkey Creek, and Trussville Waste Water Treatment Systems in compliance and released the basins from the decree.

The ESD continues its high performance standards and recently submitted similar documentation on the Leeds and Prudes Creek basins for release from the consent decree as well. Within the coming months, ESD will also submit documentation showing compliance in the Cahaba River and Five Mile Creek basins. The remaining Village Creek and Valley Creek basins should be prepared to submit for review in 2010 and 2011.



Trussville WWTP: Employees perform preventative maintenance on a generator

favorable reviews by both the federal judge and the citizen plaintiffs in the suit, which were required for termination. Requirements for termination also include items such as completing specific engineering reports and analysis and completing specific construction repairs within the sewer system.

In addition, the consent decree requires satisfaction of broad-based performance goals in three primary areas: 1) elimination of all automatic sanitary sewer bypasses and bypasses at the waste water treatment plants (WWTP); 2) compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) discharge permit for each WWTP; 3) compliance with elimination of sanitary sewer overflows in the sewer collection system.

ESD not only met all these mandates but also completed statistical verifications of the sewer rehabilitation work to prove the quality of repairs made questionable because of corruption and misdeeds by individuals and firms central to the construction work required in the consent decree.

EPA recognized the excellent

The federal consent decree signed by Jefferson County in 1996 ordered the County to bring its sewer system into compliance with the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, commonly referred to as the Clean Water Act. For twelve years, the ESD struggled against many obstacles to implement a long-term plan to correct the problems with the sewer system.

In the Warrior, Turkey Creek, and Trussville Complete Waste Treatment Systems (basins), the County successfully demonstrated compliance with each requirement of the consent decree. ESD satisfied a myriad of requirements in these basins and achieved

Not only the EPA recognized the superior performance of the Jefferson County ESD. This month, the Alabama Water Environment Association recognized three of Jefferson County's plants -- Trussville, Turkey Creek, and Village Creek -- as the best run waste water treatment plants in the state.



Turkey Creek WWTP: Laboratory where biological and chemical tests are performed

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