

MDC STATEMENT ON EPA CONSENT DECREE
New emissions standards required of Hartford plant

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For Immediate Release

(HARTFORD, CT) – As the regional drinking water and wastewater utility for the greater Hartford area, the Metropolitan District (MDC) is consistently recognized for its efforts as a steward of the environment. In addition to its role as an environmental steward for clean water, the MDC also complies with the Clean Air Act for three sewage sludge incinerators (SSIs) built in the 1970s at the Hartford Water Pollution Control Facility.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced that the MDC and EPA reached a settlement related to a Clean Air Act regulation created in 2016 regulating SSIs. It is the MDC’s position that it has a legitimate dispute over the EPA’s interpretation of the SSI regulation, but entered into the proposed settlement because the MDC is satisfied with the terms of the settlement and ultimately, to resolve the ongoing dispute.

In 2016, the EPA created new regulations for SSIs. Under the 2016 SSI rule, a “new” facility constructed after 2011 must comply with more stringent emissions limits than “existing” facilities. As a result of the MDC performing capital improvements over the past 50 years that improved operational efficiency and lowered pollutant emissions of its SSIs, the EPA determined that the MDC’s SSIs must comply with the regulations for “new” SSIs rather than “existing.”

While the “new” regulations have much more stringent emissions limits than the “existing” regulations, the MDC’s SSIs have historically complied with almost all of the more stringent limits. Despite already substantially complying, the MDC disputed the EPA’s interpretation of the regulations due to potentially being forced to perform costly upgrades that could have been required under the “new” regulations.

The MDC has been engaged with the EPA since 2016 to resolve the dispute and during that time was able to identify operational modifications and more affordable capital improvements to bring the SSIs into compliance with the regulation while avoiding substantial expenditures that would have been unnecessary.

The EPA approved the MDC’s approach and schedule to bring the SSIs back into compliance as part of the settlement, as the MDC believes the settlement to be in the best interests of its customers.

***About MDC:** The MDC is a nonprofit municipal corporation chartered by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1929. The MDC provides water, wastewater treatment and other services to its member towns: Bloomfield, East Hartford, Hartford, Newington, Rocky Hill, West Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor. In addition, the District supplies treated water to portions of Glastonbury, South Windsor, Farmington, East Granby and Portland.*

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