



**SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 995, SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101**

Date of Issuance: May 4, 2020

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Springfield Water and Sewer Commission Receives Competitive Financing from Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

To kick off Drinking Water Week, an annual advocacy campaign that recognizes the vital role drinking water plays in our daily lives, the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (Commission) is pleased to announce a critical drinking water infrastructure project at the West Parish Filters Water Treatment Plant was awarded a \$15 million subsidized loan through the competitive Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program.

The clearwell and backwash pump station replacement project is a critical infrastructure project. Both the clearwell and backwash pump systems are essential for the continuous treatment and distribution of clean drinking water to the 250,000 customers the Commission serves each day in the lower Pioneer Valley. The existing clearwell was built in 1925 and the backwash pump station was constructed in 1974. Both are at the end of their useful lives. An assessment indicated that these facilities were in severe need of upgrades to ensure reliable drinking water treatment, distribution and regulatory compliance.

As the Commission's only source of revenue is from the water sold to ratepayers, securing low-cost financing from the DWSRF is part of an aggressive, multifaceted strategy to meet infrastructure investment needs and maintain customer affordability. The replacement project is part of a larger Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which aims to prioritize necessary infrastructure improvements for the



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aging water system, some of which dates to the early 1900s. The Commission has aggressively pursued multiple alternative funding and financing sources for projects in the CIP, including loans from the DWSRF, to reduce long-term costs and provide the best value for customers.

The DWSRF is a joint federal-state financing program that provides low interest loans for water supply infrastructure improvement projects that protect drinking water and safeguard public health in the Commonwealth. Through the DWSRF program the Commission will be able to finance \$15 million of the total estimated project cost of \$21.75 million at the lower than market rate of 2%.

Pending formal acceptance of the financing, the Commission will move forward with the final design and construction of the project. The project marks the first phase of construction for the West Parish Filters Facilities Plan, which will modernize the drinking water treatment plant and service reliability and ensure regulatory compliance into the 21st century.

Filtered Water Clearwell

The existing clearwell stores filtered water prior to disinfection in the transmission mains leaving West Parish Filters. Presently, there is only one clearwell, meaning it cannot be removed from service for maintenance or repairs. The clearwell has numerous leaks. The proposed clearwell will be an underground concrete structure that will contain two cells with a total storage capacity of one million gallons.

Backwash Pump Station

The two existing backwash pumps are used to backwash (clean) the rapid sand filters. The pumps are obsolete, with no availability of replacement parts or service manufacturers. The new pump station will be constructed integral to the clearwell and will include two backwash pumps and related systems and will provide critical improvements, including increased horsepower, energy efficient motors and controls, and much needed redundancy.



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West Parish Filters Water Treatment Plant

In 2015 the Commission initiated a comprehensive plan for modernization upgrades to the West Parish Filters Water Treatment Plant located in Westfield, MA. The plant was originally built in 1909 and last underwent significant upgrades in 1974 with the addition of the rapid sands direct filtration plant.

Photo Attached: These two backwash pumps, which power filter cleaning at the West Parish Filters Water Treatment Plant, were installed in 1974 and will be replaced with modern equipment.

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