

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VII  
901 NORTH 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AGENCY-REGION VII  
REGIONAL HEARING CLERK

IN THE MATTER OF:	)	FINDINGS OF VIOLATION AND ORDER
	)	FOR COMPLIANCE
Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District	)	
	)	
Respondent	)	
	)	Docket No. CWA-07-2007-0042
Proceedings under Section 309(a)(3)	)	
of the Clean Water Act,	)	
33 U.S.C. § 1319(a)(3)	)	

**I. Preliminary Statement**

1. Theses FINDINGS OF VIOLATION are made and ORDER FOR COMPLIANCE is issued pursuant to the authority vested in the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), by Section 309(a)(3) of the Clean Water Act ("CWA" or the "ACT"), 33 U.S.C. § 1319(a)(3), as delegated by the Administrator to the Regional Administrator, EPA, Region VII, and further delegated to the Director, Water, Wetlands and Pesticides Division, EPA, Region VII.
2. Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District ("MSD") serves a population of approximately 1.4 million and the MSD service area includes all of the City of St. Louis and approximately 80% of St. Louis County. As of January 1, 2000, MSD serviced 428,000 accounts: 354,000 single family residence; 48,000 multi-family (apartments, condos) and 26,000 commercial/industrial. MSD currently operates nine treatment facilities and, treats an average of 320 million gallons of sewage per day. Additionally, MSD is responsible for operating and maintaining approximately 8,900 miles of sewers, including 2,617 miles of stormwater sewers, 4,495 miles of sanitary sewers and 1,847 miles of combined sewers.
3. MSD owns and operates Publicly Owned Treatment Works ("POTWs") that include nine wastewater treatment plants and associated collection systems that serve the citizens of St. Louis, Missouri, and several surrounding counties and municipalities. Seven of the wastewater treatment plants owned and operated by MSD are generally located within the separate sanitary sewer system and discharge pollutants into the Mississippi River, Meramec River, Coldwater Creek, Missouri River, Creve Coeur Creek and their tributaries. These separate sanitary sewer system wastewater treatment plants are the Coldwater Creek

Wastewater Treatment Facility, Fenton Wastewater Treatment Facility, Lower Meramec Wastewater Treatment Facility, Missouri River Wastewater Treatment Facility, Baumgartner Lagoon, Grand Glaize Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the New Lower Meramec Wastewater Treatment facility. MSD also owns and operates two wastewater treatment plants generally located within the combined sewer system area; Bissell Point Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Lemay Wastewater Treatment Plant. These treatment plants discharge pollutants into the Mississippi River and its tributaries.

4. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources (“MDNR”) is the agency within the State of Missouri that has been authorized to administer the federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (“NPDES”) pursuant to Section 402 of the CWA and its implementing regulations. The EPA maintains concurrent enforcement authority with authorized state NPDES programs for violation of the CWA, and NPDES permits.

## **II. Jurisdiction and Findings of Violation**

The EPA finds:

5. Section 301(a) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a), prohibits the discharge of pollutants except in compliance with permits issued under the authority of 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1342. Section 402 of the CWA provides that pollutants may be discharged only in accordance with the terms of a NPDES permit issued pursuant to that Section.
6. MSD is a “person” within the meaning of Section 505(5) the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(5).
7. Pursuant to § 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1342, MDNR has issued NPDES Permits to MSD that are listed in Table 1:

**TABLE 1: MDNR Issued NPDES Individual Wastewater Permits for MSD POTWs**

<u>Permit No.</u>	<u>Issued</u>	<u>Expires</u>	<u>Facility Name</u>
MO0025178	12/30/2005 Rev. 1/27/2006	12/29/2010	Bissell Point WTP
MO0088463	11/20/2004 Rev. 3/09/2007	2/19/2009	Baumgartner Lagoon
MO0025160	12/30/2005	12/29/2010	Coldwater Creek WTP
MO0086126	3/23/2001	3/22/3006	Fenton WTP
MO0025151	12/30/2005 Rev. 1/27/2006	12/29/2010	Lemay WTP
MO00100978	10/29/2004	10/29/2009	Lower Meramec WTP
MO0004391	12/30/2005 Rev. 3/31/2006	12/29/2010	Missouri River WTP
MO0010362	1/26/2007	1/25/2012	Grand Glaize WWTP
MO0127949	2/28/2007	2/27/2012	New Lower Meramec WTP

8. Within the separate sanitary sewer system, MSD has more than 300 constructed sanitary sewer overflows (“SSOs”) which are not authorized by NPDES permits. **Attachment A**
9. Discharges from these SSOs, when activated, are not reported to either MDNR or the EPA.
10. Discharges from these Constructed SSOs contain untreated sewage which discharges to urban streams, including Coldwater Creek, Deer Creek, River Des Peres, Creve Coeur Creek, Grand Glaize Creek, Fee Fee Creek, Maline Creek, Watkins Creek, Matigney Creek, Mattese Creek, Gravois Creek, and Mackenzie Creek.
11. Since 1999, MSD has installed flow meters at several of the constructed SSOs. MSD operated these meters for periods ranging from five to nine months at each SSO, metering approximately eight constructed SSO locations per year.
12. MSD indicates inspections are conducted weekly at all existing constructed SSOs; however, MSD indicates they do not track any discharge data collected during these routine cleaning inspections. MSD does not have a program in place to identify the activation of each constructed SSO location nor report occurrences to MDNR or EPA. However, MSD has conducted overflow monitoring for forty (40) some constructed SSOs and provided that data to EPA during the February 2006 site visit. Analysis of the MSD flow metering data for these 40 metered, constructed SSOs indicates that nearly 21 million gallons of sewage was discharged during the period of review. While direct evidence does not exist, an extrapolation of the data from the 40 metered sites to all 305 sites shows that annually, upwards of an estimated 226 million gallons of untreated sewage are being discharged into receiving waters from an estimated 2,772 discharge events.
13. The majority of more than 300 constructed SSOs are located in residential neighborhoods, public parks and other publicly accessible locations, there are no warning signs to alert the public to avoid these areas and not play, wade, swim or fish in waters contaminated with untreated sewage.
14. These SSOs, when activated, contain untreated sewage that carries bacteria, viruses, protozoa (parasitic organisms), helminthes (intestinal worms) and boroughs (inhaled molds and fungi). People exposed to these microbial pathogens are at risk for a variety of associated diseases such as gastroenteritis, hepatitis, salmonellosis, shigellosis, infection caused by E. coli, giardiasis, amoebic dysentery, skin rashes, “pink eye”, etc. People can be exposed through direct contact in areas of public access, such as lawns, streets, waters used for recreation, or in homes or businesses. MSD’s separate sanitary sewage collection system includes 305 constructed outfalls that when operate constitute illegal discharges directly to their urban streams. Due to their inclination to play in or around creeks, children are especially at risk for illnesses associated with untreated sewage due to increased exposure. Children are more likely to ingest contaminated water

(accidentally and on purpose). In general, children are more susceptible to disease, including those caused by untreated sewage.

15. Part C of MSD's NPDES Permits, Special Conditions, requires:

2. All outfalls must be clearly marked in the field

16. Part 1 – General Conditions, Section B Management Requirements requires:

5. Bypassing

- a. Any bypass or shut down of a wastewater treatment facility and tributary sewer system or any part of such a facility and sewer system that results in a violation or permit limits or conditions is prohibited except:
  - (i) where unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or severe property damages; and
  - (ii) where unavoidable excessive storm drainage or runoff would catastrophically damage any facilities or processes necessary for compliance with the effluent limitations and conditions of this permit;
  - (iii) where maintenance is necessary to ensure efficient operation and alternative measures have been taken to maintain effluent quality during the period of maintenance.
- b. The permittee shall notify MDNR in writing of all bypasses or shut down that result in a violation of permit limits or conditions. This section does not excuse any person from liability, unless such relief is otherwise provided by the statute.

17. Discharges from constructed SSOs as described in the above paragraphs are not permitted in compliance with § 301a and § 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a) and § 1342.

18. Constructed SSOs in MSD's service area are not clearly marked in the field.

19. Failures to clearly mark all outfalls are violations of § 301 and § 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a) and § 1342.

20. Failures to report bypass from constructed SSOs are violations of § 311(a) and § 402 of the CWA, U.S.C. § 1311(a) and § 1342.

21. Based on the Findings set forth above, and pursuant to Section 309(a)(3) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(a)(3), EPA hereby ORDERS MSD to meet the requirements set forth hereafter in this Order.

### **III. Order for Compliance**

22. MSD shall provide notice to Martha R. Steincamp of MSD's intent to comply with this Order within 24 hours of receipt.

23. MSD shall post signs as depicted in **Attachment B** to this Order, no later than thirty (30) days from the date of this Order was signed by the Director. The sign must be posted on all streams, creeks, drainage ditches, and swales receiving SSO discharges. Postings must be at all surface discharge locations and within one hundred (100) feet downstream of all discharge locations. Signs must be posted at approximately one hundred (100) yard intervals at public access points located within two miles downstream from the discharge. Signs must be placed on both sides of the stream and must be placed so as to be visible to the public. Any parks, golf courses or other recreation areas within the posting area must have signs prominently displayed. Inspections of all sign locations must be performed at least monthly to ensure that each sign is in place, unobstructed, and in good condition. Missing, damaged or obstructed signs must be replaced or corrected as soon as discovered. All missing, damaged and obstructed signs must be corrected within twenty-four hours of discovery. The signs must be a minimum of 18" by 24". A copy of the sign must be included annually (near the beginning of the recreation season) in customer bill inserts with an explanation of why the signs have been installed. The first insert must be included in the customer billing prior to June 1, 2007.
24. MSD shall provide notice of all discharges from constructed SSOs to EPA and MDNR as required by Part 1- General Conditions B Management Requirements on a monthly basis, beginning on June 1, 2007.
25. This Order is an interim measure to address a serious problem.
26. This Order does not constitute a waiver or a modification of any requirements of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq., all of which remain in full force and effect. The EPA retains the right to seek any and all remedies available under Sections 309(b), (c), (d) or (g) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(b), (c), (d) or (g), for any violation cited in this Order. Issuance of this Order shall not be deemed an election by EPA to forgo any civil or criminal action to seek penalties, fines, or other appropriate relief under the Act for any violation whatsoever.

#### **IV. General Provisions**

27. MSD's compliance with this Order does not constitute compliance with the provisions of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq., or with MSD's NPDES permits. MSD shall remain solely responsible for compliance with the terms of the Clean Water Act and this Order. Issuance of this Order shall not be deemed an election by EPA to forego any civil or criminal action to seek penalties, fines or other appropriate relief under the Act, including criminal punishment as provided in Section 309 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319.

#### **V. Access and Requests for Information**

28. Nothing in this Order shall limit EPA's right to obtain access to, and/or to inspect Respondent's facilities, and/or to request additional information from Respondent,

pursuant to the authority of Section 308 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1318 and/or any other authority.

**VI. Severability**

29. If any provision or authority of this Order, or the application of this Order to Respondent, is held by federal judicial authority to be invalid, the application to Respondent of the remainder of this Order shall remain in full force and effect and shall not be affected by such a holding.

**VII. Effective Date**


30. The terms of this Order shall be effective and enforceable against Respondent upon its receipt of an executed copy of the Order.

**VIII. Termination**

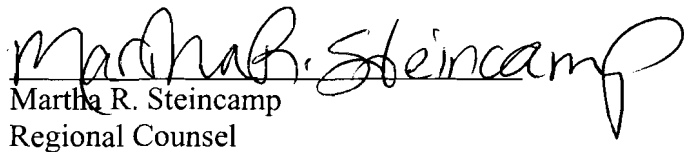
31. This Order shall remain in effect until a written notice of termination is issued by an authorized representative of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Such notice shall not be given until all of the requirements of this Order have been met.

FOR THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Issued this 30 day of April, 2007.



William A. Spratlin  
Director  
Water, Wetlands and Pesticides Division



Martha R. Steincamp  
Regional Counsel

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that on the date noted below I sent a copy of the foregoing Findings of Violation and Order for Compliance by first class certified mail, return receipt requested to:

Jeffery Theerman  
Executive Director  
Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District  
2350 Market Street  
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2555

Randy Hayman, Esq.  
General Counsel  
Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District  
2350 Market Street  
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2555

Susan Myers, Esq.  
Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District  
2350 Market Street  
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2555

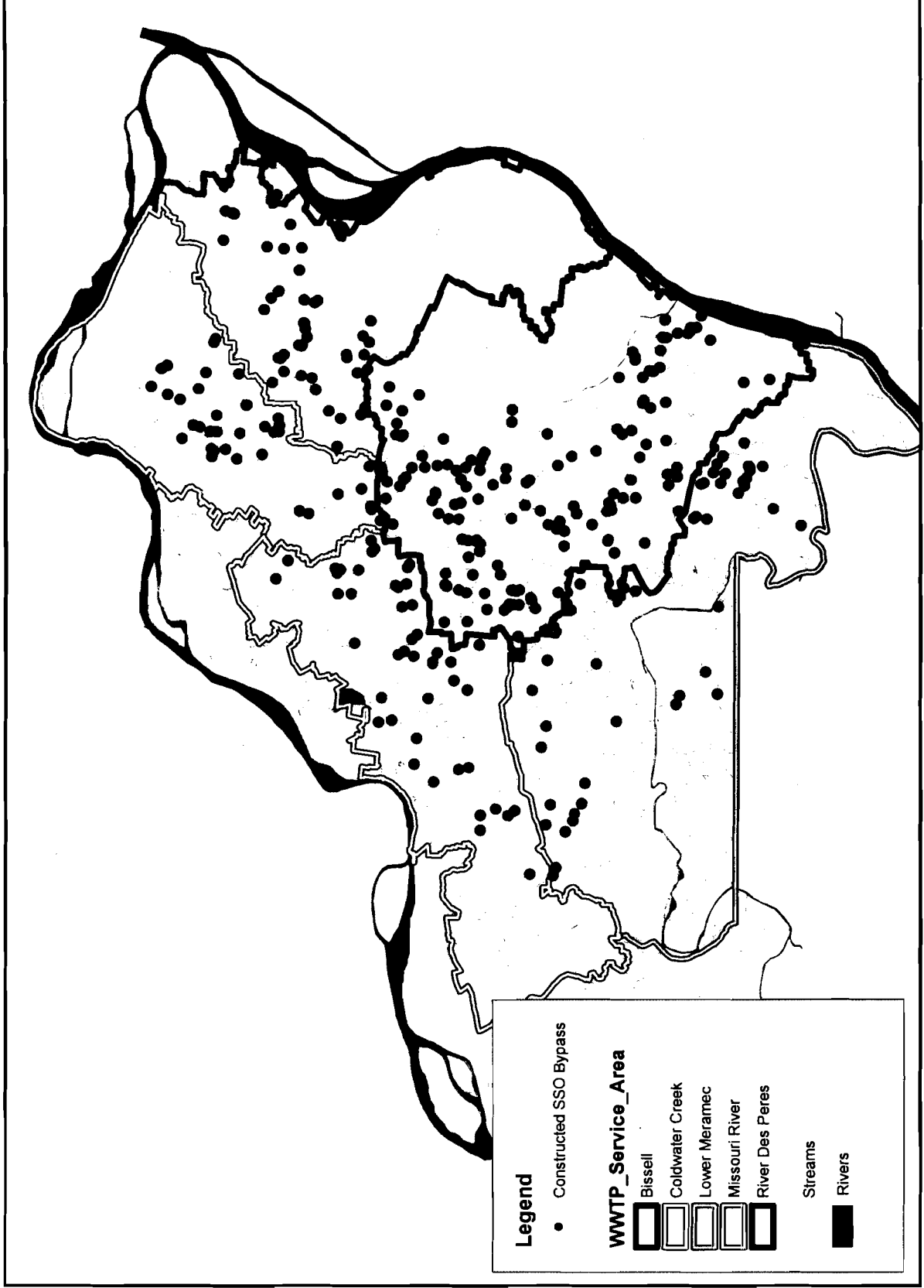
Terry Satterlee, Esq.  
Shook Hardy & Bacon, LLP  
2555 Grand Blvd.  
Kansas City, Missouri 64108-2613

Kevin Mohammadi  
Chief, Water Pollution Compliance and Enforcement Section  
Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

4/30/07  
Date

  
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# **W A R N I N G** **S E W A G E**

**KEEP OUT OF WATER**



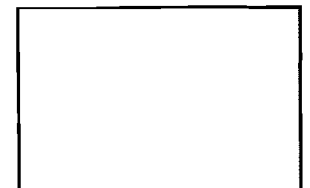
**NO FISHING • NO PLAYING**  
**NO SWIMMING • NO WADING**

**Exposure to Water May Cause Illness**

**Report Foul Odors or Unusual Discoloration**

**Call (314) 768-6260**

**Reference Sign #:**



**St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District**  
**2350 Market Street**  
**St Louis, MO 63103**  
**(314) 768-6200**