

EJCCWRF Benefit Highlight: Environmental Protection



The Jackson County Utility Authority (JCUA) needs to upgrade our water reclamation / wastewater treatment system. In response, JCUA is partnering with a team of engineers and other experts to plan the design of a new East Jackson County Consolidated Water Reclamation Facility, or EJCCWRF. The new facility will provide for the expanded treatment capacity necessary to effectively manage growth in our community and meet our future wastewater needs, and include a series of technological advances and innovative elements that will provide critical benefits.

This information sheet highlights the most important **environmental benefits** associated with the new EJCCWRF. Collectively, these are designed to conserve and protect our valuable resources, including our waterways and the local wildlife and plants that make this area home.

Protecting Waterways

The most critical environmental protection goal of the new facility is to **achieve zero discharge to local waterways**. This means instead of JCUA discharging treated water to local rivers as we do now, the new facility will sell the treated water directly to industry for reuse. This will minimize pollutants being discharged into the rivers AND reduce the amount of water pulled from the river for industrial needs. Innovative operations and treatment options incorporated into the design will support the zero discharge goal, which will conserve valuable resources, support water quality in our waterways, and protect wildlife and their habitat.

Maximizing Capacity

The existing JCUA facilities don't have the space to expand to serve our growing community. The new facility will have enough capacity to manage current and future wastewater flows from the facilities in Gautier, Escatawpa, and Pascagoula, and reduce pressure on the West Jackson County facility. In addition, the EJCCWRF will have space to store treated water. This is important, because it means if more treated water is produced than industry needs, up to 30 million gallons can be stored until needed, and still support the zero discharge goal.

Designing for Compliance

The new facility is being designed to meet both industrial standards (for reuse) and standards for discharge to local streams (environmental permits), providing flexibility for water reuse.

The design, construction, and operation of the facility will be compliant with all permits. This includes state and federal environmental permits, discharge permits, and permits to protect threatened and endangered species.



Focusing on Sustainability

The new facility will produce Class A biosolids that can be used by local farmers or sold to the public. This is a completely non-hazardous biosolids product that can be safely used by farmers or home gardeners. Because Class A biosolids are safe, there is no need for extensive record keeping, and the material could be a potential revenue source, further offsetting operational costs.



Learn More about the Project

The design and construction of the new facility – officially called the East Jackson County Consolidated Water Reclamation Facility, or EJCCWRF – is in the early stages. Visit the project website to learn more about the benefits and participate in the planning of our future wastewater needs.

Did You Know?

In part because of the high quality of water discharged after treatment, each of JCUA's treatment plants has received a Mississippi Water Environment Association Most Outstanding Wastewater Treatment Facility award. EJCCWRF project innovations will further our ability to protect water quality for our waterways.