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Chickasaw Hills Water Reclamation Facility Improvements

Beginning in 2018, we will commence improvements to the Chickasaw Hills water reclamation facility (WRF) in Homer Glen, with construction anticipated to continue through the last quarter of 2019. Once the improvements are complete at Chickasaw Hills, the transformation of the Derby Meadows plant from a water reclamation facility to a pumping station will follow. Illinois American Water is working in partnership with the Village of Homer Glen and environmental advocacy groups to ensure community and environmental objectives of the project are appropriately considered.

History of Homer Glen's Infrastructure

Illinois American Water (IAW) currently owns, operates and maintains three wastewater reclamation facilities (WRF) within the Village of Homer Glen: Oak Valley, Derby Meadows and Chickasaw Hills. The three facilities were built in the early 1970s, years before the Village incorporated in 2001, and before Illinois American Water began to provide service to the Village in 2002.

In 2010, Illinois American Water invested \$13.1 million in the modernization of the Oak Valley WRF due to aging infrastructure and more stringent regulatory discharge requirements. The infrastructure at the remaining two WRFs now need similar improvements. While IAW wants to ensure reliable wastewater treatment to our customers while protecting the environment, we also want to reduce operating costs.

Cost-Effective Decision

To determine the most cost-effective means of managing wastewater in Homer Glen, IAW performed an engineering study. The study determined by reducing the number of WRFs in Homer Glen from three to two, customers would experience a reduction of operating costs. As a result, it was determined that the Derby Meadows WRF would be converted to a pumping station with wastewater treatment being regionalized at the Chickasaw Hills WRF site.

Investment in Infrastructure

Illinois American Water brings many benefits to our customers, including award winning customer service, superior environmental compliance, 19 times better than the industry average, and a high level of infrastructure investment. The US Environmental Protection Agency estimates it will cost up to \$1 trillion to repair our nation's aging water infrastructure over the next 20 years. In the 2014 American Society of Civil Engineers report card, Illinois would need an estimated \$36.5 billion (\$19B in water and \$17.5B in wastewater). On average, IAW invests \$80-\$100 million annually in infrastructure improvements to ensure reliable service to our customers.