MDEQ Releases Application for NOx Emissions Reduction Projects

(Jackson, Miss.) – The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) released an application package today for the funding of nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions reduction projects. This funding opportunity is a reimbursement program for qualifying projects under the State of Mississippi Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program. The project submittal deadline is October 29, 2021.

MDEQ invites universities, private organizations, non-profit organizations, businesses, and any county, city, state, or other local government in Mississippi to submit applications to implement cost-effective and innovative projects to reduce NOx emissions.

The Volkswagen Diesel Settlement required VW to establish a $2.7 billion Environmental Mitigation Trust Fund to be distributed among states to fund eligible mitigation projects to replace diesel emission sources with cleaner technology to reduce excess nitrogen oxide emissions. VW established the Mitigation Trust Fund in part to settle claims that it sold vehicles with "defeat devices" designed to cheat emissions tests. Mississippi has been allocated approximately $9.8 million to fund projects designed to reduce NOx emissions in the state.

The application package outlines the process of applying for funding and information on the background of the program, the entities and projects eligible for funding as well as the required application content and procedures. The project selection process, a timeline of for administering the grant, and other details regarding project requirements are also included in this package.

The list of eligible projects is predominantly focused on the reduction of diesel emissions which are a large contributor of NOx emissions. Reducing diesel emissions is currently one of the most important air quality challenges in Mississippi. Although more stringent emission standards have taken effect for new, heavy-duty, on-road and non-road engines, older diesel engines still in use will continue to emit large amounts of nitrogen oxides and particulate matter for years to come. These pollutants affect many areas of the state and hinder its ability to continue to comply with National Ambient Air Quality Standards, and they contribute to public health problems.

MDEQ will award funds on a competitive basis and will only consider complete applications submitted by the submission deadline. A review committee consisting of MDEQ staff will review proposals and will assign points to each proposal based on criteria listed in the application package. Project proposals will be ranked according to the total points received.

More information can be found on the MDEQ Air Division's webpage here.

COVID Testing In Schools: What You Should Know

(NAPSI)—Enabling K-12 schools to reopen for in-person learning is a high priority for parents, communities and governments. In fact, President Biden's National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness was launched to fund COVID testing for teachers, staff and students in an effort to create a safer return-to-school environment.

Getting kids back to in-person learning will mean giving working parents a break, letting parents return to full-time work, reducing the expense of tutors or childcare and providing a near-normal learning experience.

Nevertheless, concerns linger over COVID in the classroom and the possibility of children bringing the virus home. School districts have looked at options for student testing but at the top of many lists is pooled testing. Here are some common questions and answers about that:

What is pooled COVID testing?

Pooled COVID-19 testing combines swabs from consenting individuals in a classroom and runs them as a single test. This can significantly increase testing capacity and lower costs. School personnel are trained to operate and monitor onsite sample collection, usually done weekly. In the event of a positive pool, the entire pool is quarantined and individually retested. But students who test negative can return to school immediately.

Does my child need to participate?

Participation is optional but according to district supervisors, most parents participate because regular, proactive testing can offer peace of mind. Knowing your child is in a COVID-free pool can make sending them to in-person learning less stressful. Proactive pooled testing alerts parents if a pool tests positive—which can be faster than finding out only after a child starts showing symptoms. It also means that parents know if a child tests positive, even if they are asymptomatic.

Can I trust the results?

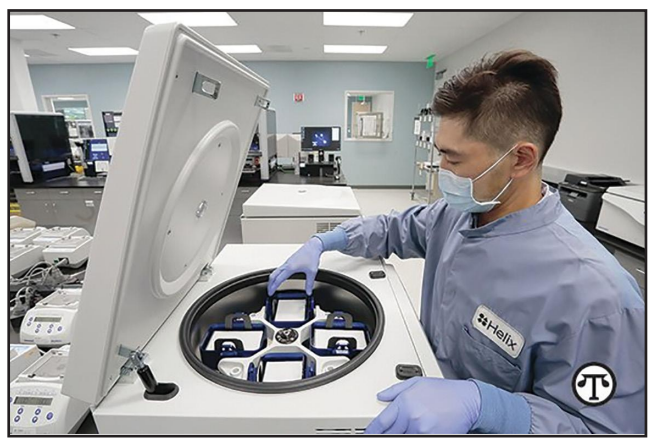
Yes, in many states, pooled testing is already being administered by trained school personnel. Swabs are tested by Helix, a CLIA-certified lab, identified as having one of the most sensitive PCR tests on the market in an independent study conducted by the FDA.

Does testing my kids at school cost me anything?

No, having your kids tested for COVID at school on an ongoing basis doesn't cost families anything. It provides a convenient way to protect all family members and creates a safer in-person learning environment.

How can I learn more?

For further information, contact your school and ask about pooled COVID-19 testing and visit www.helix.com.



Pooled COVID-19 testing in K-12 schools can reduce the time it takes to uncover positive cases in the classroom.

2020 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
Sweethome Water & Sewer District
PWS#: 0260015
May 2021

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is from wells drawing from the Meridian Upper Wilcox Aquifer.

The source water assessment has been completed for our public water system to determine the overall susceptibility of its drinking water supply to identified potential sources of contamination. A report containing detailed information on how the susceptibility determinations were made has been furnished to our public water system and is available for viewing upon request. The wells for the Sweethome Water & Sewer District have received moderate susceptibility rankings to contamination.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Coreginald Patton, Operator at 662.613.0515. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the second Monday of each month at 6:00 PM at 201 Spring Street, Lexington, MS 39095

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the period of January 1st to December 31st , 2020. In cases where monitoring wasn't required in 2020, the table reflects the most recent results. As water travels over the surface of land or underground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials and can pick up substances or contaminants from the presence of animals or from human activity; microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm-water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm-water runoff, and residential uses; organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations and septic systems; radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT) - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The "Goal"(MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) – The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary to control microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) – The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk of health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Level 1 Assessment: A study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

TEST RESULTS

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date Collected	Level Detected	Range of Detects or # of Samples Exceeding MCL/ACL	Unit Measure -ment	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants								
10. Barium	N	2018*	.0676	.0149 - .0676	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
14. Copper	N	2018/20	.3	0	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
17. Lead	N	2018/20	1	0	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	N	2019*	56000	No Range	PPB	0	0	Road Salt, Water Treatment Chemicals, Water Softeners and Sewage Effluents.
Disinfection By-Products								
81. HAA5	N	2020	6	No Range	ppb	0	60	By-Product of drinking water disinfection.
82. TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	N	2020	4.4	No Range	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Chlorine	N	2020	.9	.4 – 1.3	Mg/l	0	MDRL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes

** Most recent sample. No sample required for 2020.*

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a monthly basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. We did complete the monitoring requirements for bacteriological sampling that showed one sample with coliform present. There were no bacteria in the resamples.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Our water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead. The Mississippi State Department of Health Public Health Laboratory offers lead testing. Please contact 601.576.7582 if you wish to have your water tested.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1.800.426.4791.

The Sweethome Water and Sewer District works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1) God-America link
6) Worthy of the booby prize
11) Play section
14) Dressing type
15) Opposite of persona
16) Hee's go-with
17) How nags make commands
19) Archaic "before"
20) Strings for a lei person
21) Organ with a drum
22) What cake candles signify
23) Trash
27) Checked for fit
29) Early afternoon hour
30) And others, for short
32) Utah's lily
33) Burning evidence
34) Sharply accelerate
36) Tips, as one's hat
39) Hood's Marian, for one
41) Prevent from progressing
43) Octagonal sign
44) Assembly of church leaders
46) Less antiquated
48) Rage
49) Wee amount of liquid
51) Construction locale
52) Multiple guys
53) Decides not to quit
56) Least cluttered
58) That gentleman
59) Antelope preyed on by crocodiles
60) A Bobbsey sister
61) Org. for some court figures
62) Viewed suspiciously
68) Prefix with "solve" or "respect"
69) Certain Greek letter
70) Josh or rib
71) Beast of burden
72) Prepare to start a football game
73) Real suckers use it

DOWN

1) Sis's relative
2) Brit's bathroom
3) Shreveport-to-Tupelo dir.
4) Cancel, as a mission
5) Less stable
6) Roll of bills
7) The avant-garde's Yoko
8) Beam fastener
9) Badmouths
10) Left slowly and hesitantly
11) When to make a reservation
12) ShipÂ's goods
13) 12-year-old, for one
18) Fit one inside another
23) Goes hither and yon
24) Retract a statement
25) Where one's true identity may be hidden
26) Place of sanctuary
28) They cause head swellings
31) Mandolin's cousins
35) Plover relative
37) Golf course warnings
38) Lightened one's wallet
40) Small boat
42) Eyeball membrane
45) Strong revulsion
47) Edits for publication
50) Clyde's crime partner
53) Criminal
54) It travels from one joint to another
55) Gently elbow
57) Coastal passage
63) Tall, flightless bird
64) Urban music genre
65) Rower's blade
66) Miss with a crown
67) Morning droplets

PLACEMENT TEST By Timothy E. Parker