

HALEYVILLE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT- NAMED BEST OPERATED PLANT, 2006-07-08

The Haleyville Wastewater Treatment Plant has something of which to be proud-receiving a statewide award, for Best Operated Plant, after entering their first ever contest since the plant has been in operation.

The wastewater treatment plant, operating under the HALEYVILLE WATER AND SEWER BOARD, received the award August 2, after following all of the objectives sought by the Alabama Water and Pollution Control Association and scoring 80 points or greater after a thorough inspection process. The wastewater treatment plant had an April 1, deadline in which to have the necessary paperwork turned in. As part of the process, the plant was inspected in July and August by the AWPCA inspection teams from Dothan and Anniston Alabama. "We've known about the contest since 1990, just have not entered", stated sewer department superintendent Donnie Defoor. "The first time we entered the competition was 2006, after winning we decided to try again. The sewer department employees have won 2007 and 2008". The AWPCA sent two inspection teams to Haleyville examining the wastewater treatment plant's lab sheets, operation and maintenance reports which took about eight hours at separate times for the process of inspection. The plant received word August 12; they had won the statewide competition. "For us, it meant a lot," said Defoor. "...As far as the recognition among other statewide operators. It was good to be recognized by a peer group and educationally and professionally win the competition." The Best Operated Plant Award, mechanical aeration One million gallons per day capacity, was based on much hard work and effort among the Haleyville Sewer Department employees. AWPCA looks at such objectives in the contest as advancing of fundamental and practical knowledge of wastewater, the mature, collection, reclamation and disposal of domestic and industrial wastewater, as well as the design, construction, operational and management of facilities used in wastewater collection and treatment.

During the annual AWPCA meeting in Huntsville awards are presented to operators of those wastewater treatment plants that excel in daily operation and maintenance of their plants. Such awards are based on inspection, record keeping, lab practice, maintenance of equipment, safety, attitude of plant employees and general appearance of the plant itself. The Haleyville Wastewater Treatment Plant can normally treat 800,00 gallons of wastewater per day, but currently is doing 300,00 to 400,00 gallons per day, according to plant employees. The plant has a one million gallon per day capacity. The plant is required by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management to keep an employee at the plant eight hours per day, said Defoor.

The Haleyville Water and Sewer Board was incorporated in 1952, with the majority of the town being on septic tanks until 1970. At that time, two wastewater treatment plants were built, one serving the north side of town, the other the south side. The two plants were combined into the present facility in 1990. The plant deals in the cleansing of sewage- household and industrial wastes in water.

"You flush your toilet, do you know where it goes?" Defoor asked rhetorically. The wastewater treatment plant removes the suspended solids through a static screening process, followed by grit and grease removal, with the water going into an aeration basin, maintaining .5-1.5 milligrams per liter of dissolved oxygen. Then water flows through a

clarifier, which separates fine suspended solids from the water. The clear water with 99% of solids removed passes through a chlorine contact chamber. Sulfur Dioxide takes out the unused chlorine, with the finished water going into Moore Creek, a fish and wildlife creek, which flows into the Buttahatchee River. Solids are stored in a compost pile and treated with lime for one year. The Bio-Solids are tested according to Environmental Protection Agency requirements under the 503 regulations and applied to local farmland. "We are putting 250 dry tons of Bio-Solids on a 10 acre field per year," said Defoor. Metal samples are taken from the Bio-Solids and soil samples are taken at the farm in accordance with EPA methods of operation. Superintendent Defoor noted the plant's job is to remove anything from the wastewater that will contaminate the receiving stream, resulting in nine lab tests being done per week to insure stream quality. The entire process of wastewater treatment takes about 24 to 36 hours of detention time within the plant, noted Chief Operator J. C. Kelley.

The Sewer Department is comprised of four state certified operators, which are required to have eight hours of continuing education per year and to renew their certification every three years. Employees of the Haleyville Sewer Department are Donnie Defoor, Superintendent, J. C. Kelley-Chief Operator, Kevin Williams-Plant Operator Maintenance, Dewey S. Wilson-Collection System Maintenance, David Cox is Manager of the Haleyville Water and Sewer Board for the City of Haleyville.