

W. Burrell Ellis, Jr.
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DEKALB COUNTY
NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement Regarding EPA, EPD Consent Decree

DECATUR – DeKalb County, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) have reached a Clean Water Act settlement in the form of a consent decree in regard to DeKalb County’s sanitary sewer system.

“We agree with the EPA and the EPD that changes and upgrades must be made to DeKalb’s sewer system,” said DeKalb CEO Burrell Ellis. “As we’ve been saying, the system is old and neglected, and many components are at the end of their useful life cycle. We must be in compliance with federal and state regulations and certain repairs and upgrades that must be made. They are now being mandated as part of the consent order we’ve entered into. All of the items within this consent decree have already been included in the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) list to be implemented within 5 years of approving the rate increase. Funding approval of the \$1.4 billion requested is urgent and critical to be in compliance with the consent order and to address civil penalties included in the consent order. At the end of the day, these improvements will ensure that DeKalb’s water and sewer system will remain viable and reliable for generations to come.”

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