



News release

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City of Cayce cuts ribbon on new regional wastewater treatment plant

State and local officials today celebrated the recent opening of Cayce's new state-of-the-art regional wastewater treatment plant with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and guided tours of the plant.

SC House Majority Leader Kenneth (Kenny) A. Bingham, Vice President of American Engineering Consultants, Inc.; Mayor Elise Partin, City of Cayce; Mayor Randy Halfacre, Town of Lexington; and Frank Stover, Mayor of the Town of Pelion and Chairman of the Joint Water and Sewer Commission were among those who spoke at the ceremony to officially launch the City of Cayce Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, E. H. Heustess, Jr., Facility, located at 539 Old State Road.

Mr. Bill Bingham, Jr., President of American Engineering Consultants, Inc. and Mr. David Hayes, Vice President, Wharton-Smith, Inc. also spoke at the event.

The 25-million-gallon-per-day facility took three years to build and replaces a wastewater plant built in the early 1970s. Built with the growth of Lexington County in mind, the facility provides more than 2.5 times the treatment capacity of the old facility—enough to treat wastewater from up to 80,000 homes and businesses and one-half million people.

The facility will not only provide long-term economic benefits to Lexington County by ensuring the continued availability of wastewater treatment capacity, but also protect the waters of the region from the by-products of this growth.

"This plant is the result of more than a decade of work, so standing here today is an exciting milestone for all of us," said City of Cayce Mayor Elise Partin. "This is an excellent example of what can be accomplished with leadership and regional collaboration and we are excited that this new facility will help drive economic development in Lexington County."

Owned by the City of Cayce, the plant provides wastewater treatment to Cayce, the Town of Lexington and the Joint Municipal Water and Sewer Commission, which serves the central and southern unincorporated areas of Lexington County.

The plant gives the region the latest purifying technologies:

- The facility uses an advanced biological treatment process and is capable of removing pollutants such as nitrogen and phosphorus from treated wastewater, making it one of the most advanced treatment facilities in the Midlands.
- The advanced membrane digestion system at the facility is the largest of its kind in the world. Membrane digestion represents an innovative and sustainable approach to solids handling by eliminating the use of polymers, producing reuse-quality water and lowering the amount of nutrients released into our waterways.
- A state-of-the-art automatic control system helps plant staff monitor the treatment process and the equipment and quickly notifies staff when problems arise.

Here are a few other facts about the facility:

- The four basins used for the biological treatment process occupy more than four acres of land.
- A drop of water entering the plant takes from one to two days to complete its journey through the facility.
- 3 megawatts of backup generator capacity allow the facility to remain operational even during extended power outages.

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