

WASTEWATER TREATMENT

Of course this is not a glamorous topic but without addressing it, our community could not keep up with its full potential for development. In 2006 the Albany City Council held several meetings to address a serious decline in water and wastewater systems due to an aging infrastructure. We had a water tower and lines built 100 years ago, the wastewater treatment lagoons no longer met EPA standards and the water treatment plant, built in 1974, was experiencing frequent equipment failures.

The economic vitality of Albany citizens, businesses and industries depends upon access to clean, fresh water and the ability to safely dispose of wastewater efficiently. The City Council developed a long-range plan to ensure adequate access, improve energy efficiency and upgrade systems to meet current standards. The first phase included replacement of the old “tin hat” water tower with a larger, modern design capable of holding 250,000 gallons of treated water supply. At the time of installation, adjacent water lines were replaced too.

This is the second phase of the plan: Address wastewater treatment system failures to upgrade and meet current EPA standards. To begin, Derek Brown, City Administrator, contracted White Cloud Engineering to dredge and clean the sewage lagoons at a cost of \$200,000. At the completion of this project, we expect to extend the lifetime usage of the lagoons an additional 25 years. Next, the City purchased and installed \$60,000 worth of state-of-the-art aeration equipment to improve efficiency of this system more than 75%. Also, Kathy Morgan, Economic Developer for the City, wrote a grant to request financial assistance to replace the malfunctioning 1972 wastewater lift station that serviced the west side of the city. The Department of Natural Resources granted an “*Energize Missouri Communities*” award of \$45,000 to meet this need. The new lift station will be installed this fall and is expected to improve operating efficiency by 80% over the old system.

Albany is proud to show our wastewater treatment upgrades as one example of our proactive and progressive spirit when it comes to meeting the needs of our people, businesses and industries.
