



PROCEEDINGS AGAINST HPI PRODUCTS, INC. DISMISSED

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The City of St. Joseph has dismissed its complaint against HPI Products, Inc. (HPI) before the Circuit Court of Buchanan County, Missouri due to impacts from the recently complete receivership and on-going activities by the federal government.

The City filed its complaint on November 30, 2020, alleging that HPI repeatedly discharged chemicals into the City's sewer system and operated within city limits without a required Wastewater Contribution Permit. Shortly thereafter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) initiated a receivership action against HPI in federal court to compel environmental remediation activities at HPI's properties. The Western District Court of Missouri ordered HPI to cease all further chemical operations and placed the company under receivership on September 19, 2022.

HPI's cessation of operations, in addition to the waste removal and mitigation activities that occurred during the receivership, have lessened the immediate threats to the City's publicly owned treatment works and have helped abate the nuisance created by HPI. The Temporary Receiver effectively contained all discharges during the receivership, and the EPA will now proceed to further alleviate environmental issues with site assessments and waste removal under the EPA's Superfund program.

The City's dismissal in Buchanan County preserves its ability to refile the case if needed. The City will monitor environmental compliance at HPI's facilities and will resume complaint proceedings if necessary to protect public health and welfare. Public Works & Transportation Director, Abe Forney, stated, "We appreciate the cleanup and repair efforts that have happened thus far. The Public Works & Transportation Department remains committed to operating its sewer system in a sustainable manner that does not allow individual users to inequitably burden the system to the detriment of other users. The City will continue to engage with the EPA and MDNR to ensure that progress continues at HPI's properties."

The City's proceeding against HPI before the Buchanan County Circuit Court can be found at Case No. 20BU-CV04391.