



Community Input Requested About the City of Jackson Drinking Water System

October 2024



Overview & Purpose of Public Meeting

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) are seeking input regarding the City of Jackson's drinking water system from members of the public during public meetings to be held on **October 10 and 11, 2024**. The public input is intended to inform the EPA's oversight of the drinking water system to ensure that it meets the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act and provides clean, safe and reliable water to all customers.

On November 29, 2022, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi entered an Interim Stipulated Order (ISO), agreed to by the EPA, DOJ, the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) and the City of Jackson to: (1) create a Priority Projects List with steps needed to stabilize the City's drinking water system, remedy problems that contributed to the water crisis and establish sustainable practices; (2) appoint Edward "Ted" Henifin, operating through JXN Water, Inc., as the Interim Third-Party Manager (ITPM) to manage the City's drinking water system and implement the Priority Projects List; and (3) delay further litigation while the Parties (EPA, MSDH, DOJ and the City) worked on a longer-term solution.

The EPA and DOJ cannot discuss details of enforcement negotiations with the City or MSDH. Any future agreement among the parties will be made available for public review and comment.

Summary of Activities

While EPA and DOJ recognize improvements have been made, there is still work to be done.

Drinking Water System Improvements Implemented

- Repairs to the water treatment plants have greatly improved system reliability and repairs of leaks in the distribution system have resulted in a 25% decrease in average daily demand.
- Completed winterization of the plants has resulted in more reliable water production this past winter.
- Corrosion control treatment completed at J.H. Fewell Water Treatment Plant. Corrosion control treatment completion at O.B. Curtis Water Treatment Plant expected by the end of this year.
- Work is ongoing to stabilize pressure and water reliability throughout the system, including repair and replacement of valves, pipes and hydrants.
- Work has started on all other Priority Projects identified in the Interim Stipulated Order.

Public Meeting

Two public meetings will be held:

Thursday, October 10, 2024

e-Logistics Room

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. CST

&

Friday, October 11, 2024

California Room

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST

Meeting Location for both dates:

Mississippi e-Center at JSU

1230 Raymond Road, Jackson, MS 39204

For more information, please visit:

www.epa.gov/ms/jackson-ms-drinking-water

Grants and Funding

- Under the EPA's emergency grant authority, the Agency awarded over \$148 million in funding to address the City's drinking water emergency.
- Of the \$148 million, more than \$100 million has been used on actions to address the drinking water emergency and restore the system, including activities to find and fix leaks in the distribution system, improve pressure in the system through valve and hydrant assessment and make critical repairs.
- MSDH has approved the use of nearly \$300 million in Drinking Water State Revolving Funds by JXN Water for capital improvement projects at the two water treatment plants and in the distribution system.
- Congressional directed community grant of \$1.5 million awarded to JXN Water for facilities to support management of operations and to provide safe reliable drinking water.
- Timely payment of bills for water and sewer service by individual and commercial customers remains critical to the long-term financial stability of the Drinking Water and Sewer Systems.

Input Requested

The EPA and DOJ have heard from the public in previous meetings, letters, emails and phone calls concerning the future of the drinking water system. In the upcoming meetings, the EPA and DOJ are seeking additional community input on the future of the system. Specifically, the EPA would like to know:

- 1) What improvements to the drinking water system have you seen since November 2022?
- 2) What longer-term considerations do you believe EPA should consider regarding the drinking water system?
What additional improvements would you like to see?
- 3) What communication improvements would you like to see implemented to provide you with information regarding the status of the drinking water system? For instance, how do you currently receive information about the drinking water system (such as JXNWater.com or JXN Water social media (Nextdoor, X, Facebook), EPA's website, local news media, or word of mouth); how do you like to be notified of work occurring in your area and boil water notices; what other information would you like to know and how can that be made available?

Email to Provide Input

In addition to hearing from the community at the meetings, we have created an email box to gather your input. We would appreciate your comments emailed to JacksonMSWater@epa.gov by **Friday, October 31, 2024**.

Links to Further Resources

To review EPA notices of noncompliance, federal orders, quarterly reports along with EPA responses and sampling results www.epa.gov/ms/jackson-ms-drinking-water.

To pay bills, reach customer service, get updates on priority projects and other water plant operations, sampling data, financial information and boil water notices <https://jxnwater.com/>.

To find state inspection reports, state violations and compliance plans and water quality reports <https://apps.msdh.ms.gov/DWW>; search for "City of Jackson" in Water System Name.

Spanish Translation and Interpretation

To receive the fact sheet in Spanish, please reply to this email address. If you need language service assistance at the meeting, please let us know by **Wednesday, October 2, 2024**.

Si no puede hablar, leer, escribir o entender el inglés y/o tiene alguna discapacidad, envíe un correo electrónico a JacksonMSWater@epa.gov para solicitar servicios de traducción o interpretación gratuitos antes de **miércoles el 2 de Octubre 2024**.