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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR LLOYD WINNECKE

May 3, 2012 For Immediate Release Contact: Ella Johnson-Watson 812-436-4965

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Evansville Water and Sewer Utility launches public outreach effort for Renew Evansville

EVANSVILLE, IN – The Evansville Water and Sewer Utility (EWSU) and Mayor Lloyd Winnecke launched a public effort in support of one of the city's largest capital improvement projects to date, *Renew Evansville*. It is EWSU's approximately 20-year plan to improve Evansville's sewer system and comply with the Clean Water Act, as mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Justice and the State of Indiana. *Renew Evansville* will significantly upgrade Evansville's sewer system infrastructure, improve operations and reduce water pollution. Through a detailed assessment of the current system, public comment and state and federal approval, EWSU will have about 20 years to complete the plan to comply with a federal consent decree and state and federal regulations.

To gather public feedback as *Renew Evansville* is being developed, the following tools are available:

- A public website, <u>www.RenewEvansville.com</u>, which contains information about <u>the agreement</u> with federal and state regulators, the timeline for implementation, <u>copies of many of the</u> <u>submissions the Utility has filed with the EPA since November 2010</u> and <u>information for</u> <u>residents.</u>
- Updates via Twitter by following <u>@RenewEvansville.</u>
- A Citizens Advisory Committee that meets regularly to provide feedback on the plan's development.
- A speakers bureau, which can make presentations to neighborhood associations, civic groups and other community organizations.

"The Evansville Water and Sewer Utility is ready to take action and work to improve and enhance one of our city's most important, yet unseen, assets," EWSU director Allen Mounts said. "We encourage Evansville residents to provide input and help make *Renew Evansville* the best investment for our city's sewer system."

To engage public comment in planning, EWSU plans to hold public meetings about *Renew Evansville* between Aug. 1 and Sept. 30, 2012. At that time, a draft plan will be available for the public to review and comment.

Through *Renew Evansville*, Utility officials plan to upgrade existing infrastructure, use new construction and "green" solutions to expand current pipe and sewer capacity, and make improvements to the Utility's operations and maintenance. EWSU must submit its final long-term Integrated Overflow Control Plan to the EPA by Nov. 30, 2012.

For more information about the program, visit the newly launched <u>www.RenewEvansville.com</u>.