



Kishwaukee Water Reclamation District 2025 Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project

Project Description:

The Kishwaukee Water Reclamation District (KWRD) is advancing a \$26 million capital improvements project to modernize its regional facility in DeKalb County, Illinois. Key project components include the construction of a new excess flow disinfection facility to handle peak wet weather, the addition of a 55-foot digested sludge storage tank prepared for biogas energy recovery, and the consolidation of outdated electrical systems into a single medium-voltage loop to support sitewide energy reliability and renewable integration. A 714-kilowatt ground-mounted solar array will be installed on-site to provide clean electricity, offsetting up to 25% of the plant's energy demand. Additional improvements include struvite and phosphorus control systems, polymer handling enhancements, backup power integration, and the demolition of obsolete infrastructure to make room for native habitat restoration and future expansion.

Project Location: All work will be completed at the Kishwaukee Water Reclamation District's facility, located at 1301 Sycamore Road in DeKalb, Illinois.

Project Funding:

The estimated \$26 million total project cost will be financed primarily through the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's State Revolving Fund (SRF) under the Water Pollution Control Loan Program. Additionally, to help reduce financial impact on local ratepayers, KWRD is seeking \$600,000 in grant funding, including \$300,000 from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and \$300,000 from the U.S. Department of Energy's Industrial Training and Assessment Center's (ITAC) program.

Project Benefits:

Governmental: This project supports key state initiatives, including the Rebuild Illinois capital program, the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA), and Illinois' 2024 Economic Growth Plan by strengthening vital infrastructure, enhancing service capacity, and promoting economic growth in the region.

Environmental: The installation of a solar array capable of offsetting one-quarter of the plant's total energy use, improving reliability during extreme weather, and upgrading nutrient control systems, all contribute to advancing regional sustainability goals. The restoration of decommissioned areas with native vegetation will also enhance biodiversity and ecosystem health. These efforts position KWRD to foster long-term climate resilience and operational sustainability.