



## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Update on Mill Creek Plant Transformer Failure

CINCINNATI – A root-cause analysis of the March 5, 2023, transformer failure at the Mill Creek Wastewater Treatment plant in Lower Price Hill has determined the failure was caused by a manufacturing defect internal to the transformer. Other potential causes, including design, environmental, and operational factors, were ruled out. The root-cause analysis also determined the manufacturing defect is unlikely to be common to a second transformer scheduled to be installed at the Mill Creek electric substation.

The Mill Creek plant lost all electrical power on March 5 following the catastrophic failure of a new high-voltage transformer installed at the Mill Creek electric substation as part of a \$17.5 million upgrade project. Without power to the plant, untreated and partially treated wastewater was discharged into the Mill Creek and Ohio River. There were no impacts to local drinking water. Delivery of the second new transformer that was planned for the project was put on hold following the incident.

Temporary power to the plant was restored on March 8, 2023, using diesel-powered generators. On March 16, 2023, full power was restored after reconnecting one of the plant's original General Electric transformers to the Duke electrical grid.

After the incident, MSD directed its design-build contractor, Patrick Engineering, to complete a root-cause analysis to determine why the transformer failed and to ensure the second new transformer did not share a common fault. MSD also directed Patrick Engineering to identify measures to further mitigate risks associated with the installation of the second transformer and completion of the project.

Patrick Engineering has recommended additional enhancements to the project to mitigate risks going forward, including continuous monitoring and maintaining the current transformer being used at the plant in stand-by mode pending delivery of a replacement transformer for the failed first transformer.

MSD and its consultants have reviewed these risk-mitigation measures and agree that the project is ready to proceed with installation of the second transformer. MSD is preparing an update to the Ohio EPA and anticipates energization of the second transformer in the next several weeks.

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