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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRWA's Central Wastewater Treatment Plant Energy Savings Project Ribbon Cutting

The Bedford Regional Water Authority (BRWA) and Schneider Electric are revealing their energy savings project on Thursday, April 13th at noon at the Central Wastewater Treatment Plant. The ceremony will be a ribbon cutting with the Bedford Chamber of Commerce.

"This project is one that has been years in the making and the BRWA started seeing cost savings before the project was even completed. Rarely is it possible to have a major treatment plant upgrade project that pays for itself with operational savings, let alone a construction project that helps to protect the environment." said Brian Key, BRWA Executive Director; "This project has all that and more".

Construction began in January 2021 and will be finished at the end of April 2023. This project aimed to upgrade the systems at the Central Wastewater Treatment Plant, which will now save the BRWA at least \$217,258 a year in energy and operational costs. To do this, six different Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs) were completed:

- 3 ECMs provided enough aeration savings to cover costs and address critical equipment needs.
- 1 ECM provides enough chemical savings to cover its costs.
- 1 ECM replaced the belt filter press which reduced disposal costs.
- 1 ECM addressed failed blowers at the digesters.

The project was expanded to include engineering design criteria and operational issues that were identified after the project began. These include:

- Replacing aging diffuser membranes, completing valve replacements, and reconfiguring pump and pipe arrangements.
- Completing a thorough assessment to provide the needed data to properly size the new equipment.
- Addressing and resolving three failed process blowers and two failed digester blowers.

Not only are there energy savings but there are also additional benefits and outcomes which include:

- The Plant's three critical points have been upgraded: the EQ/aeration blowers, the digester blowers, and the belt press. These also provided redundancy for each process in the plant.
- The belt filter press is outperforming expectations, lowering overall operation costs.
- Overflow events have been significantly reduced.
- The upgraded Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system allows for lower operating hours, better tracking, and automated setpoint capability.
- Removal of grit from tanks results in better mixing.

The total project cost is \$5.31 million dollars and includes \$4.26 million dollars in bond funds received by the Virginia Resources Authority (VRA). The energy and operational savings guaranteed by Schneider Electric allow the payback on the project to be 24 years.

Event Details:

- Date: Thursday, April 13th
- Time: Noon – 1pm
- Location: Central Wastewater Treatment Plant, 852 Orange Street, Bedford, VA 24523
- The event will provide tours of the facility, light refreshments, and a ribbon-cutting.
- Parking is limited. Please carpool when available.



An aerial shot of the BRWA's Central Wastewater Treatment Plant.

About the Bedford Regional Water Authority:

The Bedford Regional Water Authority (BRWA) provides water and wastewater services to the residents and businesses in Bedford County and the Town of Bedford; additionally, the BRWA partners with the Western Virginia Water Authority to serve customers surrounding Smith Mountain Lake in both Bedford and Franklin County. Visit www.brwa.com for further information.

About Schneider Electric

Schneider's purpose is to empower all to make the most of our energy and resources, bridging progress and sustainability for all. We call this Life Is On. Our mission is to be your digital partner for Sustainability and Efficiency. We drive digital transformation by integrating world-leading process and energy technologies, end-point to cloud connecting products, controls, software and services, across the entire lifecycle, enabling integrated company management, for homes, buildings, data centers, infrastructure and industries. We are the most local of global companies. We are advocates of open standards and partnership ecosystems that are passionate about our shared Meaningful Purpose, Inclusive and Empowered values.

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