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Governor's Water and Sewer Task Force Releases Recommendations

Jackson, Miss. – The Governor's Water and Sewer Task Force (GWSTF) released their recommendations today. The Task Force studied the harmful impacts of inadequate water and wastewater infrastructure on economic development, particularly in rural areas of Mississippi.

“The water and sewer infrastructure in many rural areas is not sufficient to support meaningful economic development,” Governor Ronnie Musgrove said. “The Task Force has clearly and succinctly outlined the major causes of these infrastructure problems and recommended specific actions to improve the situation, including several that can be implemented with little or no additional funding.”

On March 28, 2001, Governor Musgrove established the Governor's Water and Sewer Task Force, appointing Charles Chisholm, the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), as chair. The Task Force membership included representatives of local, state, and federal government, rural water associations, water/wastewater operators, academia, and others.

“It is vitally important for the future economic development of Mississippi and also the health of all Mississippians that we have proper infrastructure for providing safe, abundant drinking water as well as proper treatment of wastewater,” says Chisolm. “These needs are especially acute in rural areas of the state.”

The Task Force held its first meeting on April 24, 2001, and met as a group nine times. During several meetings, the Task Force focused on the current situation in Mississippi regarding drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. The members heard presentations from agencies and organizations regarding drinking water and wastewater infrastructure issues. During later meetings, the members discussed the issues that had been raised, and developed a consensus set of recommendations to be presented to the Governor. The report is available at the Governor's website at www.governor.state.ms.us.