



This memo is intended to provide background to officials in Pigeon Forge and other interested parties. The information is in regard to the meetings and events leading up to the selection of the recommended plan for expanding the Pigeon Forge Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and building a force main to discharge at the French Broad River.

The history of this decision goes back over five years. There were a number of efforts made by and on behalf of the City of Pigeon Forge to stay at the current WWTP location and continue to discharge highly treated effluent to the West Prong of the Little Pigeon River. Ultimately, this option was not available due to environmental issues. Below is a summary of the major events and decisions leading up to the current project recommendations.

Chronology:

- o In 2002 the City of Pigeon Forge contracted with Smith Seckman Reid, Inc. (SSR) to prepare a wastewater system study. The recommendations of that study were discussed with the City manager and staff at a meeting on July 8, 2003. (Attachment 1) The results were subsequently presented to the City Council in a workshop on October 7, 2003. (Attachment 2) The report recommended expansion of the WWTP from 4 million gallons per day (MGD) capacity to 8 MGD.
- o One of the first steps towards expanding a WWTP is to establish treatment criteria for effluent limits. The City of Pigeon Forge contracted with Smith Seckman Reid, Inc. (SSR) to solicit planning limits for the proposed plan expansion. A request for planning limits for the proposed WWTP expansion was forwarded to the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation (TDEC) on May 19, 2004. (Attachment 3)

TDEC issued the 2004 update of its 303(d) list (an EPA required document that lists all of the streams in Tennessee and indicates whether they have water quality impairment). The 2004 list indicated that the West Prong of the Little Pigeon River (where the City WWTP currently discharges its treated effluent) was impaired due to septic tank and collection system issues. In a memo to the City manager dated July 13, 2004 SSR r