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Lawsuit: Leavenworth defrauded FEMA, Illegally Dumped Sewage

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) - A whistleblower lawsuit alleges the City of Leavenworth defrauded the federal government in claiming reimbursements for water pipe and bridge repairs that were actually damaged prior to the 2011 flood.

The lawsuit unsealed Monday in U.S. District Court in Kansas also alleges the city's water treatment plant illegally dumped waste directly into a creek behind the plant that runs into the Missouri River. It also alleges truckloads of solid sewer waste were dumped on top of the ground behind the facility.

The city of Leavenworth declined to comment on the allegations.

Former assistant plant supervisor Michele Coffman also claims in her suit that the city retaliated against her after she raised concerns over the practices.

The Justice Department has declined to intervene at this time, but is monitoring the lawsuit.

Associated Press