

Commission approves consent order for sewer plant

**(KNZA)--The Hiawatha City Commission Monday evening approved a consent order with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, which requires the city to make certain improvements to its wastewater treatment process.**

**According to the consent order, the city failed to meet discharge limits for ammonia and E-coli 11 times in the past 18 months.**

**In September of last year, the city submitted a schedule for improvements at the city's sewer lift stations, along with a schedule for completion of a study for sewer plant upgrades.**

**Under the schedule, the improvements are to start by March 1, 2023 and be completed by March 1, 2026.**

**In other business, the Commission approved a letter of conditions from USDA Rural Development for funding to finance phase 3 improvements to the city's wastewater collection system.**

**The agency is offering a \$1.64 million 40-year loan with an interest rate of 1.5 percent, and \$995,000 grant for the project.**

**The total project cost is placed at nearly \$3.6 million.**

**The city would provide \$345,000 in funding for the project, with \$600,000 coming from a Community Development Block grant**

Many Signals Communications