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DOLE, STEVENS ANNOUNCE MAJOR EPA GRANT TO PITTSBURG FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole and Pittsburg City Manager
Larry Stevens today announced that the city of Pittsburg has been
awarded a federal grant to cover a large portion of the upcoming
major modifications to its wastewater treatment plant.

The grant, sought by Pittsburg and backed by Senator Dole,
will be provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and
administered by the Kansas Department of Health & Environment.
The grant is one of the last grants offered nationwide by the EPA
under the Clean Water Act, and offers the city a means to
minimize rate increases for upgraded wastewater treatment
services.

"I'm pleased the EPA has recognized the importance of
helping the city make this important project a reality," Dole
said. "No doubt about it, this large grant is a real shot in the
arm for Pittsburg's ability to maintain essential local services
and promote environmental quality."

The total treatment plant construction is estimated at $7.1
million, and the grant is expected to cover about half of the
projects eligible costs. KDH&E will determine the final amount
allocated for the Pittsburg project.

Upon completion, the treatment plant's capacity will be
increased to 24 million gallons per day, with the ability to
treat even larger daily volumes of water. The increased level of
treatment is required to remove soluble organic contaminants and
prevent their entry into Cow Creek.

"We are very pleased to receive notification of this grant
award, as it is our understanding the grant funds will provide
approximately half of the estimated project costs," City Manager
Larry Stevens said. "Even with the grant award for matching
funds, this will be an extremely large project for the City of
Pittsburg -- but without the matching funds it would be extremely
difficult to generate sufficient revenues from our water and
sewer system to accomplish this project."

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