



Gadsden Water Moves Forward with Plans for Advanced Drinking Water Treatment

*Engineering firm selected to design, bid, and conduct construction inspection on a new reverse osmosis facility;
Preliminary cost, next steps outlined*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mike McGill, for Gadsden Water
(910) 622-8472 – mike@waterpio.com

Gadsden, Alabama, December 21, 2022: A key part of the mission of the Gadsden Water Works and Sewer Board (Gadsden Water) is to continually strive to adopt new methods of delivering the best drinking water to our customers, especially as new challenges emerge.

In response to the discoveries of PFAS chemicals in our source water and drinking water, Gadsden Water began examining the best available water treatment options as we took legal action back in September 2016. In 2018, Gadsden Water completed the construction of a granular-activated carbon (GAC) facility.

Understanding the GAC facility would accomplish an extremely beneficial, but not complete, reduction in the PFAS found in our water, Gadsden Water quickly moved forward with discussions about the construction of a reverse osmosis (RO) plant that would provide the best possible treatment for PFAS compounds.

During its monthly meeting Monday afternoon, the Gadsden Water Works Board took several steps toward construction of the RO facility. After a series of discussions and votes, the Board approved a proposal from Insite Engineering of Hoover, Alabama, to design, bid, and conduct construction inspection of a new reverse osmosis facility.

The preliminary cost of the project, including contingencies, is approximately \$80 million. The Board also approved two studies to review potential reverse osmosis treatment options and the design of the plant will begin immediately. The cost of the facility will be paid from the funds received as part of Gadsden Water's settlement that resolved its litigation against the manufacturer and other users of PFAS.

“This is an important moment for the customers and employees of Gadsden Water,” said Gadsden Water General Manager Chad Hare. “The Board’s actions place us firmly on the path to reaching our goal of permanently resolving concerns about PFAS and delivering the cleanest water possible to our customers.”

“We’re proud to be chosen by Gadsden Water to design, bid, and oversee construction of their reverse osmosis plant,” said Bryan Pate, Insite Engineering CEO. “This facility will place Gadsden Water ahead of the curve when it comes to the treatment of PFAS for decades to come.”

#