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NEWS RELEASE

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City employees complete EPA Program to reduce energy costs

Three city of Branson employees received certificates of completion for a series of EPA sponsored workshops designed to lower energy consumption at City of Branson water treatment facilities.

The employees were Utilities Director Mike Ray, Finance and Personnel Director Lori Helle and Environmental Specialist Mona Menezes.

Traditionally, water treatment plants are the largest user of power in any municipality, accounting for approximately one-third of all energy needs, partly due to the fact that water treatment is a 24/7 operation with large pumps and motors always in use.

Partnering with EPA and Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Branson serves as one of ten Missouri pilot cities in reducing energy costs in water and wastewater treatment. The City of Branson team drafted an energy policy aimed at reducing “energy per gallon of water treated” by a minimum of 1% per year for five years. This will be achieved through a commitment to replace outdated motors with Energy Star rated equipment, and to consider Energy Star whenever upgrading. Other Missouri cities in the pilot program are Columbia, Harrisonville, Joplin, Monett, Neosho, O’Fallon, Rolla, St. Charles and St. Peters.

Pictured below with certificates are (left to right, front row) Mike Ray, Utilities Director; Lori Helle, Finance Director; and Mona Menezes, Environmental Specialist, together with officials from EPA and Missouri Department of Natural Resources (left to right, back row) Ruben McCullers, EPA , Bruce Holt MDNR , Steve Busch MDNR , Kerry Herndon, EPA).

