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COUNTY AWARDS BID ON WORK TO PREVENT ODOR AT PEEKSKILL SEWAGE PLANT

Construction will begin this summer at the Westchester County-run Peekskill sewage treatment plant on a project designed to reduce odors and improve the quality of life for city residents around the plant, County Executive Andy Spano announced.

The county's Board of Acquisition and Contract today awarded about $1.5 million in contracts to two firms – Spectraserv Inc. and Medusa Electric – to implement a series of improvements at the plant that will prevent odors

"People who live near the plant should not have to experience odors," said Spano. "We are taking steps now to mitigate this problem and we will continue to monitor the plant in the future to make sure it is as environmentally friendly as it can be."

Peekskill Mayor John Testa said that he was pleased that the work would begin soon.

"This has been a concern of residents for quite some time, and I am gratified that we were able to work with the county to come up with a solution that will improve the quality of life for Peekskill residents," said Testa.

County Legislator George Oros said, "This honors a long-standing commitment to area residents that we do something about odor problems. Hopefully, it will bring much needed relief to the neighborhood."

As part of the work, thickeners at the plant -- which convert sewage into sludge for easy removal -- will be covered with steel lids and a carbon filtration system will be installed to trap and eliminate odors. Sewage coming into the plant will also be pretreated with chlorine and pipes that move the sewage from one area of the plant to another will be submerged to reduce odors.

Construction will take about 12 months to complete. Odor mitigation work is also planned or being undertaken at other county-run sewage treatment plants.

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