

**LAFOURCHE PARISH  
LOUISIANA SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
WORK RELEASE PROGRAM**

**A CASE STUDY**

A number of years ago the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Department, State of Louisiana, instituted a new program to assist prisoners nearing release to transition back into society. This vehicle requires that inmates pay for their room and board while they learn work skills in industries, such as, shipbuilding, oil field services, food preparation, kitchen management and municipal water/wastewater treatment operations. Inmates are housed in a facility separate from other correctional institutions and they are responsible for filling meaningful positions in many phases of the program. The program is fully controlled by the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office and the Louisiana Department of Corrections.

When the Work Release Center opened a number of years ago, the facility housed 60 people and prepared 4000 meals a month, which were provided to the local elderly population and others cared for by non-profit organizations. The sewage treatment plant servicing the facility consisted of a 17,000 gallon-per-day package plant that treated the wastewater, disinfected it and then discharged it to the environment. Because of its limited capacity, this plant was immediately under pressure to keep up with the growth in staff, inmates and the number of meals being prepared daily.

In less than three years of opening, the number of people at the Work Release Center had risen to 70 and the meals prepared on site each month had doubled to 8000. During that same year, officials from the State of Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LADHH) visited the Center to evaluate the operation of the sewage treatment plant. The result was a mandate from LADHH to double the capacity of the 17,000 gallon-per-day wastewater plant in order to meet state environmental standards while providing the necessary services to the current staff and inmates at the Center and for the meals being prepared. This upgrade did not take into account any growth that the Center was contemplating in the future. There was also no budget in place that could pay for the wastewater treatment expansion, so the Work Release Center's commanding officer elected to utilize Sewper Rx to help bring the plant into compliance and increase its capacity to accommodate more people. Sewper Rx is a polymicrobial blend of specifically selected facultative bacterial species that were selected for their superior ability to rapidly degrade organic solids and noxious odor. Within a period of just a few weeks, the plant responded favorably to the Sewper Rx bioaugmentation process and the effluent began to meet regulatory discharge limits once again, with absolutely no additional plant construction or capital expenditure required at the facility.

Over the next two years, the plant continued its improved operating performance and the LADHH made another site visit to the Center. In his report, the LADHH engineer stated, "The appearance and sample data of the sewage treatment plant discharge were the best I had ever seen." The Center had also improved its operating procedures regarding the

separation and disposal of cooking oil which contributed to the well being of the sewage plant. At this point, almost six year later, the exact same plant that was cited as significantly under-capacity soon after it was built, is now servicing more people and more meal preparations than ever in its history.... while staying comfortably below its discharge limits. Sewper Rx has proven that it can enable the Center to save the cost of more steel, brick and mortar by creating more capacity, in the same footprint, by reducing the solids output of the plant.

The Center's sewage treatment plant continues to operate well, staying in regulatory compliance with the assistance of Sewper Rx, while accommodating more and more people and more prepared meals. By early 2010, the population at the Center has reached 185 people, triple the original number, and the Center is now preparing 24,000 meals per month for its needy constituents. All of this activity is being accomplished with that same 17,000 GPD plant that has been in use almost a decade now.

Inmates still continue to operate the sewage treatment facility at the Center and two have earned their LA-Class I Wastewater Treatment Operators Certificate and two more have studied for and taken the examination to become certified as LA-Class II Wastewater Treatment Operators. They are presently awaiting the test results.

Sewper Rx is marketed worldwide by Reliant Water Technologies of New Orleans <http://www.reliantwater.us.com>. For further information on this patented, proven and beneficial product, contact Jim Dartez at 504-400-1239 or [jdartez@reliantwater.us.com](mailto:jdartez@reliantwater.us.com).

