

THE CITY OF  
**HOBART**

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**City of Hobart Awarded Energy Incentive for Major Infrastructure Modernization**

**HOBART, IN** – The City of Hobart has been awarded \$149,805.50 in energy incentives by NIPSCO for major energy-saving upgrades to the Hobart Sanitary District’s infrastructure. These upgrades are projected to save 1,238,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity annually, based on post-construction analysis provided by ABB.

Mayor Josh Huddlestun stated, “This recognition highlights the City’s proactive approach in leveraging innovation to create sustainable infrastructure solutions that protect public health and the environment.”

A check presentation was held Tuesday, May 13, at 9:00 a.m. at the Main Lift Station located at 33 Center Street in Hobart. Mayor Josh Huddlestun, Clerk-Treasurer Deb Longer, and Lift Station Foreman Phil Schoon formally accepted the incentive awarded to the Hobart Sanitary District.

The incentive recognizes the completion of a significant infrastructure modernization project initiated by the Hobart Sanitary District to comply with a 2010 Agreed Order issued by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). The order required the elimination of Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) throughout the system. In response, the City executed a full-scale modernization of the Main Lift Station and constructed a redundant 30-inch Force Main stretching 4.5 miles.

Schoon, who oversaw operations at the site before and during the transition, described the old system as unreliable and maintenance-intensive. “We were constantly patching leaks and refilling hydraulic fluid. It cost us time, money, and reliability,” Schoon said. He emphasized the long-term benefits of the modernization, noting, “The new submersible pumps are expected to last 30 plus years. They’re flood-resistant, durable, and way more efficient.”

To ensure fiscal accountability and performance reliability, the City of Hobart utilized a Guaranteed Savings Contract (GSC), enabling early contractor collaboration and value engineering. This approach not only ensured delivery of performance and energy objectives, but also demonstrated responsible stewardship of ratepayer funds. The project was completed ahead of schedule and under budget—final costs totaled \$37.78 million, compared to the original estimate of \$42.24 million.

The modernization introduced a range of critical upgrades, including submersible pumps powered by Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs), with motor sizes of up to 385 horsepower for wet weather and 145 horsepower for dry weather operations. The project also included installation of a new control system, upgraded backup power systems, and expanded capacity for wet weather flows. Schoon also acknowledged the logistical challenges during construction. “We had to keep the system running while replacing one pump at a time. We couldn’t afford downtime.” He added that the station’s performance during heavy rainfall has significantly improved, saying, “With the old setup, we had to babysit the station during every major storm. Now we’ve got a system that can manage the load without someone standing over it.”

Also present at the event were City Engineer Alex Metz; Jennifer Staciwa and Crystal Melton, both Supervisors with NIPSCO’s Demand Side Management Program; Chuck Albrecht, Field Engineer with TRC; and Kurt Kenning, Outreach Manager with TRC. Tina Wolff, Director of Business Development for Kokosing Industrial, and Alan Holding, Project Executive with Kokosing Industrial, were also in attendance. Representatives from BF&S (Butler Fairman and Seufert), including Project Engineer Jake Ballah, Project Manager Brandon Towle, and Project Inspector Ben Erickson, participated alongside Sanitary District staff John Chitwood, Larry Gutierrez, Joshua DeArmound, Kevin Martin, and Sergio Olague. Former Mayor Brian Snedeker was also present.

Former Hobart City Engineer Phil Gralik—now with BF&S—played an instrumental role in getting this project off the ground prior to its execution by Alex Metz.

Jennifer Staciwa, Supervisor with NIPSCO’s Demand Side Management Program, remarked on the collaborative nature of the project. “This was the first time we’ve worked on a lift station project like this—it was truly a unique effort,” she said. “Hobart really stood out on this project. We’re hopeful it’s just the beginning of more work together across the city.”