



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOUTH MISSISSIPPI CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION WASTEWATER PLANT MANAGEMENT BUILDING NEARS COMPLETION

Leakesville....A new Wastewater Treatment Plant Management Building is nearing completion at the South Mississippi Correctional Institution (SMCI). The prison's Inmate Construction Crew comprised of 18 workers began development of the new building on August 14, 2000, and the anticipated completion date of the new facility, which is being developed at an approximate cost of \$27,000, will be May 31. The estimated cost for the building to be constructed by the private sector would have been nearly \$38,000. The new facility, when complete, will house a laboratory to test treated wastewater. The addition of the wastewater plant management building to the complex will end the necessity to contract for this service which will result in a savings of over \$22,000 dollars per year to the Mississippi Department of Corrections.

Superintendent David Turner stated, "This facility's completion is vital to us in order to bring our Wastewater Treatment Plant operation in full compliance with EPA specifications." He added, "We are fortunate that we have the in-house capability to build this and other projects here at SMCI with inmate labor. This work program is important to prison management as it eliminates idleness. The free labor is also significant in that it saves taxpayers' dollars while at the same time inmates are gaining valuable knowledge about the construction trade."

The SMCI Inmate Construction Crew has completed several projects at the prison within the past two years. Major among a list of completed projects is a new office complex and storage building, which was finalized in January 2001. The facility now provides office space for the Superintendent and the prison's Internal Audit Department. It has also added critically needed records storage space, a mandatory requirement for SMCI to gain ACA accreditation. Development of a Wellness Center for staff was completed in January, and the Inmate Construction Crew completed a telecommunications building at SMCI's Area 1 compound in March of this year. A new Training Building is slated as the next major project to be undertaken by the highly skilled construction crew. Three new development projects on the drawing board include an inmate barbershop, a chapel facility for inmates, and an education complex.

SMCI began operation in April 1989. It is a medium security prison and has a capacity to house 2,214 offenders. The prison is located in Greene County near Leakesville, MS.

