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New Technology Will Positively Impact El Paso's Desalination Plant

EL PASO – El Paso Water Utilities will officially team up with Enviro Water Minerals Company (EWM) to utilize cutting-edge technology at the Kay Bailey Hutchison (KBH) Desalination Plant.

The Public Service Board (PSB) approved a contract agreement at their May meeting which means EWM can pursue its first commercial plant in El Paso, next door to the KBH Desalination Plant. Currently, a pressurized process at the KBH Desalination Plant moves brackish water through fine membranes to remove salts and other contaminants. The resulting fresh drinking water is distributed to customers, and the extracted waste concentrate is piped to a disposal facility. The new commercial plant by EWM will convert the waste concentrate from the desalination process into fresh drinking water, and extract all contaminants -- transforming them into mineral products.

"This new technology provides us with a new opportunity to continue diversifying our region's water portfolio," said EPWU President/CEO John Balliew. "EPWU continues to take the lead in applying innovative approaches to managing water in the Chihuahuan Desert to prepare for future water demands – for 2015 and beyond."

The new commercial plant has the potential to increase water production at the KBH Desalination Plant by about 1 million gallons per day at full capacity. The commercial plant also gives EPWU a more cost-effective option for disposal of the waste concentrate, which could also lead to an increase of water production at the KBH Desalination Plant.

"EPWU has long been an innovation leader with their desalination plant and our project fits nicely with their needs and water supply strategy," said EWM CEO Hubble Hausman. "That was a big part of our interest in working with the utility. It's also good for the El Paso community because we will bring jobs as well as a 'new' water source to the community."

About EPWU's Kay Bailey Hutchison Desalination Plant

El Paso Water Utilities operates the world's largest inland desalination plant transforming brackish water into fresh drinking water. The Kay Bailey Hutchison Desalination Plant can produce up to 27.5 million gallons of fresh water daily making it a critical component of the region's water portfolio and serves as a model for other inland cities facing diminishing supplies of fresh water. The facility also includes a learning center, the Carlos M. Ramirez TeH₂O Water Resources Learning Center, to help residents learn about water management in the Chihuahuan Desert. The center features hands-on exhibits, a xeriscaped courtyard filled with water smart native plants and an outdoor park that comprises of natural desert wildlife and flora.

About Enviro Water Minerals

Enviro Water Minerals Company, Inc. is a Texas-based company commercializing cutting-edge technology to recover the minerals discharged in wastewater from brackish water desalination plants. Utilizing proven, commercially available

technologies in unique and innovative configurations, EWM chemically separates the wastewater into high-purity, industrial-grade mineral products that can be sold in commercial markets. All contaminants are extracted from the wastewater stream, leaving only potable water and thereby alleviating the desalination plant's wastewater discharge and its associated environmental hazards. For more information and contact details, visit www.enviowaterminerals.com.

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