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**Mayor Comments on Testimony from EPA Administrator
*Senate Budget Hearing Confirms Expedited Superfund Site Clean Up***

Pascagoula, MS – (Thursday May 17, 2018) – Pascagoula Mayor Dane Maxwell issued this statement following the testimony before the Senate yesterday (Wednesday) by EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt:

“While I am very appreciative of EPA Administrator Pruitt’s comments about my efforts in getting the funding needed to begin the clean-up at the bankrupt Mississippi Phosphate contaminated site, I think the real praise goes to Mr. Pruitt. He is turning the EPA into a “common sense” organization when it comes to prioritizing projects.

“I wasn’t going to let that Superfund site just sit on some list, and not receive the remediation it needs *quickly* – and before another rainy season begins, which could put even more millions of gallons of (contaminated) water into that location. I view it as my job to go to Jackson or Washington and get the necessary funding to fix a problem no one in this city or county created.

“We live in one of the most beautiful coastal regions in this country. I was elected to celebrate that and sell that, and we can’t move forward attracting new businesses and new residents, and visitors, if we are worried about our estuaries and waterways and fisheries because of a Superfund site in the area.

“I think it is important that everyone understand the big picture of our role as stewards of this community and our obligation to move it forward, even when that means we throw a spotlight on deteriorating infrastructure, or blight that has resulted from neglect and a lack of code enforcement or code revisions. That includes when I identify a remediation project that needs to be moved to the TOP of the EPA’s list for funding.

“This is about promises made and promises kept. I want to thank Mr. Pruitt and Senator Hyde-Smith for the candid discussion about our \$107 million to clean up the Mississippi Phosphate site and I’m ready for the work to start as soon as possible,” Mayor Maxwell said.

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