

# Hydaburg Activity Report

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## General Information:

On October 4-6, 2000, Gina Shirey and Jon Menough traveled to Hydaburg to audit the water, sewer, and garbage accounts to determine if the City was meeting the grant requirements of 80%. The snapshot taken on October 5<sup>th</sup> showed a collection rate of 66%. This collection rate included active accounts only. No closed accounts and their outstanding balances were included.

Mayor Wes Morrison took over as mayor after Gina and Jon's visit to the City. They were not able to meet with him during the trip because he was out of town. Both Gina and Jon have talked to Mayor Morrison by telephone several times since then. Most recently Gina talked to Mayor Morrison on December 27, 2000. At that time he indicated that he has taken care of all but 20 accounts, and expects to have the list shortened to 6-10 accounts by January 1<sup>st</sup>. He stated that he has put a halt to customers working off past due bills with the exception of a mechanic (the city can't afford to pay one) and council stipends. All council members except two are current in payments. One of the council members with a large past due balance has resigned. One council member said she would have her account current by the end of December, and the Mayor is filing suit against the other council member.

## Observations and Recommendations:

Finances — The City is still in bad financial shape. The Mayor has recently decided to change the cities policy and not allow people to work off their utility payments. This was done to try and increase revenues. Staff has not been able verify that the delinquent accounts have been reduced.

Accounting Systems — Only the customer accounts for the water, sewer, and garbage were reviewed. Almost all of the account information on the computerized accounting system matched the ledger cards. Gina and Marvel fixed the accounts that didn't match up when Gina was in Hydaburg.

Tax Problems — There are no reports of payroll tax problems.

Personnel System — The administrator and office assistant positions are still vacant. The permanent City Clerk is back from her family leave as of January 8, 2001.

Organizational Management — The City has a bare-boned organizational structure. The mayor oversees all city staff. The only staff he has under him is the City Clerk and the Public Works Department.

Leadership/Governance — The City is experiencing high turnover in leadership positions. A new mayor was elected in October.

Operation of Utility — There appears to be no problem with the operation of the utility other than occasional positive tests for lead.

**Ranking**

1 = Inadequate

4 = Adequate to meet minimum requirements

7 = Exceeds requirements

<b>Category</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>
Finances	<b>X</b>		
Accounting Systems		<b>X</b>	
Tax Problems			<b>X</b>
Personnel System	<b>X</b>		
Organizational Management	<b>X</b>		
Leadership/Governance	<b>X</b>		
Operation of Utility			<b>X</b>