



**International Boundary and Water Commission
United States and Mexico
United States Section**

For immediate release
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**CONTRACT AWARDED TO
COMPLETE REHABILITATION OF
SEWAGE PIPELINE IN NOGALES, ARIZONA**

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico (USIBWC) has awarded a contract to construct the final two phases of the rehabilitation of a sewage pipeline in Santa Cruz County, Arizona known as the International Outfall Interceptor (IOI). The pipeline conveys wastewater from the cities of Nogales and Rio Rico, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora over a length of 9.9 miles from the international boundary to the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant (NIWTP) in Rio Rico.

The USIBWC on September 30, 2022 awarded the contract to construct Phases 4 and 5 to SAK Construction for \$15.3 million. SAK was previously awarded a contract for \$13.8 million to construct Phases 1-3.

SAK recently completed Phase 1, rehabilitating a 1.6-mile segment of the IOI nearest the NIWTP. Construction of Phases 2 and 3 of the pipeline segment closest to the international boundary is scheduled to be completed in Fall 2023.

The new contract for Phases 4 and 5 covers a length of 3.4 miles of the pipeline in its middle segments from the area near West Produce Row north toward the NIWTP. Phases 4 and 5 also include rehabilitation of 36 manholes. The entire project is scheduled to be completed by Fall 2024.

“We’re making very good progress on this pipeline project. The risk of a wastewater spill has already been reduced with the work that’s been completed to date. We’re working expeditiously with our contractor to complete the rest of the project,” said U.S. Commissioner Maria-Elena Giner.

SAK is using Cured-in-Place-Pipe (CIPP) technology where a liner is inserted in the existing pipeline then cured to form a solid pipeline inside the old pipeline. Because this technology doesn't require excavation of the pipeline, it minimizes traffic disruptions.

Rehabilitation of the half-century old pipeline is being undertaken with funding participation from the USIBWC, and supplemental funds from the Mexican Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission, the State of Arizona, and Freeport McMoRan Foundation.

The USIBWC will provide a public briefing on the project during a webinar meeting of its Southeast Arizona Citizens Forum on October 13, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. MST. Meeting details are available at: <https://bit.ly/3e5PgQN>

The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the two countries. The USIBWC operates and maintains the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant.

For more information:

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