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## **CITY WATER LIGHT & POWER PARTNERS WITH GYPSOIL TO DISTRIBUTE AGRICULTURAL GYPSUM**

Chicago, IL, May 22, 2013 –City Water Light & Power (CWLP), Springfield, IL, has signed an exclusive agreement with the GYPSOIL™ Division of Beneficial Reuse Management LLC (BRM) to market gypsum (calcium sulfate dihydrate) to agricultural producers. The material is produced at the Dallman Power Station, CWLP's coal-fired power plant in Springfield, and is marketed as GYPSOIL brand gypsum.

Agricultural producers apply GYPSOIL to cropland to improve soil structure and add valuable soil nutrients, including calcium and sulfur. Gypsum's positive effect on soil structure has been proven in multiple research trials to increase rainwater infiltration, mitigate aluminum toxicity and reduce topsoil and nutrient losses.

Applying GYPSOIL neutralizes the metals and chemical salts that bind to clay particles and cause poor soil structure. "GYPSOIL creates a softer, more manageable soil profile over time," says Ron Chamberlain, chief agronomist and director of gypsum programs for GYPSOIL/BRM. "This means there is less crusting and sealing at the soil surface, and less ponding and runoff after a rain, as well as less soil erosion."

GYPSOIL also creates an environment that is conducive to soil organisms, including microbes as well as earthworms. These soil organisms break down organic matter and

nutrients in the soil faster and better, making nutrients more available to plants, explains Chamberlain. “This helps make crops healthier and more vigorous,” he says.

As federal regulations require power plants burning coal to meet stricter regulations there’s less sulfur deposited on farm fields. Soil sulfur deficiencies for crop production are not uncommon. In fact, 82% of soil samples in one Midwestern state in a recent research study tested low for sulfur.<sup>1</sup>

### **Environmental impact**

Interestingly, gypsum or sulfate dihydrate,  $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , is a co-product of the state-of-the-art, air emission reduction systems used at certain coal-fired utilities, such as the Dallman Power Station, to remove sulfur dioxide ( $\text{SO}_2$ ) from flue gases. Synthetic gypsum is highly pure and virtually the same chemical compound as mined gypsum, which has been used for centuries to improve soil quality.

“Gypsum offers many benefits to agriculture and crop producers have responded very positively,” says Jeff Hillebrenner, CWLP’s Fuel and Byproducts Supervisor. “By making co-product gypsum available to the agricultural industry, we are able to lower the cost of producing energy for our customers,” says Hillebrenner.

Beyond cost-savings, Hillebrenner says there are also environmental benefits. “Anytime you can find a beneficial reuse for a by-product versus landfilling it, you are making a positive, sustainable impact to the environment,” added Hillebrenner.

### **Serving growers**

“Our goal is to partner with progressive organizations like CWLP to help agricultural producers gain access to sustainable resources to meet their production needs,” says GYPSOIL’s Chamberlain.

For more information, visit [www.gypsoil.com](http://www.gypsoil.com).

<sup>1</sup> *The Fertility of North American Soils, 2010, Bulletin Summary, International Plant Nutrition Institute, March 2011.*

### **About GYPSOIL**

GYPSOIL is a division and tradename of Beneficial Reuse Management, LLC. Its mission is to help crop growers improve their soils and increase productivity while conserving natural resources and protecting the environment. GYPSOIL brand gypsum is now available through distributors in 17 States in the Midwest, Plains and South. GYPSOIL manages gypsum distribution and marketing programs for a wide range of supply partners including utilities and manufacturing companies, diverting valuable co-products from landfill disposal to productive use as agricultural inputs. For more information [www.gypsoil.com](http://www.gypsoil.com).

### **About City Water, Light and Power**

City Water Light & Power (CWLP) is a municipal electric and water utility that serves the City of Springfield, Illinois. CWLP's Dallman Power Station consists of four coal-fired units capable of generating up to 580 MW of electricity. All four units are equipped with wet scrubbers that remove the sulfur dioxide from the boiler gas and convert it into a high quality gypsum. CWLP has been providing gypsum to the agricultural industry for over 15 years.

GYPSOIL is a trade name of the GYPSOIL Division of Beneficial Reuse Management LLC, 212 W. Superior Street • Chicago, IL 60654 • 1-866-GYPSOIL (497-7645) • [www.gypsoil.com](http://www.gypsoil.com) •

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Applying Gypsoil™ brand gypsum helps soften tight clay soils by neutralizing the metals and chemical salts that bind to clay particles and cause poor soil structure. Photo supplied by GYPSOIL/BRM, 2013.