

# Pataskala Utilities Department

## Water Reclamation Facility Upgrade 3

The Pataskala Utility Department is currently undergoing a Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) upgrade project. This project was outlined in a social media post made to this page in July of this year: <https://www.facebook.com/cityofpataskala/photos/a.122350291150225/3307836925934863/> The main goals of the upgrade are to allow for increased control of our treatment processes as well as to meet an upcoming EPA mandate to remove phosphorous from our effluent stream. The construction portion of this upgrade has begun.

In order to complete this project, our main components of the WRF must be taken offline. While those components are offline, the only treatment option that we have at the WRF is its lagoon treatment system. This system consists of two large lagoons that work in series with each other. There is a biological treatment process that takes place in the lagoons. While this method is still used throughout Ohio, it is not nearly as efficient as our usual main treatment components are. The lagoons also do not lend themselves to easy instant operational control. Because they are so large, adjustments that are made can take several days to be fully realized.



We were previously using a pump to recirculate and aerate the wastewater in the lagoons. That system did give us an increase in Dissolved Oxygen, which is critical to proper wastewater treatment, but only to a certain point. The negative side affect to that system was that it stirred up the lagoons and sprayed the wastewater through the air, increasing the amount of odor in the area. About a week after we stopped using that system, the lagoons settled out and the odor was under control. This did not resolve our issue of having low Dissolved Oxygen, so council authorized the Utility Department to rent aeration equipment to install in the lagoons. That installation happened on November 3, 2020. This equipment did stir up the lagoons again and that caused another increase in the odors. This equipment is essential, however, for the proper treatment of the wastewater.

The entire Utility Department is aware that the odor issue currently associated with the WRF is not ideal. As I said lagoon treatment is a long-standing way to treat wastewater, but it takes constant monitoring and tweaking to be efficient. We are dedicated to the task of good treatment AND good odor control. We are in constant contact with the Ohio EPA and other experts to navigate the issues that this upgrade project presents. Until then, the department will remain diligent in our pursuit of the highest level of treatment that we can provide. It is my anticipation that it will take at least a week to allow the lagoons to settle into their new “normal” operation. Due to temperatures and air currents, the odor will be the most noticeable in the evening and early morning hours. I ask for your patience and understanding while we navigate these issues. There is a link on the City of Pataskala website that will allow you to both see periodic updates on the project as well as to register any complaints directly with the Utility Director via email. We are working with the lagoons for 8 hours a day, 5 days a week, but we cannot be here all the time. Hearing concerns from the citizens will help us to understand the full picture of what is happening and what adjustments can be made, if any.

**We welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue with all affected. If you have a question or comment please contact: The Utilities Director, 430 South Main St, 740-927-4134.**

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**“Clean Water In, Clean Water Out”**