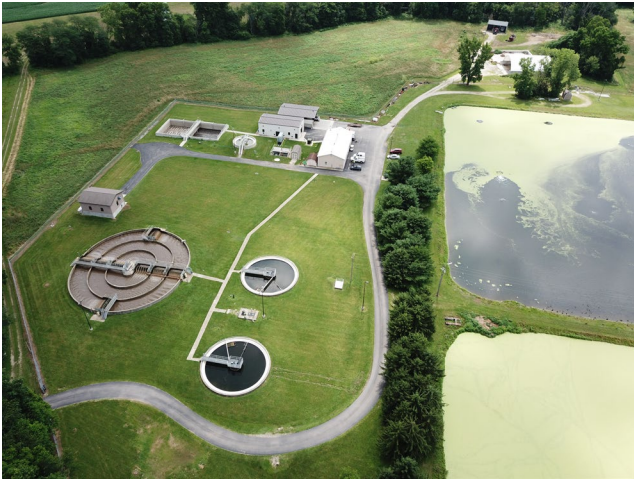


Pataskala Utilities Department

Water Reclamation Facility Upgrade 5

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 last 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 began in October of 2020.



In order to complete this project, our main components of the WRF were taken offline. While those components were offline, the only treatment option that we had at the WRF was its lagoon treatment system. While this method is still used throughout Ohio, it is not nearly as efficient as our usual main treatment components are.

As anticipated, the lagoon system did result in sporadic odor related complaints. All complaints made to the Utility Department have been tracked and responded to individually. The Utility Department understands that the odor was unpleasant at times. We invested an extra \$75,000 for a mobile aeration system to help us deal with the treatment and odor issues.

The good news is that the end is near! As of this morning, May 18th, we have begun the process of returning the wastewater flow to our normal treatment system. Under normal conditions, that process is expected to take about a week to complete. The microbes being re-introduced to our upgraded treatment process will have to adapt and many adjustments to the process will need to be made to obtain the balance that those microbes demand. This means that we may still experience odor issues while those adjustments are being made. Warm weather, precipitation, low cloud cover and wind direction will all affect the degree to which these odors may still be experienced by citizens located close to the treatment plant.

Once completed, we will no longer be using the lagoon treatment system. It is important to remember that the lagoon system is a biological process. This means that when we close the valve to the lagoons the microbes processing the waste will continue doing what they do until the lagoon water is fully treated. This may generate some lingering odors that hopefully will diminish quickly. Once our new system is fine-tuned the odors should be even less noticeable than they were before the upgrade project began.

We cannot overstate our gratitude to the residents for your patience and understanding throughout this process. The Utility Department is very excited to return to the high level of wastewater treatment that our residents and our staff expect. Please continue to let us know if you have any concerns. We are dedicated to addressing them all and providing the best wastewater service possible.

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.

Chris Sharrock
Utility Director
csharrock@ci.pataskala.oh.us



“Clean Water In, Clean Water Out”