



City of Pataskala Utility Department
Chris Sharrock, Utility Director

➤ **Utility Department Updates**

• **Water Reclamation Facility**

- Daily Operations
 - The operators maintain exceptional daily operations of the WRF, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They consistently do an outstanding job of turning the City's wastewater into clean, safe water that is discharged into the South Fork of the Licking River
- UV Intensity Level Sensor Replacement
 - The intensity level sensor on UV bank A has failed. It has been ordered and will be installed on August 6
 - This sensor does not affect our ability to use this bank of UV disinfection lights
- WRF Upgrade
 - The Construction Loan for the WRF Upgrade project has been approved
 - Kirk Brothers have been notified and a pre-construction meeting was held on July 13
 - A **tentative** schedule was created by Kirk Brothers for this project. Key timelines are as follows:
 - Mobilization- 9/8/20
 - Underground Piping- September
 - Splitter Box- September through November
 - Chem Feed- November through January
 - Oxidation Ditch- November through January
 - This is the timeframe that the plant process will be bypassed to the lagoon based system
 - Punch List- February through April

- We have begun the process of creating as much capacity as possible in the lagoons as they will be the primary method of treatment during the upgrade construction
 - We have begun pressing as much sludge as possible so that we have capacity in the digesters to hold our Mixed Liquor solution
 - This solution is where the “bugs” live and will be used to repopulate the treatment plant after the construction is complete
 - Biosolids
 - Solids Slinger
 - The biosolids are moved to the back of the storage building using a slinger. This slinger is not functioning properly.
 - We are currently working with a company to get a quote for repairs
 - Storage
 - In anticipation of the WRF upgrade, we will be pressing all of the liquid in the digesters to create room for the seed sludge that will be kept alive and used to repopulate the plant after the upgrades are complete.
 - This may result in creating more biosolids than we have storage capacity for. Should this occur, we will have to haul the excess product to the landfill for proper disposal.
- **Water Treatment Plants**
 - Daily Operations
 - The operators maintain exceptional daily operations of both Water Treatment Plants, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They consistently do an outstanding job of providing the City’s customers clean, safe water that meets or exceeds the requirements from the OEPA.
 - PFAS sampling
 - The OEPA will be out in July to collect samples of our raw water to look for PFAS contamination levels
 - PFAS chemicals are extremely stable and are commonly used in Teflon, scotch-guard and firefighting foams. They have been found in essentially every region of the planet.
 - This sampling is preliminary and is being done as a part of a state wide information gathering campaign
 - It should be noted that ion exchange has been shown to be upward of 99% effective in removing PFAS chemicals

- Ion exchange is the method that we currently use at both water plants to soften the water
 - Lead and Copper
 - The Department is currently conducting its annual Lead and Copper program
 - This is a requirement from the OEPA
 - The program must be conducted between June and September
 - Strontium levels at WTP2 discharge
 - The wastewater stream generated at WTP2 has been high in Strontium levels. This is not a new problem and often occurs in the summer months.
 - Strontium is a naturally occurring isotope in the ground water. The problem with our concentration is due to the fact that the wastewater stream at WTP2 does not empty into a wastewater collection system, which would normally provide ample water to dilute the strontium levels.
 - We have steadily increased the treated dilution water that we use to lower the concentration of strontium to an acceptable level
 - A black tarp was installed over the Brine Waste Tank in an attempt to minimize the amount of dilution water lost to evaporation as well as to provide some level of algae growth control in the tank
 - Internet at the three treatment plants
 - The internet went down at all three of our plants, prohibiting the SCADA systems from communicating with one another
 - Level Transducer
 - The level transducer for Clearwell 1 at WTP2 failed and was replaced
- **Distribution and Collection System**
 - Daily Operations
 - The systems team maintains exceptional daily operations of the entire distribution and collections system, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They consistently do an outstanding job of providing customer service to the residents, maintaining the city's infrastructure and responding to emergencies of various types.
 - COVID-19 procedures
 - The systems team will return to a full schedule on May 18
 - In the event that a service order is requested that would require one of our technicians to enter a residence, we will

make every attempt possible to walk the resident through our procedures over the phone. If this will not suffice, our technicians will respond in person. They will wear a mask and gloves the entire time that they are in the residence.

- We will reserve the right to reschedule the service order should the customer display symptoms of COVID-19
- We have 2 no contact thermometers. We will take the temperature of any customers requesting that we enter a residence. If their temperature is above 99.9 degrees, we will reschedule the service order.
- These measures will continue to be in effect until further notice.
- Leaks
 - 7845 Beecher Road- 7-11-20
 - The bolts on a watch valve to a hydrant failed, allowing the top of the valve to blow off
 - A new gasket and new stainless steel bolts were installed
 - This resulted in a shut down of the water main in order to complete the repairs. The main was able to be directionally flushed and we observed normal chlorine levels before returning to service, in accordance with EPA guidelines.
 - This dig job turned out to be a bit too large for Ventura Brothers to handle with their equipment, so we called in Stutske Construction to do the repairs.
 - This was the first time we have worked with Stutske, but they responded quickly in the middle of the night and did an outstanding job for us.
 - 659 Carryback- 7-14-20
 - A saddle failed at this location, probably due to the pressure changes resulting from the shut down of the water main on Beecher for the repair mentioned above
 - A stainless steel repair band and a plastic service line from the corp stop to the curb stop was installed
 - 1418 Kelci Jayne- 7-17-20

- A pin hole in the copper service line for this address was discovered
 - The service line will be replaced with plastic from the corp stop to the curb stop
 - Water Tower Maintenance Program
 - BWT1 tower
 - Following the painting of the tower, we received two back to back clear samples for Coliform bacteria, and returned the tower to service on July 9
 - Jefferson Street Waterline Project
 - The Design phase of the Jefferson Street Waterline Project is underway by Hull and Associates Inc.
 - This design is being completed in anticipation of submitting the project to OPWC for funding assistance during the construction phase
- **Billing Team**
 - Daily Operations
 - The billing team does an exceptional job of processing the payments for water and sewer service, scheduling the service work that needs done as well as providing excellent customer service 8 hours a day, 5 days a week.
 - Turn offs
 - The Utility Department decided on March 15 that due to the restrictions from the Governor's office affecting certain peoples abilities to earn income, we would not be conducting turn offs or applying any late fees or penalties to any of our accounts until further notice
 - Turn offs have been allowed beginning July 10. The Utility Department will allow for one additional billing cycle before applying penalties and conducting turn offs for nonpayment. This gives our customers until Aug 15 to either pay the balance in full or to enter into a payment plan with the department.
 - We will not grant a payment plan to a tenant of a property without permission from the landlord. The only exception to this will be if the landlord does not respond to our request for permission regarding a payment plan. If no response is received in a reasonable amount of time, we will proceed with granting a payment plan for a tenant.
 - COVID-19 Financial Impact

- To date, the Billing Team has not seen any significant drop in revenue due to the COVID-19 situation
- We are experiencing about the same number of customers not paying their bills as usual, however without the ability to conduct turn offs for non-payment, those balances are growing much larger than normal
 - We sent letters out to every landlord in our system reminding them that the bills will come due in the future and that they will be the ultimate responsibility of the property owner should the tenants not pay.
 - We also called the three largest landlords in our system as a courtesy to remind them of the same thing that the letter stated

- **Training**

- Class 2 Water Treatment License
 - MaryAnn is currently taking the American Water College Class 2 Water Treatment correspondence course

- **Director**

- Construction Projects
 - Scenic View Estates
 - The Utility Committee created a list of concerns that they would like to see addressed in order for the pressurized sewer system to be acceptable
 - Scott Fulton and I have drafted the necessary language to ensure that these concerns are addressed. This language was reviewed by Brian Zets and was presented to the Utility Committee on Oct 21
 - The language was accepted by the Utility Committee and presented to the developer. The developer has no issue with any of the language and will include it in its entirety on all plans
 - The developer submitted language to Planning and Zoning that was unclear and inconsistent with the language previously agreed to regarding the sanitary sewer system
 - I presented those issues to Scott Fulton so that they could be corrected
 - Heron Manor

- Reviewed plans for the Heron Manor development
 - A requirement was made to install a full size generator for the Settlement Lift Station after the completion of phase 3. Due to some phasing changes, we will require the generator to be installed after the completion of the first 63 lots
 - The PTI for the sanitary system in the Heron Manor development Sections 1 and 2 was approved by the OEPA on April 27, 2020
 - The PTI for the water distribution system was approved by the OEPA on Jun 11
 - Attended a pre-construction meeting on Jun 9
- Heritage Town Center Phase 2
 - Reviewed Plans and submitted comments
 - Attended a pre-construction meeting on May 14
- I & I water
 - The EPA has included a requirement to develop and implement a plan to address the I&I water getting into the collections system. This plan is required to be submitted to the OEPA by Feb 1, 2021
 - GPD Group was selected for this project and was approved by Resolution 2019-078
 - GPD group has been given our library of CCTV videos for the collection system and has begun using this data to help determine the source and corrective actions for the I&I corrective action plan
 - This information will be tied to a GIS map outlining the areas of expected I&I
 - GPD group came out and installed two rain gauges and eight flow meters at strategic locations throughout our system on April 30. These devices will collect data for approximately two months
 - These devices were retrieved by GPD group and the data is currently being analyzed
 - A voluntary Sump Pump Survey was sent out to all of our customers asking if they have a sump pump and gutters that tie in to the sanitary system
 - This was a small part of the I&I study requirements placed on the department by the OEPA as a part of our NPDES permit
 - Part I, C; section 1, A, i. – *A complete evaluation of inflow contributions from individual residences including sump pumps*

- The participation rate for this survey was extremely high
 - We received 602 responses
 - 271 of these responses were in the areas under investigation in our I&I study
- New Vehicles
 - The two new trucks ordered by the department for this year are on a delay due to the COVID-19 situation
 - One of the two trucks is expected in the next three months, the other by the end of the year.
- Safety Program
 - The department requires two safety meetings each month
 - One is done at the team level by the Superintendents covering general safety issues
 - The second is done with the entire staff and includes practice exercises of the Water Contingency Plan
 - Each month, a different member of the department will lead this training
- Sterling Theater AC
 - The AC project for the Sterling Theater is in the pre-construction stage
 - Currently, Columbus Heating and Ventilating are ordering materials and organizing for the project, which is expected to commence very soon.
- 2021 Budget
 - We are currently working on the CIP budget for 2021

Respectfully submitted,

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