



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
- 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- A few of the valves needed to begin the project are on backorder. The new mobilization date is September 28, 2020
 - Underground Piping- September
 - Splitter Box- September through November
 - Chem Feed- November through January
 - Oxidation Ditch- October 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
 - COVID-19 wastewater sampling
 - The OEPA is again ramping up their COVID-19 wastewater sampling program
 - We have identified Pataskala as a willing participant in this program

- **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 was out on August 20 to collect samples of our raw water to look for PFAS contamination levels. Results are expected in 4-6 weeks.
 - 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 has concluded its annual Lead and Copper program
 - We again saw no detectable lead and acceptable levels of copper
 - I will again request that we are moved to a tri-annual sampling schedule
 - Strontium levels at WTP2 discharge
 - The wastewater stream generated at WTP2 has been high in Strontium levels. This is not a new problem and sometimes 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 for our monthly limit
 - 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
 - We have been in communication with the OEPA about the sporadic difficulty we experience in meeting this discharge limit. They do not have an answer at this time on why the strontium concentration is so inconsistent
 - In the meantime, we have done some operational changes to increase the amount of dilution water added to the effluent in an effort to keep the strontium concentration as low as possible.
 - These operational changes seemed to have worked. Our Strontium levels for August were within our permit parameters
 - Water Plant 1, Well 8
 - Well 8 at WTP1 is not producing the same amount of flow that it usually does
 - I plan to have Mount Drilling come out and analyze the problem when they come out to do the well cleaning project at WTP2
 - Money for this diagnosis/ repair will come from the pump replacement line already in the 2020 budget
 - Salt Provider
 - MaryAnn Figgins is currently researching different salt providers
 - She found that Mid-American Salt offered a price that is 33% cheaper than the company we currently use and 30% cheaper than the company awarded the State bid
 - We have switched to Mid-American Salt. We have the ability to switch back should the quality or service turn out to be unacceptable
- **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.
- 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
 - All existing Utilities have been located and the actual design of the new water line has begun
- Valve Exercising Program
 - The Systems Team has resumed our Valve Exercising Program
 - This program forces us to fully open and then fully close all of our water valves in the system
 - This program will cause some valves to fail during operation. These valves will need to be replaced on an emergency basis. Finding and removing valves that are ready to fail is the intent of this program.

- Lightning strike at Beechwood Trails Tower
 - On August 28 the SCADA system at Beechwood Trails was disrupted during the thunderstorms that came through the area. The PLC shorted out as a result
 - Dublin Tech was able to send us the programming and Josh Holton from Southwest Licking came over with his laptop and programming software and actual install the programming
 - This is another example of the good relationship that we have developed with Southwest Licking Community Water and Sewer District
- **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.
 - We turned off 31 customers in total. 28 of them either paid or established a payment plan and were turned back on by the next day
 - Meter Reading
 - Meter Reading was conducted on September 2

- **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
 - Attended a pre-construction meeting on Jun 9
 - The week of September 7 will be the tie in to the water main on Broad Street
 - This will require a section of Broad Street to be turned off while the tie in is made
 - The tie in will start at 10pm to minimize the disruption to our customers, most notably the residents of Conine Village

- No boil alert will be necessary as we can directionally flush the lines and verify that the Chlorine levels are normal
 - Heritage Town Center Phase 2
 - Reviewed Plans and submitted comments
 - Attended a pre-construction meeting on May 14
 - Bryn Mar Crossing
 - I have reviewed the construction plans and submitted my comments to the planning and zoning department
- 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
 - Preliminary results show good data. We had a long stretch of dry weather, accented by three large storm events. This gives us a good base (dry weather) and a good representation of the I&I water (storm events)
 - 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 640 responses
 - 283 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 September, 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 construction stage
 - Columbus Heating and Ventilating has planned a layout, is working on material procurement and finishing the necessary back end paperwork
 - The air exchange unit has been installed and duct work inside the theater has been installed
 - The whole project is expected to be complete by September 11
- 2021 Budget
 - I am currently working with the Finance Department and the Administrator on the budget for 2021

Respectfully submitted,

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