



Council Report
City of Pataskala Utility Department
Chris Sharrock, Utility Director

➤ **Utility Department Updates**

• **New Items**

▪ **WRF Upgrade**

- Now that construction is complete, we are continuing to make operational adjustments to regain the biological balance in the plant.
 - Ammonia removal has begun through the nitrification process. We will not meet our monthly permit averages for July, but as of writing this report, we have met the ammonia discharge limit for two days in a row.
 - We experienced a foam build up in the oxidation ditch that was affecting our dissolved oxygen (DO) levels as well as our ammonia removal. The foam buildup is due to Parvicella, a microorganism as identified by the OEPA Compliance Assistance Department. With their assistance the Parvicella population appears to be diminishing and the foam issue is getting better as a result.
 - As the Parvicella and Ammonia get under control, our dissolved oxygen (DO) levels are easier to maintain. However, the DO level is still lower than the project goal. We currently maintain a DO level near 2.0 mg/L while the goal would be closer to 3.0 mg/L. It is possible that a larger impellor or even a larger pump will be required should the continuing improvements in the biological balance not get us where we need to be. We are continuing to monitor this situation and are in discussions with the design team to identify possible solutions. I will update council once more information is available.
- The yard restoration will be delayed until September so that the seed will have a better chance at taking hold

▪ **Leaks**

- A leak was discovered in the copper service line at 1548 Mary Lou Drive

- The copper service line was replaced from corp stop to curb stop with plastic service line on July 8
 - 2" Water Lines- Denison, Poplar, Willow
 - We will be putting out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the design of improvements to the water lines in the Denison, Poplar, Willow Street area
 - These water lines are 2" and 4" in diameter and are not looped in for ideal hydraulics
 - The RFP deadline will be August 20. Once the proposals are received, the administration will evaluate and make a selection to present to the Utility Committee and eventually council
 - Strontium
 - We have a camera crew scheduled for July 16 to inspect the softener waste line at WTP2 in an attempt to see if there are any mineral deposits built up in that line, causing the sporadic strontium numbers in that wastewater stream
- **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
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- COVID-19 Wastewater Testing
 - Pataskala Utility Department was selected to participate in the COVID-19 wastewater testing program
 - This program looks for the virus RNA in the waste stream, giving a more accurate and nearly real-time representation of the infection rate of the community that we serve
 - The results of the COVID-19 wastewater testing is currently being posted to the Ohio Corona Virus dashboard found here:
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards/wastewater>
 - The Utility Department will continue to participate in this program as long as it continues to be fully funded by the State
- **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.
 - WTP1 Iron Filter 2
 - There is a small leak somewhere along the bottom of one of the iron filter tanks at WTP1. Repair will require removal and replacement of the filter media, structural repairs, and recoating of the filter tank surface.
 - The initial quote to fix this tank is just under \$50,000
 - We will be getting additional quotes to verify that number
 - We will attempt to make it through until next years budget cycle before making this repair. That schedule could be expedited by a catastrophic failure.

- Strontium
 - The strontium levels in our waste stream at WTP2 continues to sporadically fluctuate, making permit compliance difficult
 - We have increased our sampling process to try to identify when, where, and why the strontium spikes at random intervals
 - In the meantime, we are using a holding tank/ dilution water system to reduce the concentration levels to within our permit restrictions
 - We have a camera crew scheduled for July 16 to inspect the softener waste line at WTP2 in an attempt to see if there are any mineral deposits built up in that line, causing the sporadic strontium numbers
- Lead and Copper sampling
 - We are beginning the process of collecting the required lead and copper samples in accordance with the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule

• **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.
- Jefferson Street Waterline Project
 - The OPWC application was submitted on November 5 for review
 - The Jefferson Street Waterline Project has been selected by the State for funding assistance
 - The City will receive \$259,882 in grant money for the Jefferson Street Water Line Project
 - This project will include a complete resurfacing of Jefferson Street and Depot Street from Main St to Township Road
 - I have decided to push the start of this project off until the spring of 2021 for pricing, scheduling and the street fair
- Valve Exercising Program
 - The Systems Team has resumed our Valve Exercising Program
 - This program forces us to fully open and then fully close all 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.

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- **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.
- **Director**
 - Construction Projects
 - Heron Manor
 - Reviewed plans for phase 3 and submitted comments
 - Submitted comments on 12-29-20
 - Generator installation has been coordinated and will be completed by the completion of phase 3
 - Bryn Mar Crossing
 - I have reviewed the construction plans and submitted my comments to the planning and zoning department
 - Following their resubmittal, I submitted additional comments to the planning and zoning department
 - Scenic View Estates
 - Engineering plans in for review
 - Forest Ridge
 - Preliminary plans in for review
 - 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
 - Each month, a different member of the department will lead this training

- SR 310 Interconnect
 - Southwest Licking and the City of Pataskala have agreed to utilize the design engineering services of Hull Inc. for the SR 310 Interconnect
 - A letter informing the affected customers of the upcoming service provider swap will go out in June, July, August and September
 - The letter in August and September will focus on reminding customers with automatic bill payment to get that payment transferred over to Southwest Licking after the swap happens
 - Design Engineering is complete and the PTI is in for approval
- Budget
 - We are gathering quotes and verifying budget numbers for the upcoming budget process
- Creek Road Lift Station improvement discussions
 - We have begun looking into improvements to the Creek Road Lift Station to accommodate future growth as well as wet weather flows
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Respectfully submitted,



Chris Sharrock
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