



**Council Report**  
**City of Pataskala Utility Department**  
**Trent Howell, Utility Director**

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➤ **New Items**

• **New Operational Updates**

- Beechwood Water Tower #1 Maintenance Program Work
  - Maintenance on the water tower which included painting the wet interior and a touch up of the dry interior was completed on July 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Utility Systems Team will be taking 2 bacteria samples from the tower and anticipate putting the tower back in service on July 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Shut offs
  - Shut offs will take place on July 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Leaks
  - Service line leak at 2005 Sugar Mill Dr. scheduled to be fixed on July 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Ert replacement
  - 250 letters were sent to those customers that were identified as having a failed ert transmitter. This letter outlined our plan for replacement. It also asked them to contact the Utility Department for individual explanation/review of their account.
  - As of July 12<sup>th</sup>, the Utility Department has received around 120 phone calls and emails in response to the letter with meter readings and questions.
  - We have received a batch of transmitters and have replaced around 50 of the 250 that failed.
- Utility Treatment Plants Superintendent Maryann Figgins
  - Huge Shout out to Maryann for Passing the Class 3 Water Supply Test. This is a huge accomplishment, and she is now a class 3 certified operator in both Water and Wastewater.

## Ongoing Items

### • 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
  - Waiting on the blowers to be delivered
  - Design for the blowers is currently taking place.
- 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 are 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 with clean, safe water that meets or exceeds the requirements from the OEPA.
- Water Plant 1 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 repair crew came out on Jan 11 to analyze the leak and see if repairs can be made. That analysis was not yet completed at the time of this report. Updates will be provided to the council at a later date.
- 2023 EPA Testing for Lead and Copper
  - The annual testing for Lead and Copper has begun. The treatment team has a pre-selected list of addresses based on age of the home as well as other factors, that make them eligible to be sampled for Lead and Copper. 20 homes in total will be sampled. As of the end of June, 5 samples have been collected and the team hopes to have all samples collected by the end of July.

- **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.
- Sewer Slip lining
  - Phase 1-B is complete. Phase I is still underway. The contractors have been very responsive to customer questions and concerns.
  - This phase of the project is expected to last about a month, weather permitting.
  - The contractor is notifying each resident whose sewer line connects to the portion of the main being lined at least 24 hours in advance to the work taking place.
    - While the lining is occurring, we are encouraging residents to limit their usage as the liner will temporarily block their sewer line connection. Once the liner is installed, an opening is cut to return service to each connection. This work all takes place on the same day, limiting the inconvenience to our customers. This is explained in the notice provided by the contractor.
  - As a reminder, this work is being partially paid for by two grants. One through HB 168 and one through OPWC.

- The grants total \$500,000 and the local share is \$250,000 coming from our Sewer Capital Improvements Fund.
    - Phase 1 Contractor Visu Sewer is around 80% complete with Phase 1 of the sewer slip lining project.
    - They are waiting for a dryer weather period to finish up the remaining 20%.
  - Beechwood Water Tower #1 Maintenance Program Work
    - Maintenance on the water tower which included painting the wet interior and a touch up of the dry interior was completed on July 10<sup>th</sup>.
    - The Utility Systems Team will be taking 2 bacteria samples from the tower and anticipate putting the tower back in service on July 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - SCADA Prop Study
    - The study on the effectiveness of our SCADA radio system is complete. J&K Communications is currently reviewing the data to make a proposal for us to upgrade that outdated system.
  - Leaks
    - Service line leak at 2005 Sugar Mill Dr. scheduled to be fixed on July 13<sup>th</sup>.
- **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.
  - Ert replacement
    - 250 letters were sent to those customers that were identified as having a failed ert transmitter. This letter outlined our plan for replacement. It also asked them to contact the Utility Department for individual explanation/review of their account.
    - As of July 12<sup>th</sup>, the Utility Department has received around 120 phone calls and emails in response to the letter with meter readings and questions.
    - We have received a batch of transmitters and have replaced around 50 of the 250 that failed.
  - Shut offs
    - Shut offs will take place on July 19<sup>th</sup>.

- **Director**

- WRF Expansion
  - Until the WRF permit is expanded, we will not be able to provide sewer service for any additional significant development projects within the Pataskala Utility Department sewer service area.
    - This excludes developments who are already in the process.
  - The permit expansion request was submitted to the EPA on May19th.
    - We expect there to be a 6-month review period by the EPA.
- 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.
- Utility Treatment Plants Superintendent Maryann Figgins
  - Huge Shout out to Maryann for Passing the Class 3 Water Supply Test. This is a huge accomplishment, and she is now a class 3 certified operator in both Water and Wastewater.

Respectfully submitted,

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