



Council Report
City of Pataskala Utility Department
Joe Peterson, Utility Director

➤ **New Items**

• **New Operational Updates**

- Leaks
 - Water leak repaired at 4505 Watkins Rd on September 3rd
- Water Billing
 - Currently conducting a review of the Billing department policies and procedures as we prepare to go online with Invoice Cloud.
 - “Invoice Cloud” weekly updates continue. Project on schedule.
- Scada Radio and Antenna
 - Beginning to work with contractor on Scada Radio and Antenna replacement and implementation.
- Creek Road Lift Station
 - On schedule to start in October.
 - Materials should be arriving on site in the next week or so.
- WRF Upgrade & (Noise Reduction Efforts)
 - Blowers are up and running. Early results are positive.
 - Acoustic Blankets have been added but fell short of desired results.
 - Administration met with staff and EPA to discuss a test plan whereas the staff will be lowering the blower settings for an extended period in the evening to give some relief to residents. We will monitor the effect of this test throughout and adjust as needed to stay compliant.
 - The department continues to work on a more permanent solution to decrease the noise levels.
- WTP1

- RFQ for Iron Filter Replacement design will be sent out on September 8th. Firm selection expected by late November 2024 and permission to proceed by early 2025.
- Tentative plan to have WTP 1 seal coated on September 14th.

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
- COVID-19 Wastewater Testing
 - Pataskala Utility Department is participating in the COVID-19 wastewater testing program.
 - This program was originally created to find evidence of the COVID-19 virus in our wastewater stream.
 - It has now been expanded to also include evidence of the Influenza virus.
 - 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>
- WRF Upgrade & (Noise Reduction Efforts)
 - Administration met with staff and EPA to discuss a test plan whereas the staff will be lowering the blower settings for an extended period in the evening to give some relief to residents. We will monitor the effect of this test throughout and adjust as needed to stay compliant.

- The department continues to work on a more permanent solution to decrease the noise levels.

- **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 of the OEPA.

- WTP 1 Iron Filter 2

- RFQ for Iron Filter Replacement design will be sent out on September 8th. Firm selection expected by late November 2024 and permission to proceed by early 2025.
- Tentative plan to have WTP 1 seal coated on September 14th.

- **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.

- Leaks

- Water leak repaired at 4505 Watkins Rd on September 3rd

- **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.

- Currently conducting a review of the Billing department policies and procedures as we prepare to go online with Invoice Cloud.

- **Director**

- WRF Expansion Design

- The concept for the WRF Expansion Design is to break it up into two phases: planning design and final design.
 - To fund the planning design phase of \$500,000, the Utility Department intends to spend \$50,000 out of the Capital Improvements Fund, and \$450,000 from a 0% interest DEFA Planning Loan.
- Once the planning design phase is complete, we will roll the planning loan into a 0% interest DEFA Design Loan for the final design services.
 - The amount of that loan will be determined in the planning design phase.
- Once the final design services are complete, we will roll the design loan into a low interest DEFA Construction Loan.
 - This concept will defer payments until after the construction is completed in late 2028 or early 2029.
 - This concept will also save us approximately \$8,000,000 in interest savings over the bonding concept that the budget was built on.

- Creek Road Force Main Upgrade Project update

- Materials should be arriving on site in the next week or so.
- On schedule to start in October.

- Scada Radio and Antenna

- Beginning to work with contractor on Scada Radio and Antenna replacement and implementation.

- 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Peterson
Utility Director
jpeterson@ci.pataskala.oh.us
O: (740) 927-4134