



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

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➤ **New Items**

• **New Operational Updates**

- Leaks
  - Water leak repair 2009 Sugarmill Dr
  - Water leak repair on standpipe at BWT #1 – Tower is offline, but we will begin to refill early next week and after samples are cleared, we will put back online.
- Water Billing
  - Invoice Cloud “go Live” was 11/12.
- Creek Road Lift Station
  - The contractor is on site and working on the main project.
- East Side Lift Station
  - A pump replacement is planned for the East Side lift station for early December.
- WRF Upgrade & (Noise Reduction Efforts)
  - Blowers are up and running. The results are positive.
  - The blower modification project is completed.
  - Site visits were taken to the Chicago area to see possible alternatives that are being considered for Pataskala Sewage plant upgrade.
- WTP1
  - RFQ for Iron Filter Replacement design has been received. Submission review is underway. Firm selection is expected by mid December 2024 and permission to proceed by January 2025.

## 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)
  - The 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.
  - Blowers are up and running. The results are positive.
  - The blower modification project is completed.
  - Site visits were taken to the Chicago area to see possible alternatives that are being considered for Pataskala Sewage plant upgrade.

### • 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 has been received. Submission review is underway. Firm selection is expected by late November 2024 and permission to proceed by January 2025.

- **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 repair 2009 Sugarmill Dr
- Water leak repair on standpipe at BWT #1 – Tower is offline, but we will begin to refill early next week and after samples are cleared, we will put back online.

- **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.
- Invoice Cloud “go Live” was 11/12.

- **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.
  - On 10/28 a utility committee meeting was held in council chambers to inform the public of the status of the WRF upgrade project.
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- Creek Road Force Main Upgrade Project update
    - The contractor is on site and working on the main project.
  - East Side Lift Station
    - A pump replacement is planned for the East Side lift station for early December.
  - Safety Program
    - The department requires two safety meetings each month.
      - One is done at 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 run this training.

Respectfully submitted,

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