



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

➤ **New Items**

• **New Operational Updates**

- Leaks
 - Water leak repair 7024 Hazelton Etna RD
 - Water leak repair 7194 Beecher Rd
- Water Billing
 - Invoice Cloud “go Live” was 11/12.
- Creek Road Force Main Upgrade Project
 - Project is on schedule. A progress meeting is set up for January 15th
- WRF Upgrade & (Noise Reduction Efforts)
 - Blowers are up and running. The results are positive.
 - The blower modification project is completed.
 - A public meeting was held on December 16th to update the residents on the blower noise reduction efforts and the cities plans for the treatment plant expansion project.
- WTP1
 - We are close to finalizing negotiations for the Iron Filter replacement design contract.

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.
 - A public meeting was held on December 16th to update the residents on the blower noise reduction efforts and the cities plans for the treatment plant expansion project.
 - 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 Project
 - We are close to finalizing negotiations for the Iron Filter replacement design contract.

- **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 7024 Hazelton Etna RD
 - Water leak repair 7194 Beecher Rd

- **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
 - Project is on schedule. A progress meeting is set up for January 15th.
 - Safety Program
 - The department will begin monthly safety meeting starting in January 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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