

DAF Monthly Message

WATER TREATMENT PLANT, NEW PRE-TREATMENT SYSTEM

April 2017

Editor: Amy Cloud (accloud@cob.org)

Project Engineer: Freeman Anthony (360/778-7924, fanthony@cob.org)

We had spring breaks this month, did that slow up work on the water treatment plant?

Nope. In fact, we got the temporary gate for the project was installed along with fencing to completely secure the work site. So there are extra protections in place now, including additional lighting and cameras for 24-hour surveillance. We know this may surprise some folks who're riding their bikes or jogging into the site – but it is a safety and liability issue.

What else?

We have been shoring up the new building's footprint in order to complete excavation for the new building. That means there has been more trucking activity, with rocks coming in and excavation material headed out. It's been interesting to see that most of the excavated matter has been glacial flow material - cemented soils and rocks with clay.

The excavated area is prepared with a special separation fabric - immediately after excavation - then covered with ballast material (i.e. heavy stuff, to ensure stability) for the permanent drainage layer under the slab.

And electrical work is underway. We're installing conduits before we take delivery of the new transformer and automatic transfer switch. The electrical conduits - and piping under the new building – have to be in place before we can put in the reinforcing steel or pour the concrete. (So you know, electrical inspections happen throughout this ongoing process, to ensure it's all compliant.)

And then what?

Next we'll be waterproofing and putting in the steel reinforcement on the bottom "slab" (foundation) for the new building. And before back-filling, drains will be connected to ensure temporary and permanent drainage. Pretty soon the automatic transfer switch and the new transformer will arrive, which means we can prepare to transfer power from the current transformer and transfer switch to the new, future permanent ones.

Also good to know:

Our contractor's crews are working a four-day week, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday (not including holidays) – with occasional Fridays on the job, in order to accommodate some sub-contractors. As always, weather conditions could influence activity at the construction site. Workers park at the east end of Arbor court and in the first ten spaces along Silver Beach Road, entering Whatcom Falls Park.

By the way, if you've missed any of these monthly updates, they're archived on the [City's website](#). From the home page, "search" Capital Projects and then DAF. You'll find the Monthly Messages going back to December 2016.

And... why are we doing this?

This is to make sure the City's drinking water - drawn from Lake Whatcom - is as clean and safe as it can be. We're building a Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) pre-treatment plant to remove as many as particulates as possible from the water, in order to maximize the City's Water Treatment Plant efficiency. For more project information, [click here](#).