

## DAF Monthly Message

### WATER TREATMENT PLANT, NEW PRE-TREATMENT SYSTEM

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#### ***What's happening at the site now?***



Good stuff! The 48-inch pipes (*pictured at left*) going into and out of the Dissolved Air Flootation (DAF) facility are now installed, fully welded, and have passed all inspections. The lines have been coated for corrosion protection and the pipes have been backfilled.

We are filling basins to test the slide gates, which control water entering and leaving the DAF basins. The DAF building's roof is in progress and the roof for the hypochlorite building is also underway. We're placing the drains for that roof now. Meantime, the tanks for making and storing the hypochlorite are now in place.

The floor of the hypochlorite generation room has been leveled and we're putting in forms for housekeeping pads for equipment. We've got metal studs in DAF building's electrical and mechanical rooms. And all the walls in the conference and operators room are now installed. We're beginning to do the insulation and sheetrock.

#### ***And what else?***

How about a Word of the Day? "Flocculation." Vertical flocculators – the paddles that will push along the floating material – and their motors are in place. Also in place: motors for gate-openers in basins, cable trays to hold wiring for the power and controls for all motors in DAF gallery, electrical room panels, and lighting and control panels for the DAF pipe gallery.

We've begun brick-laying on the south side of the DAF building, as the insulation and flashing are in place. Roof and perimeter drains are connected through the building and out through the exterior walls. Eventually that roof water will drain into ponds (that are yet to be excavated.)

#### ***What's next?***

Next month, after we've leak-tested the 48-inch piping, we'll begin backfilling them. We'll continue the brick work and roofing. We'll also install windows and get started on the metal siding. We'll be closer to completing work in the Water Treatment Plant, including the new plant operator room and the hypochlorite generation room instrumentation. And then... we'll begin painting and labelling systems and piping.

#### ***Also good to know:***

Now that it's Spring, daylight lasts longer – and we realize trail users are eager to get back out there. Soon, just not yet. Flaggers may still be on-site at Whatcom Falls Park as needed. The current work hours are 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and until 3:30 p.m. on Fridays, with occasional Saturday work.

If you've missed any of these monthly updates, they are archived on the [City's website](#). From the home page, "search" Capital Projects, then DAF. You'll find the updates going all the way back to November 2016, when construction first began.

***And why are we doing this?***

This is to make sure the City's drinking water, which is drawn from Lake Whatcom, is as clean and safe as it can be. We're building the Dissolved Air Flotation pre-treatment plant to remove as many particulates as possible from the water, in order to maximize the City's Water Treatment Plant efficiency. And because the goal for this new facility is to ensure that it will *maximize the efficiency* of our current water treatment plant in the *safest way* possible, we are leaving behind chlorine gas and moving to hypochlorite which we create on-site because it is safer.

***How much longer?***

You have been so patient – just a few months more! We've been at work on the new water pretreatment facility for 18 months, and now we're heading into the final lap of construction. We expect to have completed the new facility by the end of this coming summer – or sooner. I'll keep you updated on the timeline.

For more project information, [click here](#).