

## **DAF Monthly Message**

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

for December 2017

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

It's exciting to report that the new Water Pretreatment (dissolved air flotation) building concrete walls and floors have been completed. Demolition inside the existing Plant is underway now, in preparation for improvements and changes to the control of the new DAF equipment and manufacture of the hypochlorite.

And construction of the hypochlorite building is coming along nicely. (That's where large tanks of brine and equipment to make and store the hypochlorite solution will be.) The base slab, which will support four 7,500-gallon tanks, was poured and the walls have been poured up to the same floor level as the current WTP.

We are now using sodium hypochlorite exclusively as our disinfection at the Water Treatment Plant. It's a great change because it is safer in handling and storage than the chlorine gas we previously used. Now the gas is completely disconnected and no longer on-site at the WTP.

The new technical monitoring equipment is being installed now.

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

Connection to the 48-inch industrial pipeline went well (that's the pipe used by Georgia-Pacific back when the tissue mill was running.) It will be a back-up to the existing 66-inch line to the Water Treatment Plant. This connection gives access to a temporary tie-in to the 48-inch line while work is done on the 66-inch line.

#### ***What comes next?***

Next month the roofing components for the DAF will be delivered and installed. Any water leaks in the DAF walls will be permanently sealed. The 66-inch tie-in work and some pipe work will begin and backfill of the sides of the building should get started. We'll continue pouring the hypochlorite building walls until they reach final elevation (full height.) We'll be done with the inside demolition work soon, and will transition to new installation.

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

As always, weather conditions could influence activity at the construction site. Flaggers are posted at the corner of Arbor Court and Silver Beach Road, and near the intersection of Silver Beach Road and Lakeway Drive, entering Whatcom Falls Park as needed. The crew's work schedule is 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday through the winter.

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

#### ***Remind me why we're 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 a Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) 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.

***And... for how much longer?***

Thanks for your patience! We've been working on the new water pretreatment facility for over a year, which likely feels like forever to those who used the trail that's been closed during construction. The good news is we're more than half way through construction. We expect to have completed the new building by the end of this coming summer. If that timeline changes, I'll include that information here.

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