

DAF Monthly Message

WATER TREATMENT PLANT, NEW PRE-TREATMENT SYSTEM

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Did the recent wintry weather that shut down schools affect work on the water treatment plant?



Fortunately we were able to carry on working; in fact, we got a *lot* done. This last month we've been working to locate existing utilities and documenting the condition of the pipes, wires and conduits in place currently. And that means big pits! We brought in a Vactor truck and dug as deep as 8-feet down to find exact locations of installations and utilities.

Is it true the original Wood Stave Industrial line was uncovered? What is that?

During excavation, old water pipes made of wood were found that likely date back to the early 1900's. An unexpected find, one that offers a glimpse of the history of Bellingham's water system.

And then what?

The utilities for the existing water treatment plant - and the future DAF expansion - will all be rerouted. Power on existing poles will be transferred to underground conduits recently installed in a common utility trench.

To that end, demolition work is beginning on some existing facilities in order to make way for concrete work on the new plant. Sometime mid-March the existing utility poles will be - what contractors call - "wrecked out" when all current cables are moved underground and made fully functional.

So next month that utility transfer will occur to ensure continual operation of water treatment plant during construction (on a temporary basis) and after that permanent connections will be made. Then comes excavation for DAF building below-road-grade and excavation of the slope behind it for safety during foundation construction. Materials continue to be delivered to the site and more crew will arrive to begin forming of DAF foundation. And then - inspections by engineering staff and special inspectors throughout the construction process.

Also good to know...

Beginning in March, contractor's crews will be working a four-day week (7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.) Monday through Thursday (not including holidays.) As always, weather conditions could influence activity at the construction site.



Why are we doing this again?

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 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](#).