DAF Monthly Message
WATER TREATMENT PLANT, NEW PRE-TREATMENT SYSTEM
for February 2018

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What’s happening at the site now?
It looks like an actual real building now! But there is still a lot of work underway, inside, and yet to be done.
The new Dissolved Air Floatation (DAF) building’s leakage test has been completed successfully and wall cracks are now sealed. As soon as perimeter drain pipes are in, we can begin the backfill process. Walls inside the DAF have been chipped and smoothed for painting, which is soon to come.

We are working to complete 66-inch piping planning and have begun placing electrical conduit and other electrical installations. We are crack-sealing DAF walls and testing them.

And what else?
The saturator tanks (pictured) have been installed. The piping for the air saturation process is well underway. The 24-inch recycle line pumps are being mounted and piping for them is mostly in place. We’re sealing the 48-inch raw water line to exterior of DAF building.

We’re doing perimeter drain and roof drain work. And we’ve finished the dock foundation and have formed and poured the extension to the existing building foundation.

Then what?
We’ll be working inside the original Water Treatment Plant, moving out old equipment and tearing down unneeded walls. That will displace WTP operators, temporarily.

Also good to know:
In winter especially, 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 now 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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.

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 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?
Thank you for your patience. We’ve been at work on the new water pretreatment facility since November 2016 - which probably feels like forever to those who used the trail that’s been closed during construction. The good news is we’re coming up on the home stretch of 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.

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