

DAF Monthly Message

WATER TREATMENT PLANT, NEW PRE-TREATMENT SYSTEM

for January 2018

Editor: Amy Cloud (accloud@cob.org)

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

What's happening at the site now?

The roof of the new Water Pretreatment (Dissolved Air Flotation aka DAF) building is made up of hollow core panels, which are now set in place. This work provides some timely relief from the rain in the DAF building – but also makes the DAF building much darker inside.



Valve placement that allows the large basins in the DAF to drain were completed and the gates which allow water transfer between basins installation was completed. Piping (for effluent) in the DAF basins was installed and completed.

The interior walls of the DAF building are getting chipped and smoothed for painting. The large diameter raw water line was completed inside the DAF pipe gallery. The 24-inch recycle line and its supports were also completed outside the build.

And what else?

Pads for the new hypochlorite storage tanks and brine tank were completed in the Hypochlorite Building. The walls have been formed and poured up to the level of the brick corbel (corbel is what supports brick façade.) And we've poured and formed the dock foundation and existing building foundation extension.

The new analyzer equipment has been installed and made functional, while new soda ash lines were completed and tested.



What comes next?

We need to demolish some equipment and walls in the existing Water Treatment Plant to make room for new equipment and operator control room. (Which means Plant Operators are working in a temporary office set-up.)

Next month 66-inch piping planning will be completed. Electrical conduit placement and other electrical installation will begin. We'll also begin crack-sealing the new building walls, to keep water from entering or leaving the building, and then test them. We've also got the perimeter drain and roof drain work to begin. And completion of 24-inch recycle line outside the DAF and sealing of 48-inch raw waterline to exterior of DAF building.

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 7:30 a.m. to 4 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.

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?

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](#).

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