

## DAF Monthly Message

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

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#### ***When are workers actually on-site?***

The work week is scheduled 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, although the status of construction sometimes requires work on Fridays.

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

The goal of our new facility is ensure that not only will it *maximize the efficiency* of our current water treatment plant – it will do so in the *safest way* possible. That's why we are eliminating the need to transport or store chlorine gas which we currently use to clean water, by switching to hypochlorite which is safer and will be produced right at the plant. (If you didn't know, chlorine gas is so toxic it was used as a chemical weapon during World War I. But it also happens to be a very effective disinfectant.)

So, related to that, we have set up temporary tanks – on a concrete pad in front of the Water Treatment Plant – to be able to phase-in the hypochlorite as it replaces chlorine gas as a disinfectant.

Last month we showed you the steel structural supports going in for the new Water Treatment Plant walls. Those walls have now been poured – and they're 18' tall! Some of the walls – which will be basins to hold water – are 18" thick, while others (for the second and third floors) are a foot thick. We put up 60' of wall, east to west, so far.



#### ***And then what?***

Next month the temporary hypochlorite will be connected and tested. The new transformer and main distribution panel will be connected to PSE. We'll continue pouring wall and begin to connect underground drain piping to aid in future facility maintenance. Also coming up: we'll backfill against the new building's west wall after insulation goes in.

#### ***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.

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

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

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 Dissolved Air Flotation (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](#).

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