

DAF Monthly Message

WATER TREATMENT PLANT, NEW PRE-TREATMENT SYSTEM

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Editor: Amy Cloud (accloud@cob.org)

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

“In the books”: Since last month, we’ve wrapped up a lot of work at the new Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) Water Pretreatment Plant. The outside work is nearly done and we’re doing a lot inside the new structures. We’ve backfilled the 48-inch raw water and treated water piping to and from the DAF and begun placing the 36-inch plant drain. The floor drain lines and mud valve drain lines are all connected to a single line leaving the DAF, headed to the sewer. The roof drains are all connected.



But wait, there’s more: The flashing to weatherize the windows has been installed in these areas. The parapet for the hypochlorite-generation building has been built and is ready for roofing. We’ve got conduits in place and the lighting is going in. The wall studs and drywall are finished, as is some painting. Handrail around the basins are in place. Permanent metal stairs have been installed so workers can more easily move from one area to another. The roof of the DAF is nearly complete.

Then what? Next month we’ll wrap up the brickwork on the building’s exterior (we’ve already finished the southern and east sides of

the DAF.) Systems should be installed with connection to power and controls. The heating-ventilation-air condition (HVAC) ductwork should be nearly complete. And the remainder of the drain lines should be nearly done as well.

We’re going solar! It’s not technically part of the DAF project, but by a happy confluence of opportunity, we will be installing solar panels at the Water Treatment Plant in late summer. The solar panel project is grant-funded, utilizes local companies, and will off-set DAF energy usage. Stay tuned for more information (or email me with your questions.)

Also good to know: Flaggers may still be on-site at Whatcom Falls Park. Work hours are 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and until 3:30 p.m. on Fridays, with occasional Saturday work.

If you’ve missed any of these monthly updates, they are archived on the [City’s website](#), along with more project information. From the home page, “search” Capital Projects, then DAF. You’ll find the updates going all the way back to 2016 when construction first began.

And why are we doing this? 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 the Dissolved Air Flotation 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.

How much longer?

Not long now! We've been at work on the new water pretreatment facility since November 2016, and we're in the final months. We expect to have completed the new facility by the end of the summer.

PS: remember last issue's "Word of the Day"? That'll come in handy to help you fully appreciate the ***floccuator*** stands (pictured below) being placed 😊

