DAF Monthly Message

WATER TREATMENT PLANT, NEW PRE-TREATMENT SYSTEM

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How much longer?

Thanks for your patience so far. We've been at work at on the new water pretreatment facility for one year now, which probably feel interminable to folks who were users of 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.

What's happening at the site now?

Work on the hypochlorite building is well begun. This building will house large tanks of brine and hypochlorite equipment to make the hypo solution and other tanks to store the solution.

We are now using sodium hypochlorite exclusively as our disinfection at the Water Treatment Plant. It's a great change because it is safer in handling and storage than the chlorine gas we previously used. Now the gas is completely disconnected and no longer on-site at the WTP.

The new technical monitoring equipment is being installed now.

And what else?

The walls of the **DAF water pretreatment facility** have risen to their peak in most areas of the building – hitting an elevation of 312-feet.

Another milestone is tying in the 48-inch industrial line (used by the Georgia-Pacific tissue mill when it was in operation) as a backup to the existing 66-inch line to the Water Treatment Plant.

We've done the leak-testing on basins in the DAF structure to ensure that the multiple phases of the dissolved air floatation process react independently of one another – no leaks, which is good news. So now we're grinding and patching the concrete walls to make them smooth.

We've begun installing conduits from the existing water treatment plant to the DAF pretreatment facility for electrical, communication, security and fire systems, as well as to carry the sodium hypochlorite. Electrical work has been done for the technical monitoring devices power to enable communication with the WTP control system.

Meanwhile the **hypochlorite building** is progressing. We've got the under-slab piping and vapor barrier in place, the thickened edge slab steel has been placed and concrete has been poured. The reinforcing steel within the concrete slab (flooring) has also been fitted with connections that will support four 7500-gallon tanks.

What comes next?

Next up, we'll be pouring walls for the hypochlorite building and the remainder of the walls on the DAF building. Completing the planning for the 48-inch industrial line tie in and the 66-inch raw water tie-in.

The actual tie-ins (connections) are to be done towards the end of this month and the beginning of next month (December.)

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. The crew's work schedule is 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday work week. However, there could be occasional Friday work.

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 as 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 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.

For more project information, click here.