



October 16, 2018

Volume 11 Issue 10

Inside this issue:

Process—Making it Clean 2

Inspections—The Scoop on the Poop 2

Maintenance—Keeping Things Humming

Maintenance crews have finished clearing the easements for this year. Some of the major easements have had construction activities which has increased the amount that is normally cleared. This allows us access to the manholes for cleaning and emergency response.

New, energy efficient lighting has been installed in a few of the stations which were rehabbed this year. This helps lower energy costs and provides a safe work environment for staff.

Liftstation 202 has had both pumps rebuilt. The last pump had the impeller come loose for an unknown reason causing it to wear the impeller and wear ring as well as damaging the seal. The seal was replaced along with the wear rings. The impeller was sleeved to the tolerances of the shaft.

SCCMUA crews have been working with the heating system as it is mostly original. Valves are corroded and some are not operational. They have replaced a few of these this last week to avoid dam-

age and increase our ability to isolate systems for future repairs and maintenance.

SCCMUA staff will be gearing up for the cold weather. They will be checking block heaters and temperature control systems. The cold will bring out any weak points in almost anything that is exposed to it. Our staff makes every attempt to find the weak point before the cold does.

Administration

Healthcare costs have begun to trickle in giving us hope for reasonable costs. Staff will be evaluating the options as our current system has seemed to work well for everyone.

The Department of Treasury has issued a statement clarifying Public Act 202 and the selection on the uniform assumptions. Currently, MERS is using an assumption rate of return of 7.75% which was low-

ered from 8% in 2015. The State is lowering assumptions to 7.00% for fiscal year 2019. This will have an impact on unfunded liabilities and future payments.

On October 3rd, SCCMUA conducted a tour and informational session that was open to the public. There where 11 participants that watched a presentation and were given a full site tour of the

process and equipment used in the operations of waste water treatment and the conversion to clean water. I would like to thank those who helped and those who participated in the event. We also had LCC students tour the plant on September 24th.

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Process—Making it Clean

All parameters of the NPDES permit were met.

The RBC maintenance project is nearly finished for this year. This year's project was the most challenging in comparison to the previous two years. The RBC rehab involved machining every RBC shaft except one because it was done the previous year due to a failure. Each shaft had extensive wear, which was not seen to this extent with the previous trains. The weights have not shown this train to be heavier than any of the others but, miniscule changes could be multiplied by the effect of 38 years of operations. Additionally, the way the flow is split to the RBC's could be a factor. We will know more as we continue next year into the next train.

One of our three sandhill pumps was sent in for repair. The seal was reworked and the impeller needed to be sleeved to match the pump shaft tolerances. These pumps are original but have been rebuilt many times. There is a plan for replacement in the future, but the pumps remain very capable, pumping near the original design.

The digested gas flow meter is responsible for measuring the quantity of methane produced in our digester system. Due to the nature of the gas and the environment, meter failures are somewhat common.



RBC Shaft

There are a lot of fine particulates in the methane which tend to migrate into the bearings and fill the small voids eventually stopping the meter from rotating. This was an issue last month where

staff was able to rebuild the meter and get it back in operation.

Annual sampling for our IPP SIU's was completed last month, with no problems found. The annual walk-through inspections will be coming. Commercial and industrial user inspections have continued with a few remaining in the Townships and the City.

Inspections—The Scoop on the Poop

The 203 project in Bath is nearing completion. All of the main line 60 inch sewer is installed as well as the 8 inch sewer which will eliminate the need for station 216. LS 216 equipment will be moved to another station for a rehab. Final testing and start up should occur near the end of the month as long as things continue to progress and no weather related delays occur.

The interceptor project in DeWitt Twp is also nearing completion. This project has been slowed with weather and other concerns from other utilities. The contractor has done a great job keeping things moving. The 24-inch line will help to alleviate some SSO concerns that have been identified.

This month there were 5 household inspections.

Miss Dig continues to be active with 633 tickets, 98 that needed to be marked in the service area.

DeWitt Township: The Quarry has no change and testing has not been started on the last phase.

Crowner Farms installation of phase 3 has begun but has been slowed by the continuous rains.

Bath Township: NOCA/ Chandler Lofts developer has supplied the latest design flows. Prien & Newhof have completed the capacity modeling.

The City of DeWitt: The Oaks has all testing completed and manhole inspections are complete.

Wild Flower Condos 3 has completed air testing and man-drel testing; manhole testing and inspections will be completed with the road finalization.

Watertown Township: Lakeside developer continues to work on record drawing. The installation of main line sewer and laterals has been completed in phase eleven; testing can begin anytime.

Plummer's Environmental has been working on the annual TV/clean schedule and will be in the service area for a few more weeks.