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Southern Clinton County Municipal Utilities Authority

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"The Clean Water People"

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Maintenance—Keeping Things Humming

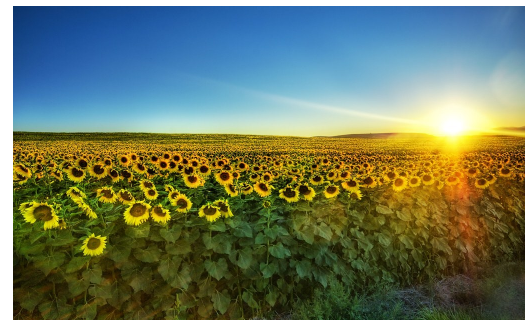
Generators, Generators, Generators! This is a monthly, almost weekly conversation, and August was no different. At LS 116, an unknown action, whether it was from Consumers Energy or a generator board failure, caused a failure on the utility side. The outcome was a small fire destroying the transfer switch and two boards on the generator. SCCMUA is working with DeWitt Twp. to complete the repairs as quickly as possible.

A new pump was installed at station 405; the old pumps are showing their age and require a rebuild. This will be completed in a low flow time. They are pulling one to rebuild and have as a spare.

A communication issue had staff scrambling this month as well. What started as what seemed like a simple communication failure became an all-hands-on-deck issue. Unfortunately, just because a station says it has a communication failure, it does not mean that station has the problem; it can be any of them in the system that caused the issue. The only way to identify it is to go through the system individually, shut it down, and measure out-

put and status. In this case, it was the last site of the 50 sites. Staff corrected the issue quickly, finding a bad radio and slowly bringing things back online to avoid a radio storm on the system.

Station 304 in the City of DeWitt had some longer run times. SCCMUA took action to troubleshoot the station by cleaning, removing, checking pumps, and checking valves for proper operation. All systems checked out, so the attention turned to the force main, which was cleaned and put back into service. The run times have returned to normal range. However, due to the installation and elevation, the force main has been siphoning a bit. This can cause debris to be pulled into a pump that is not running and lodge in a check valve. Adjustments to the check valve will be made to try to address this issue.



Administration

This month, interviews were held to fill the recently vacated operator position. There were many candidates that applied. Five were interviewed, all with good qualities. Finding the right candidate is always challenging as this job is so unique. It is very difficult for many candidates to understand the position. As with everything, things change over time, but some things with this job will remain the same. Sometimes the job will be very dirty. Since this is a public utility, you have no control over mother nature or mechanical failure but the public relies on these services to keep their property and health safe. With that in mind, it is inevitable that at some point,

and likely many points, this job will put an additional burden on one's personal life that is not experienced in many jobs. These impacts are always stated to a new hire, but I don't think the full ramifications are understood until they get some time in the position.

Components for the project have started to trickle in and contractors are planning to mobilize within the coming weeks. Based on the project design, the electricians will begin installing duct banks with power and communications in the new location.

Process—Making it Clean

NPDES Permit: All permit requirements were met. Total precipitation for the month was 7.33".

July brought some much-needed rain to the area and fortunately for us, did not cause any unsustainable high flows. Our lift stations and Sandhill pumps worked a little harder but did the trick with ease, as the flow showed up and was gone within a few hours of each event.

A power glitch from a lightning strike in the area caused damage to some control equipment throughout the facility. While tending to a call-in due to severe weather conditions, staff noticed some control equip-

ment had failed, such as an analog output card that sends 4-20 signals to our sodium hypochlorite pump to tell it what setting to pump at as well as our sulfur dioxide auto valve to tell the valve how much to open. Staff also found that our effluent pressure sensor was damaged as a low effluent pressure alarm came in because of the power glitch. The team could run things manually until the analog output card was replaced. The plant heating and cooling controls were also lost due to the glitch; Trane was able to come in and get us up and running for now, but a new control system is

needed to operate correctly.

Staff are performing routine maintenance and any popup items that may arise. A spare rotating assembly has been rebuilt for our secondary sludge pump to put on the shelf for backup when needed. Staff will soon be heading out into the RBC's to repair two shaft stub ends that have excessive wear. This will include machining down the stub end and building them back up by way of welding, then machining material back off with the lathe to the proper diameter for new bearings.

Project construction is inching closer and staff are excited for this ball to start rolling. Job trailers will soon begin arriving on site as well as equipment and supplies. As this project unfolds, staff will be available to assist with knowledge and manpower to help reduce the chances of delays and downtime.

Inspections—The Scoop on the Poop

Miss Dig Totals:

Miss Dig Requests: 333

Miss Digs Marked: 71

Inspection Services: 10

Projects:

Staff has continued to identify potential infiltration sources into the DeWitt collection system when time allows.

Shadybrook phase III is under way. The contractor is making progress with the installation of sanitary pipe. Pipe was completed during the first week of August. The pipe has been air tested. All but one reach passed. The very last run failed after several attempts. The contractor narrowed the source of the leak to a lateral. The lateral was exposed and found to be a defective gasket in one of the fittings. The fitting was replaced and the run passed the air test. Televising and mandrel testing will be completed in September.

DeWitt Twp and Bath Twp master plan work continues but is finally nearing the end. Staff has continued to gather requested infor-

mation for engineers. They have been working on feasibility studies for future system expansion.

Staff has completed all the drawdown tests for the year. Drawdown tests are another method to check the effectiveness of the pumps. Crews time how long it takes to fill and pump down a certain amount in the wet well, typically one foot. Each pump is tested three times and then averaged to get the best representation of the effectiveness of the pump. Small stations may have only one or two test per pump.

As Clinton County Road Commission contractors begin working on the 2023 road projects, SCCMUA crews are out and about checking the manholes in the project areas for debris that may have fallen into the manhole. Asphalt debris was found in a number of manholes in the Meadows Subdivision in Bath Twp.

Nottingham Fields development has remained at a standstill for the past few months. The developer is working on a plan to correct all the deficiencies. Staff met with the developer and their engineer to discuss a plan for moving forward. We are still waiting to hear back on a timeline.

