



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Mr. Matt Brock; Polk City Commissioners  
**FROM:** Charles Nichols, Jr. and Mike Cherniak  
**DATE:** June 7, 2011  
**RE:** May 2011 Water Utility Operations Summary

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**Executive Summary**

The following points are presented as an overall summary of water and wastewater utility department activities and events that occurred during the month of May, 2011:

- Achieved all water and wastewater sampling and monitoring standards;
- No regulatory inspections or complaint responses were noted.
- A noticeable reduction in consumer complaints was noted. We had less than three complaints in May, the lowest number for Woodard & Curran since February 1.
- The internal system safety audit conducted by H&S Manager Shannon Eycler had recommended 55 corrective actions ranging from hanging signs to installing fall protection for lift stations. We implemented 15 items already.
- Woodard & Curran staff continue to work with Finance Director Pam Lawson to on ways to reduce utility costs. Changes to aeration system operations at the Cardinal WWTP facility has resulted in savings of more than \$2000 per year. Strategies to reduce fuel use are being investigated.

**Operations and Maintenance Activities**

- Completed monthly compliance sampling; all samples in compliance
- Submitted drinking water 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter Synthetic Organic Contaminant (SOC) samples as mandated by local, state, and federal Safe Drinking Water Act requirements. No results back as of this report. Results expected by June 20.
- Staff attended a CPR Certification class as a mandated element of qualification training.
- Continued to work on reducing electricity and chlorine consumption at all plants. To date, we have achieved significant reductions at Cardinal Hill WWTP, and smaller reductions across the board at all other facilities.
- Parts were ordered to repair a chlorine line leak at the Jacob WTP. We replaced the faulty chlorine feed pump at the facility earlier in the month.
- Nine new meter/service connections were installed in May.



- Repaired a major water main break on Friday, May 27 on Woodview Drive. This break took Joe, Howard, and Charles approximately 10 overtime hours each to repair. A formal response summary was sent to the Polk County Dept. of Health on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Notes from Operations Manager Charles are as follows

“The leak was reported at approximately 5:30pm. Joe Vince, Howard Coggin, and I responded. During the next several hours we were able to dig the line up and evaluate the problem. The system remained under pressure. At about midnight, we determined that we could not band the leak and had to replace about three feet of pipe. We temporarily shut down the system and replaced the section. The repair site was disinfected thoroughly. The pipe section was dipped in 12.5% hypochlorite. We re-pressurized the line. We began flushing two downstream hydrants assuring that water was clear. We measured a free chlorine residual of greater than 1.0 ppm within 10 minutes. We were finished by 4:30 am. I checked system chlorine residuals between Saturday and Tuesday morning.”

To date, no complaints about sediment, taste, odor, or low pressure have been received. No “boil water notices” were circulated. On Tuesday May 31, under a Polk County Dept. of Health directive and guidance, I submitted two BAC-T samples on Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday, June 1. Results were negative for bacteria. These results were submitted to DOH. No further action or response is warranted or necessary.

- Approximately 10 wastewater spray field deficiencies were corrected. A total of 55 have been repaired/replaced in the past two months.
- Made adjustments to a failing return sludge system at the Mt. Olive WWTP to provide more efficient and cleaner operations. We also re-piped the Safety Shower system.
- Two loads of waste activated sludge were hauled from the Mt. Olive WWP plant in May.
- Miscellaneous job order completions included:
  - 223 wastewater lift station checks;
  - 27 lift station repairs and maintenance items completed;
  - 0 sewer line repairs;
  - 2 water line repairs;
  - 2200 monthly meter readings;
  - 37 locates;



**Jacob Water facility chlorine injection rehab completed.**



**Typical sprayfield sprinkler head damage. 54 sprayfield repairs have been recorded in the past two months.**



**Jacob WTP before painting and rehab.**



**Jacob WTP after painting and rehab.**



**Matt Williams chlorine injection painting and rehab.**

### **June Activities**

- Finalize and mail to consumers, copies of the 2010 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), The report was prepared by Blount Environmental Services water system and is due to customers by July 1.
- Continue working with Doug Dufresne of PG Consulting to resolve issues regarding the relocation of two to three wastewater sprayfield monitoring wells. This effort is necessitated by a DEP request to address high nitrate levels in these wells. Mr. Dufresne has been directed to obtain all necessary permits to allow the relocation to occur. Continue to repair and/or replace sprayfield system deficiencies.
- Prepare and submit a request to DEP to modify the operating permit of the Mt. Olive WWTP. A process modification request, if approved, will allow staff to reduce their daily on-site attendance hours from “3 hours per day, 5 days per week, and two weekend visits” to “.5 hours per day, 5 days per week, and one weekend visit.” This will greatly improve operations and increase the staff’s ability to get more work done in other areas of the water and wastewater system. **A permit application fee of \$1900 will be required at the time of application.**
- WC SCADA Specialist Joseph Hurley will be conducting Arc Flash training to field staff on Thursday, June 9.
- Continue to cross-train Howard Coggin in tasks associated with running the billing services window, as back-up to Ms. Xochi Munoz.
- Continue replacing “bad meter registers” to reduce the number of re-reads.
- Re-pipe chlorine system at Mt. Olive Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Remodel chlorine feed room at the Matt Williams Water Treatment Facility.