



Hartstene Pointe Water – Sewer District

Newsletter

May/June 2013

Commissioners

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Account information

7:30 am-4:30 pm

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24 Hour Emergency

(360) 876-2545

Board of Commissioners meetings are held on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month at 1 PM in the District Office. All meetings are open to the public.

Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District is not associated with or governed by the Hartstene Pointe Maintenance Association. Please direct water-sewer service related questions to HPWSD.

Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District is an equal opportunity service provider.

Water Treatment Plant Improvements

The Hartstene Pointe Water Sewer District will soon begin its water treatment system upgrade project. The project will optimize the water treatment process by replacing outdated and inefficient drinking water treatment equipment and outdated or inoperable system controls, resulting in improved treatment efficiency, increased water source flexibility, and water conservation.

Current System Deficiencies:

In May of 2011 the Department of Health Office of Drinking Water conducted a Sanitary Survey of the District's water system, from which three "Significant Deficiencies" were identified. Included among the deficiencies was the current unreliable treatment for arsenic. The report stated "Fixing the treatment system for Well #2 must be made a priority for this system...A new or refurbished treatment system must be installed for Well No. 2 to ensure long-term compliance with the arsenic maximum contaminant level (MCL)."

The July 2010 inspection report developed by United Pipe & Supply characterized the process performance as inadequate and inefficient because the greensand filter media had outlived its life expectancy, causing frequent backwashing of the media. The backwash requirement consumes too high a percentage of total well water produced. It is estimated that for every 18,000 gallons of water produced, 3,000-4,000 gallons of water is used to backwash the filter media, accounting for 16-22% water waste. Optimum water waste levels normal for this type of system are 5-8%.

Deferred maintenance and antiquated machinery used for applying water treatment solutions have caused significant corrosion of the pressure vessels that hold the filter media. Also, the vessels are coated with a lead-based paint, known to be a significant health hazard.

Finally, the current water treatment system controls are outdated and unreliable, resulting in occasional stained water entering the system from iron bleed caused by a failure of the filter backwash cycle to initiate.

New Treatment System:

The District initially considered refurbishing the existing systems (installed in 1985 and 1995) but the condition of the vessels and associated controls would have been expensive to refurbish, would increase the useful life expectancy of the equipment only slightly, and would continue to utilize outdated treatment technology. (continued next page)



Current Well 2 treatment plant filters.

Water Treatment Plant Improvements (continued)

The new treatment system will reduce fluctuations in arsenic MCLs and allow optimization of solution dosing for improved arsenic, iron, and manganese removal. The updated technology will also reduce backwash waste water, conserving water, saving energy, and reducing influent flow into the District's already taxed wastewater treatment system. The new water treatment system will also give greater longevity and eliminate the current hazardous potential for lead exposure.

The project will also include replacing water treatment control systems, the outdated telemetry system, the addition of water quality monitoring equipment and an upgrade of the SCADA system to allow remote real time monitoring. The addition of the remote control functions will allow the operator to monitor and manage system functions from a computer located anywhere via the internet, providing a better response time to equipment issues.

Additionally, the District is studying the benefits of up-

grading from dedicated phone line data transfer to radio telemetry for the water system control functions. Currently the District pays \$3,022.20 per year for data phone lines for the water/sewer telemetry. The estimated pay-back on the radio telemetry system would be 7 years if the present phone line service costs remained unchanged.

By going to radio telemetry the District would achieve better reliability and would see a potential savings of \$38,276 over the 20 year anticipated radio equipment life.

Installation of the new filtration system and controls should be completed by early 2014. The estimated cost of the project is approximately \$700,000. Funding for the project will be provided by a 25

year, 1.5% loan through the Washington State Public Works Trust Fund.

Upon completion of the water system treatment upgrade project the District will be able to insure better water quality and system reliability for many years to come.



An ATEC filtration system similar to what will be utilized in the new treatment system.

Commissioner Position 3 Election

The Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District Commissioner Position 3 is up for election this year. Any citizen registered to vote in the district who would like to run for this 6 year term should file with the county election department during the official candidate filing week, May 13th through May 17th. In anticipation of long lines during filing week, the Mason County Elections Department is encouraging candidates to file online.

For more information you may visit the website for the Secretary of State, www.sos.wa.gov, or contact the Mason County Elections Department by calling (360) 427-9670 ext. 470. As of the date of publication there is one declared candidate for this position.

Summer Water Use

Water use tends to be highest in the summer months at Hartstene Pointe, especially over busy holiday weekends. Please remember to use water wisely this summer and avoid wasteful water use.



Also, please remember to be on the lookout for water leaks and report any to the District Office immediately.

Have a great summer!

Reminder: the District Office does not have set office hours, but will return messages within 24 hours. If you experience a problem with your water or sewer service call our 24 Hour Emergency Number (360) 876-2545.