Radium treatment communication with town begins

By Lisa Hatfield

At the Dec. 13 Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility (TL-WTF) Joint Use Committee (JUC), the members discussed the almost-complete total phosphorus (TP) chemical removal clarifier expansion. Also, Jonathan Moore, a water resource engineer from Forgers Associates, attended the meeting to listen to JUC members, which was the first step toward communication with the town of Monument and the engineers on questions about the town’s plans for treatment of radium in the town’s drinking water wells. TL-WTF operates as a separate joint venture public utility and is owned in equal one-third shares by Monument Sanitation District (MSD), Palmer Lake Sanitation District (PLSD), and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD).

The three-member JUC acts as the board of the facility and consists of one director from each of the three owners’ districts’ boards: WWSD board Director George Rich, president; MSD board Chair Ed Delaney, vice president; and PLSD board and JUC Secretary Pat Korthuis, director. Other board and staff members of the three owner districts also attended, including MSD District Manager Randy Gillette, Monument Sanitation District board members Marylee Reisig and John Howe and WWSD board President Jim Taylor also attended the meeting.

Financial and construction report

Facility Manager Bill Burks said Tetra Tech, the facility’s engineering firm, had missed sending one construction invoice in July for the TP chemical removal clarifier expansion (The check was included with the checks for November). He said as of Dec. 13, Aslan Construction had still not sent its final invoice, either, but he was optimistic it would be received so he could write a final check to them before Dec. 31, as budgeted by all three of the owner districts.

Burks explained that the new TP clarifier expansion had undergone four fire inspections without getting a written check-list on what still needed to be done and that Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Marshal John Vincent had apparently not been sharing completed information about the construction with the Pikes Peak Regional Building Department. The Colorado Springs fire marshal was also participating in the inspections.

These Tri-Lakes/Monument Fire Protection District fire inspections have been an issue since 2015, when Tetra Tech was first surprised by the unprecedented requirement from the fire marshals to include a backup electrical generator for ventilation and temperature control in the chemical storage area. Several other requirements have surfaced since then. See www.occ.mn/v1511.htm or the Oct. 17 board packet at https://monumenttownco.documents-on-demand.com/. From MSD’s standpoint, we just really want to understand what is going on and how it is going to affect MSD, TL-WTF, our operators, and the community.

Strom’s comments included:

– This wastewater facility is highly regulated, and it is required to be treated than water treated.

– We have to deal with disposal of biosolids, which can become an issue if they start to contain Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (TENORM) hazardous materials waste due to the radium treatment options that Forgers presented to Monument on Oct. 17. See www.occ.mn/v1611.htm or the Oct. 17 board packet at https://monumenttownco.documents-on-demand.com/.

– From MSD’s standpoint, we just really want to understand what is going on and how it is going to affect MSD, TL-WTF, our operators, and the community.

Strom’s comments included:

– It’s very important to know about whatever decision is made. Whatever (the town) does with affects us.

– We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the process, because this is a systems approach. We can’t treat the radium treatment decision as if it has

Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility Joint Use Committee, Dec. 13

better than spreading it out over 10 years, because meanwhile other customer classes were paying more than they should, and pushing out longer than five years would leave the burden with those customers longer than it should. President Jim Taylor expressed concern about the impact of raising the costs on the golf course.

The consultants reminded the board that the cost of ser-
vice may change over time due to unforeseen circumstances and changes in growth, so the numbers in five major categories might need to be revisited in the future. Wadsow summarized that as far as most residents are concerned, the monthly service charge goes from $9.01 to $9.20 in the first year of the five-year increases, and the less than 6,000-gallon volume charge per thousand gallons goes from $2.24 to $5.93. The new rates were subsequently approved by the board.

This was a continuation of the rates discussion from the No-

ember meeting. See www.occ.mn/v1612.htm or wsvd1117.

Other business

Concern was expressed that the Tri-Lakes Waste Water Treat-
ment Facility construction projec-
t was not finished. Tet-
raTech was still fixing issues with the new plant, which they thought at one time was sup-
posed to be done in May. Shaf-
fer said that a fire department inspection was rejected by an insurance company. Chilcott Ditch company is on track to borrow money to re-
place a siphon.

Construction and planning projects

The new JV Ranch storage building was expected to be complete by end of December, and Lake Woodmoor aera-
tion system is fully installed.

Conditional approvals had been granted for Fretz in Misty Acres and the Dunes at Wood-
moor developments. Inspections indicated conformance to the design and construction standards. Once a certificate of approval is issued, tap permits will be granted.

The board went into execu-
tive session to discuss negotiation, legal discussions regarding the joint use agree-
ment and contract for consulting engineering services with EJ Engineers Inc., and personnel matters.

The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 12 at 1 p.m. Meetings are usually held at the district office at 8455 S. Sargents Drive on the second Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. See www.wood-
moor.com or call 488-2525 or visit the website.

Chris Pollard can be reached at chrispollard@occm.com.