Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility Joint Use Committee, Aug. 8

Tetra Tech water reuse study discussed

By Lisa Hatfield
On Aug. 8, the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility (TLWWTF) Joint Use Committee (JUC) discussed the recent Tetra Tech potable water reuse study it did for the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) and heard updates about several facility maintenance issues and some more potential changes to state regulations for permitted dischargers.

TLWWTF 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 WWSD.

The three-member JUC acts as the board of the facility and consists of one director from each of the three owner districts’ boards: WWSD board Director at Large Rich Strom, president; PLSD board Chairman Ed DeLaney, vice president; and MSD board Director Pat Smith, treasurer/secretary. Other board and staff members of the three owner districts also attended, including MSD District Manager Mike Wicklund, PLSD District Manager Becky Orcutt, and WWSD Assistant District Manager Randy Gillette.

Tetra Tech reuse study discussed

Wicklund said that at the Aug. 7 Monument Board of Trustees meeting, a potable water reuse study by the Tetra Tech engineering firm was mentioned by Town Manager Chris Love. Wicklund asked Gillette to tell the JUC about the status of this water reuse engineering study that Woodmoor had commissioned.

Gillette said that the Tetra Tech study completed in late July presented different indirect potable water reuse concepts and related cost analyses to see if they were worth pursuing. “It’s pretty expensive; the numbers are pretty outrageous,” he said. “It’s not a question of if you can do it, but if you can afford to do it.” Estimates are in the $20 million-plus range. “I think that will be a (WWSD) board discussion,” he said. “The numbers were jaw-dropping,” Strom said, “and you would need a huge public relations plan.”

Gillette said that WWSD and the Town of Monument did not make any decisions and basically talked about all the different plant locations or water sources yet, but only discussed the different technologies and levels of processes available to make water safe. He said it was all just conceptual ideas, and for WWSD they did not have any specific plans determined.

Strom said a representative from the company was at the meeting with Tetra Tech but asked only a few questions about the study.

Gillette said even though the technology is “out there” and in use at the treatment plant, it is a model that the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Clean Water Program Manager Rich Rochester could then hear how facility operators would respond to the proposed new regulations for the state. Wicklund then attended those stakeholder meetings.

Hazardous material incident

Wicklund said the EPA will be setting up a meeting with the managers of Johnson & Johnson’s DePuy Synthes surgical orthopedic appliances manufacturing plant on Synthes Avenue in June, one of Synthes subcontractors apparently dumped a tanker full of used gearbox oil into a Synthes service line sampling manhole. This toxic flammable hazardous material then flowed through Synthes’ private service line into MSD sanitary sewer collection system and downstream to TLWWTF.

Burks said the TLWWTF aeration basins and clarifiers were covered in oil that day, but the plant did not end up having an aerobic treatment upset or a permit violation. Wicklund said he took photos showing the truck draining into the Synthes manhole and a dark stain inside the manhole that showed high oil had filled the area before it drained down to TLWWTF. “This is a flammable substance, and it put our employees at risk,” Burks said.

Secondary clarifier replacements

Burks asked the JUC about options related to rebuilding or replacing second- ary Clarifier B’s entire set of three gear boxes, which are now 25 years old. The consensus was instead of rebuilding one of the three gear boxes, which are now 25 years old. The consensus was instead of rebuilding one of the three gear boxes, which are now 25 years old. The consensus was that the one that showed high oil had filled the area before it drained down to TLWWTF. “This is a flammable substance, and it put our employees at risk,” Burks said.

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