



# Utilities Monthly Report

## October 2023

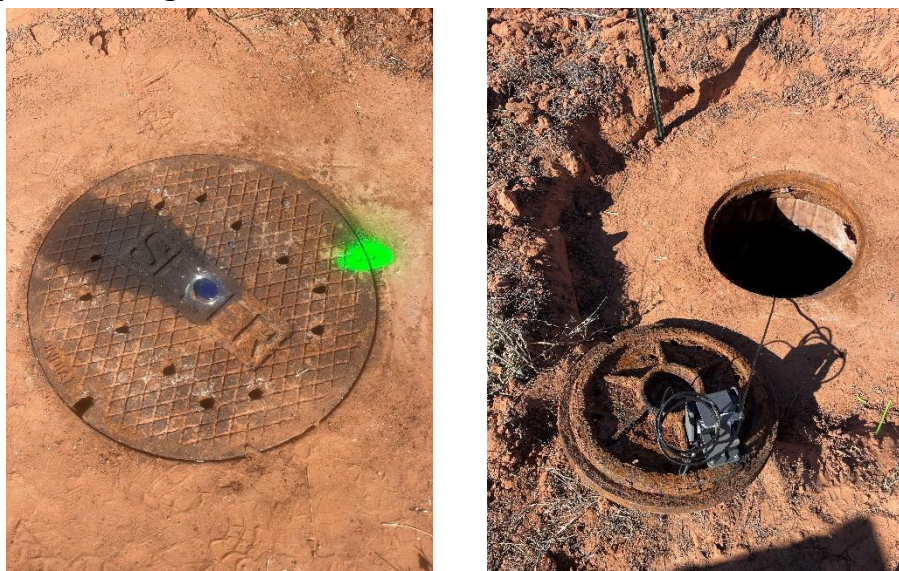
### **Gas Operations:**

Gas usage will be going up as the weather gets colder into the winter months. The Natural Gas contract and Propane contract are in place and will keep the prices stabilized throughout the colder weather for the communities.

### **Sewer Operations:**

#### ***Sewer Lagoons***

Discharging of the effluent from the sewer ponds onto the field has been discontinued for the next few weeks so the landowner can allow his cattle on the field for grazing. Staff continue the cleaning of the sewer main lines for the year as part of the federal Capacity Management, Operations and Maintenance (CMOM) requirements. A “Smart Cover” System was purchased and installed on the last manhole in the Centennial Park sewer system going into the Lift Station. This will provide an early alarm warning to Utility staff for potential malfunctions at the Lift Station by measuring increased sewer flows in the manhole.

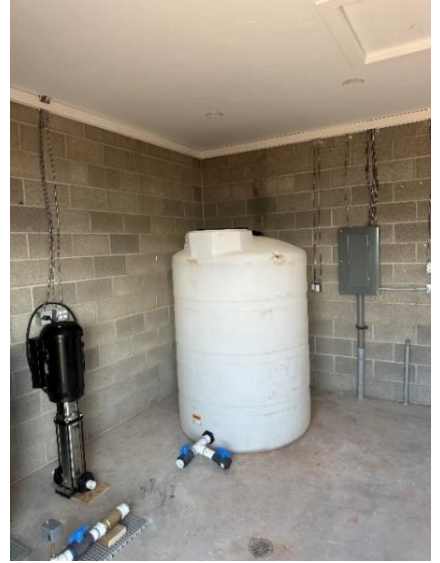


*(Smart Cover Sewer Lift Station)*



***Sewer Headworks Project***

Aardvark Underground Inc. has substantially completed the Headworks Building construction. The work on the headworks screen is completed for the installation of the slide gates. The slide gates are estimated to be delivered in the third week of November.



*(Headworks Building & Headworks Screen)*



## **Water Operations:**

Staff repaired the water line in Maxwell Canyon that comes from the spring. Staff spent significant time and resources repairing the road, which was washed out during the last big storm event. Staff have been working at the Water Treatment Plant replacing a check valve and getting the pumps repaired and operational. In preparation for the cold weather, staff covered the wells with insulated boxes to protect them from freezing temperatures. The handheld meter reading device is out for repair. Utilities ordered a rental hand reading device to get the water and gas meter reads for billing until the handheld is repaired and sent back for use.



*(Maxwell Canyon Line Repair)*



*(Well Insulated Boxes)*

### ***Well 17 Drilling***

Well 17 has been drilled and the casing installed. Cluff will provide a pump test for 24 hours so staff can order the correct size pump and motor to be installed on the well.

### **Fiber:**

Utilities added one more fiber customer with TKS this month.

Staff worked with the Hildale IT Team contractor to install two cameras at the Utility Shop and yard. These cameras view the gate and the backyard, which are tied into our fiber optic system.



## **Grants and Administration:**

Work with Sunrise Engineering this month on the final draft Water Master Plan, Facilities Plan, Capital Improvement Plan and the Impact Fee analysis was substantially completed and ready for City Council reviews in November.

The Rate Study, through the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC), is now substantially complete and will be available for discussion on the rate structure and timing of the increases over the remainder of 2023. The goal is to have the framework for the water rates in place for City Council adoption in 2024. The rate study is being prepared for the communities at no cost. The project is being funded through the United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development (USDA-RD)

Staff have been working on design and cost for the installation of a Booster Pump Station to eliminate the low-pressure zone in the southwest portion of Hildale. The booster pumps will allow construction of buildings and provide increased fire flows for the area.

Staff are working on securing a Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) Loan/Grant, as well as other grants, for the maintenance of the 600,000 (6K) gallon and 800,000 (8K) gallon tank. The 6K tank needs to be taken out of service and the inside cleaned, painted and placed back in service. The 8K tank needs cathodic protection installed and the exterior cleaned and painted.

Work on the Mohave County American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) Water Project is substantially designed and will include two (2) wells and a new raw water line from the new wells and eight (8) existing wells to the water treatment plant.

Staff are reviewing updates to the existing wells to bring them into compliance with Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) standards. This will include meters at each well for measuring the water being pumped and sent to the water treatment plant. The metering will increase the water reporting requirement in Arizona and Utah for water pumped compared to the water used and billed by the communities.



Staff is working on energy efficiency programs for the wells and treatment plant by installing Variable Frequency Drives (VFD), the investigation includes finding grants for the purchase and installation of the VFD's.

The EPA Water Resiliency Grant is in the works and may pay for a portion of the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) replacement. The current SCADA system is extremely old and failing. Two (2) SCADA system companies inspected the existing system and provided Utilities with quotes to install a replacement system and connect to Utility fiber, while using the current radio as a backup system.

Utilities staff are researching the conversion of the current gas and water meter reading system with an updated version that will provide better service and reliability. The current system, Badger Meter, has discontinued the gas meter portion of the sales and moved the reading platform to a cloud application using a third-party vendor, Amazon. Staff recommend moving to a generic reading system that can be used on all existing meters. The price for conversion and the reading devices would be significantly cheaper than making a change to another meter and reading company. Once the costs have been received, a presentation and recommendation will be provided to the Board and Councils.