



Utilities Monthly Report

February 2024

Gas Operations:

Gas staff extended natural gas service lines to five (5) properties on Apple Avenue, from 100 West to 300 West, and are working with the customers to get them fully connected to the gas service.

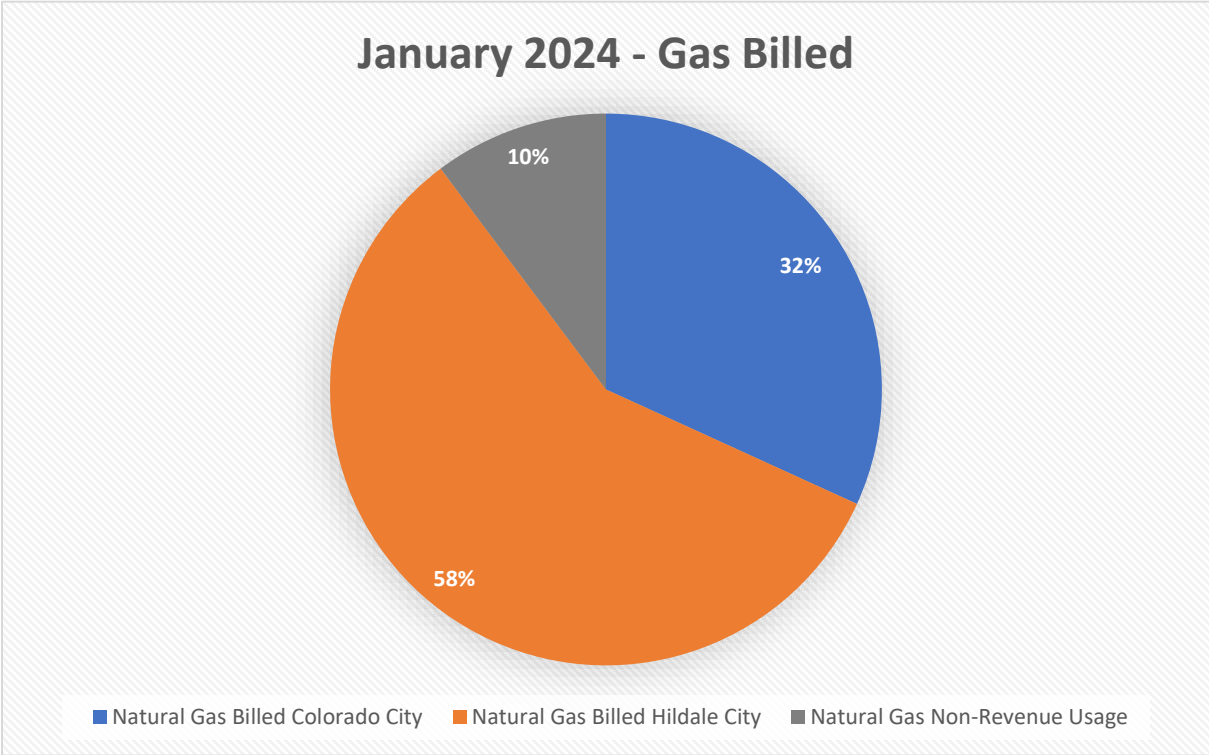




Natural Gas billed to Colorado City and Hildale City customers for January 2024.

Description	Quantity Billed*	Number of Customers
Natural Gas Purchased	8,918,000	
Natural Gas Billed Colorado City	2,837,000	375
Natural Gas Billed Hildale City	5,169,000	311
Natural Gas Non-Revenue Usage	912,000	

*Numbers are in Corrected Cubic Feet (100 Corrected Cubic Feet = 1 Therm)





Sewer Operations:

The Utility Crew cleaned 1,950 feet of sewer main line this month. The sewer headworks screen at the sewer ponds is working as designed. Once the road conditions improve, as a maintenance measure staff will clean the sand out from the grit collection basin.

Staff created an Effective Guideline Practice (EGP) for Vac-Truck operations and a comprehensive daily pre-trip Vac-Truck inspection checklist that will greatly improve operator safety and address ongoing maintenance for equipment.



Water Operations:

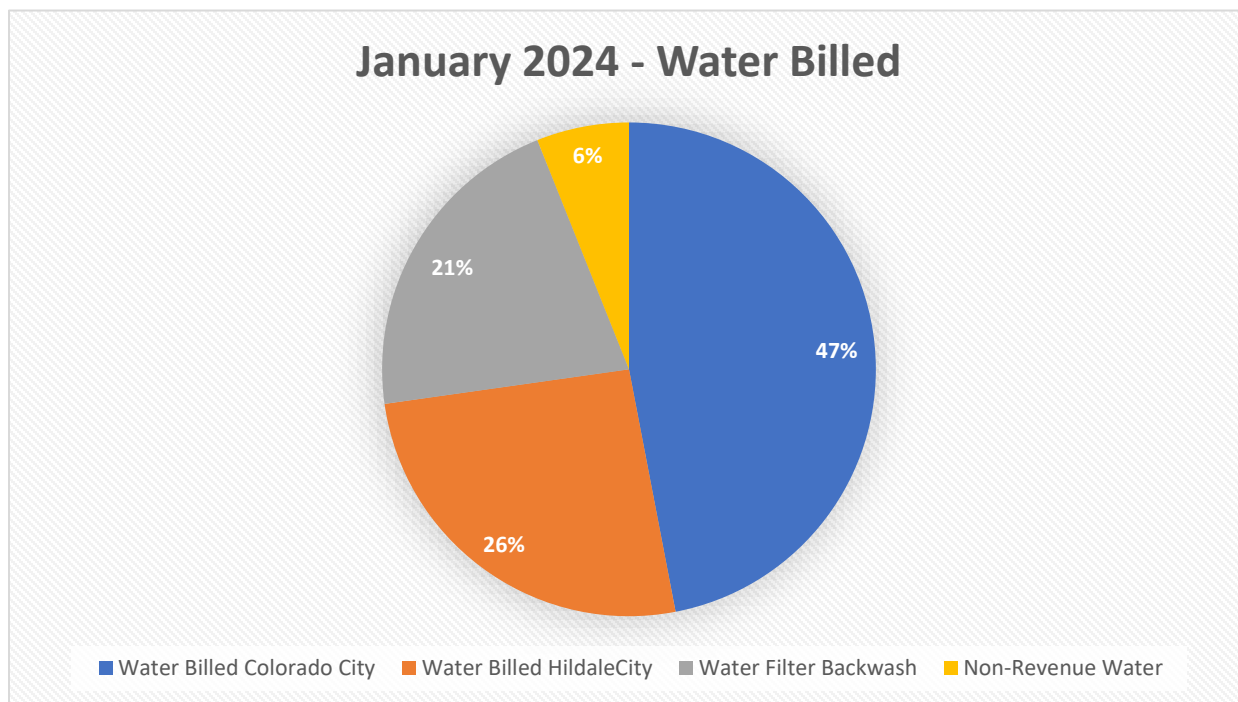
The Utility Department currently has four (4) inoperable fire hydrants that were damaged due to high usage by contractors and one that was installed incorrectly. Staff are repairing the hydrants. There will be a training program set up for contractors and others who use the hydrants as a preventive measure for the future.

Staff created an Effective Guideline Practice (EGP) for customer meter shutoffs and reconnects. Utility Field Technicians were given training in the guidelines.



Water billed to Colorado City and Hildale City customers for January 2024.

Description	Quantity Billed*	Number of Customers
Water Produced	17,481,000	
Water Billed Colorado City	10,419,000	795
Water Billed Hildale City	5,719,000	377
Water Filter Backwash	4,698,000	
Non-Revenue Water	1,343,000	
*Numbers are in gallons		





New Hires, Training, and Mapping System

We welcomed three (3) new Utility Technicians to the team this month! Staff have been working hard training the new hires. We congratulate two (2) of them for recently completing the Fire Marshall training and passing the exams!

The Utility Department worked with Sunrise Engineering to help improve the Cloud Smart Geographic Information System (GIS) and was given a demonstration on how to update the Utility maps. We are looking forward to using this system in the field to improve our mapping and line-locating abilities. See the example map below of water lines, valves, and meter locations.



(Utility Water System Map showing water mains and valve locations)



Fiber Operations:

Staff are working with TKS on trouble shooting a possible bad switch on the Utility fiber line which may be contributing to intermittent fluctuations in the signal to a TKS customer.

Administration:

Staff have ordered the pump, motor, Variable Frequency Drive (VFD), meter, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) programs, valves, power supply, wiring and other items to place Well #17 in service once we have the proper permitting completed.

The bids were received for the Wells and Raw Water Line installation as part of the Mohave County Grant to Colorado City. Well bids were within the estimated costs and will be awarded Monday, March 4, 2024.

The Raw Water Line bids were significantly higher than estimated and will not be awarded as the funding is not available to complete the project as designed and bid. Staff will work with the Engineer to re-design the system and go out for a re-bid in April of 2024.

Utility Staff attended the Rural Water Association of Utah conference in Saint George the last week in February. The conference provides training for maintaining current certifications in Water and Sewer along with providing training and testing for employees for new or higher-level certifications.

Staff completed three (3) Effective Guideline Practices (EGP) for procedures in Water, Gas and Sewer. The EGP defines the level of potential hazards, the type of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) needed to work on the jobs/tasks and how each step must be taken. As the job/task is being identified and placed into the EGP, staff are being trained in the process.

The Rate Study, through the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC), is now substantially complete and will be reviewed by the Utility Advisory Board (UAB)



at a special Work Session on March 7, 2024, led by RCAC staff to verify the opportunities to increase rates and provide for conservation measures, as required by EPA, Arizona, and Utah. Once the initial rate options have been discussed and reviewed by the UAB and further action taken, if needed, a recommendation and review with the Councils will be scheduled. The project is being funded through the United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development (USDA-RD).

Second compliance sampling for PFAS was completed at all the water sources in the HCC system at the end of February. Once we get the results, we will work with Utah Division of Drinking Water (DDW) and Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) for what, if any, steps need to be taken.

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 consulting engineer has located the best place in the system to install the booster pumps to provide the greatest positive impact to the system. The booster pumps will allow construction of buildings and provide increased fire flows for the area.

Staff are working with the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) Loan/Grant, 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. Given the timing of the work and bidding process, the work will be done after the peak summer season of 2024.

Utilities staff have decided on the conversion of the current gas and water meter reading system using an updated radio read system that will provide better service and reliability. The system will be put out for bid and selection of a provider soon and presented to the UAB and Councils. The current system, Badger Meter, has discontinued the gas meter portion of their sales. 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 radio reading company.



Utility Staff have been working on energy efficiency programs for the wells, treatment plant and sewer plant by installing Variable Frequency Drives (VFD), the investigation includes finding grants for the purchase and installation of the VFD's. The VFD's reduce electrical use and will provide cost savings in the system and to the community.

Staff have started discussions with Apple Valley and Centennial Park on Sewer opportunities.