



Utilities Monthly Report

January 2024

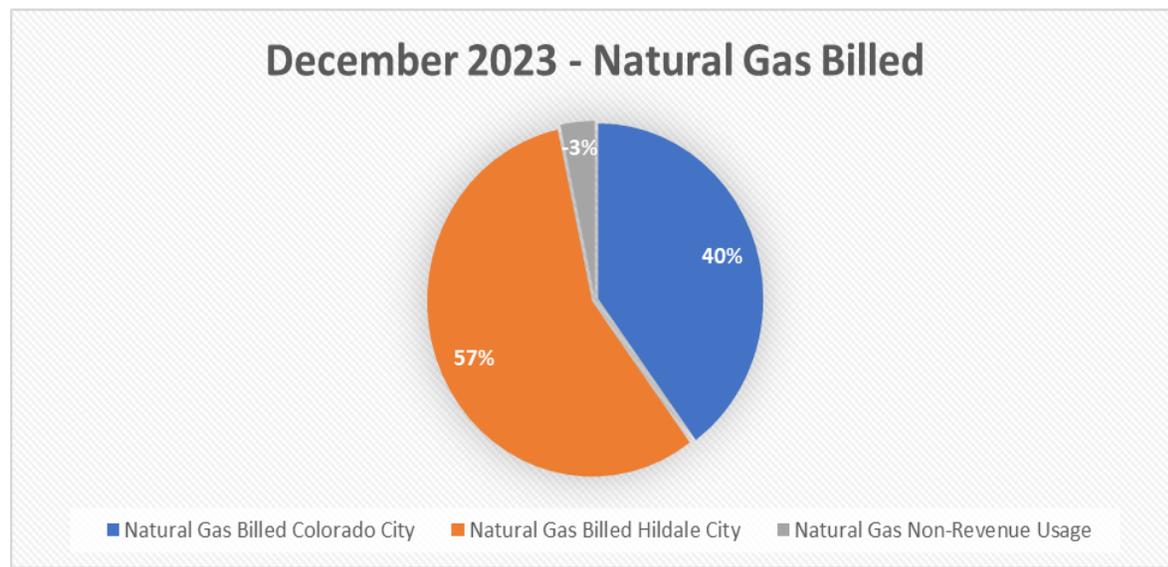
Gas Operations:

Gas staff installed 950 feet of new main line on Apple Avenue extending from Pioneer Street down to Barlow Street. Staff connected 2 new service lines to metered natural gas customers. Staff have been updating the utility map records to provide more accurate locating services.

Natural Gas billed to Colorado City and Hildale City customers for December 2023.

Description	Quantity Billed*	Number of Customers
Natural Gas Purchased	5,477,100	
Natural Gas Billed Colorado City	2,342,800	360
Natural Gas Billed Hildale City	3,330,400	310
Natural Gas Non-Revenue Usage	(196,100)	

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





Sewer Operations:

The Utility Crew cleaned 900 feet of sewer main line on Johnson Avenue in a response to increased sewer flow accumulation that restricted the pipes with heavy sand and grit.

The sewer pond levels have risen 2 feet since September and are expected to provide sufficient storage until the upcoming Spring season when staff will start discharging the effluent onto the field again.

The Lift Station has been working well with the SMART Cover alarm system with no issues this month.





Sewer Headworks Project

The Sewer Headworks equipment start-up and training was a success. Staff used the new Headworks Screen to take a Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) 7-day test on January 5th. Results showed the Sewer Lagoon is currently testing at 14.5 pounds of BOD per acre with our permit allowing to have 30 pounds per acre. Our permit follows the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for Sewer Lagoon loading rate.



Water Operations:

We had a water service connection line that was damaged by a contractor, which the crew responded to and repaired.

The Water Treatment Plant is operating at optimum levels for removal of iron and other constituents. Well 21 has been consistently running at max flow with no issues, along with Wells 10, 11, and 4b to keep up with current water demand.

There is no Water Graph this Month due to Technical Issues with the Electronic Meter Reading System



Fiber Operations:

Staff worked with the System Administrator for the Communication Center at TOCC Dispatch to install fiber network lines between the Colorado City Town Hall and the Dispatch Sever Room. This installation provides more reliable connectivity for the city network.

Administration:

Staff have been working with the purchase of the Well #17 Pump, motor, Variable Frequency Drive (VFD), meter, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) programs, valves, power supply, wiring and other items to place the well in service once we have the proper permitting completed. Staff have secured an Engineer to submit the proper permits for Well #17 and the Academy Well for approval to operate this Spring.

The Rate Study, through the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC), is now substantially complete and will be reviewed the first full week of February by staff to verify the opportunities to increase rates and provide for conservation measures, as required by EPA, Arizona and Utah. Once we have the basis for the rates agreed upon there will be a presentation with the Utility Advisory Board for discussion on the rate structure and timing of the increases in early 2024. Once the initial rate options have been discussed and reviewed by the Utility Advisory Board 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).

During recent sampling, PFAS was found in three culinary wells. Staff immediately shut off the highest PFAS level well and the water is fine for drinking. There will be follow up sampling and reviews of the opportunities to address the chemical in the water.



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 researched the conversion of the current gas and water meter reading system using an updated version that will provide better service and reliability. The current system, Badger Meter, has discontinued the gas meter portion of the 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 reading company. Staff are waiting on the bids to come in for the units and conversion along with the interface with the current billing system. Once the costs have been received, a presentation and recommendation will be provided to the Board and Councils.

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.

With three and one half (3 ½) current vacancies, Human Resources and Utility staff are working on hiring replacement staff and provide training for the existing staff and the new hires.

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