



Utilities Monthly Report

July 2023

Gas Operations:

Natural Gas Conversion



The Utilities Team has been working on the conversion from propane to natural gas in Colorado City. Approximately 1/3 of the Town has been switched to natural gas.



Sewer Operations:

Sewer Lagoons



A couple of sewer ponds had gone stagnate for a few weeks in July. Due to the ponds going stagnate, there were a few days of Off Gassing or odors from the ponds. With the recent work on reviving the ponds, they are operating better, and the smell has subsided. The plant is pumping effluent to the pivot.

Due to the excessive heat this month, the air conditioner at the sewer lift station failed. The alarm at the lift station alerted staff of the problem and a new air conditioner was placed in the lift station.

Water Operations:

The water tanks are almost full due to the water restrictions and the small amount of rain we have received at the end of July. Stage 2 Water Restrictions remain in place due to the record setting heat wave and lack of monsoon rains. Thanks to the Communities for working together to get everyone through the water restrictions and to Utilities staff for the work on getting Well 21 back on line!



Well 17 Drilling



Cluff drilling continues to drill Replacement Well 17. They are at 300 feet deep with about 200 – 400 feet remaining.

Well 21



Well 21 was down due to a cave in of the lower casing and debris damaging the wiring and the pump. Staff worked around the clock to get the well up and running and producing water to our communities.



Deep Well



During an inspection of the Deep Well in Hildale, a leak in the side of the casing was found and needed to be repaired. A contractor was hired to seal off the hole in the casing and stop the leak. The work should be done in early August.



Grants and Administration:

The Headworks Screen Project was awarded to Aardvark and the kickoff meeting for construction will be held in August.

The Rate Study is nearing completion with just a final asset inventory needed for figuring the Repair and Replacement portion of the draft rates before review by the communities.

Utilities staff is working on grant opportunities for the Natural Gas Safety grant through the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) for up to \$1.5 million in pipeline safety.

The Mohave County American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) Water Project is in the design phase and the bidding and construction should happen this fall. The project includes: two (2) New Wells, Replacement of the Raw Water Line from six (6) wells to the Water Treatment Plant. The new wells could produce an estimated 250 – 300 gallons per minute (gpm) or an additional 360,000 – 432,000 gallons more per day.

The new raw water line will be larger than the existing line and will allow more flow with less restrictions from the wells to the Treatment Plant. It should also reduce the amount of electricity used by the wells to push the water to the Treatment Plant.

Utilities staff is looking into variable speed drives for our pumps/motors. The variable speed drive or Variable Frequency Drives (VFD) will allow better use of our motors to pump more or less water depending on demand, instead of motors and pumps running for short periods of time and continually turning on and off. These drives will help save electricity and reduce the On Demand Charge for large surges in electricity.

A HUGE Thank You to our Community Members and Residents for their help during the recent Water Restrictions! Together, you made the difference.