

Utilities Department Status Report for Aug. 2025 (covering Jul. 2025)

PROJECT/	
CATEGORY	STATUS
WTP	 Most all major repairs due to damage from TS Chantal are complete. More minor repairs such as fencing, filling in washed out areas and moving controls to higher ground are underway. Aesthetic complaints have been received around town, and the carbon feed has been increased to address the probable cause of increased algae in the raw water. Flushing is also occurring.
WWTP	Status about the UNRBA comments and suggestions to revise the Falls Lake rules will be presented to the board when a clear direction is evident.
	o It appears that there is a good chance that the updates to the Falls Lake Rules will include the point-source effluent limits going to the limit of technology (LOT) for biological wastewater treatment plants with effluent filtration. The LOT for Total Nitrogen is 3.0 mg/L and 0.1 mg/L for Total Phosphorous. What this will mean is that no exotic treatment (e.g. reverse osmosis) will be needed. We will need to upgrade the chemical feed system to the filters and install the mixers to reliably achieve Total Phosphorous levels below 0.1 mg/L. Our current permit requires Total Nitrogen concentrations of 1.2 mg/L at 3.0 mgd, which is likely not achievable.
	 River pumping station was inundated by TS Chantal. Replacement pumps, motors, controls and electrical have been ordered. The station is still being bypassed and a contractor to demo and replace the newly procured equipment is being sought.
	 An update about the FEMA BRIC funding for relocating the River pumping station and also Starfield Circle booster pumping station is on the Aug. 11 board agenda.
	A lot of media and elected officials have visited the wastewater plant to view the River Pumping Station. The attention on the situation is good.
West Fork of the Eno Reservoir	 The reservoir is at approximately 52.73'. 53' is the normal Phase 2 pool elevation. Water has been hovering just below spilling for a few months now. Staff is evaluating placing live cameras at the WFER for observation and eventual live feed to a website.
Misc	The Lawndale sewer rehabilitation project has been bid. The selected contractor is approximately \$400,000 less than anticipated. The LGC will evaluate award of the SRF loan on September 9. Will be working on resident outreach.

	There will be a scheduled repair to an incoming force main and manhole near N. Churton and E.
	Corbin Streets coming up. This will have some traffic impacts. The contractor is awaiting materials and then this will be scheduled with outreach coordination. Work will be performed at the station in the cemetery and at the intersection.
	An update on the funding status of both Starfield and River pumping station projects will be received by the BOC on Aug. 11 agenda.
	An amendment to a contract with ICF has been executed to assist with a formal application for the dedicated EPA STAG funding the town received for the Starfield booster pumping station. A workplan has been prepared and submitted. A similar amendment has been executed for them to prepare Hazard Mitigation Grant Program applications as well.
	Billing for contractor damages from fiber installation strikes to our assets has been presented to Google and is under negotiation. The town's estimated value is over \$55,000.
	A CWSRF loan application was submitted for the Eno River Outfall-East project for the Spring 2025 funding round. The project was not selected and scored low compared to the nine wastewater projects selected.
	We have all been tracking the slew of proposed legislation that will severely impact our current capacity allocation and planning authority and processes.
	Adron Thompson facility design is progressing through planning approvals. Revisions to the design to provide more flood proofing after TS Chantal is being completed. This has caused cancellation of the temporary trailer placement and likely another six-month project delay.\
	Public notices posted for the estimated sanitary sewer discharge from TS Chantal as required by state statute.
Staffing	C&D is interviewing for two maintenance mechanic positions after the loss of two staff members to the gas company. We will be advertising for a maintenance technician position due to the loss of a staff member due to a personnel matter.
	Utilities Director to attend part of the NCRWA leadership summit in Beaufort 8/14-8/16.