

Greg Ulman

From: Joe Kafczynski <jkafczynski@becherhoppe.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2025 8:50 AM
To: Greg Ulman
Cc: Kimberly Coyle; John Jacobs; Karl R. Kemper; Bonnie L. Stange; Ben J. Everswick; Kenneth J. Ligman
Subject: [External] Village of Kronenwetter Well No. 2 DWTF - Air/Vacuum Relief Valve Piping and Sludge Blow Down Option
Attachments: Sludge Blow Down Option Correspondence.pdf; ES-08 - RFP 04 (for approval) (revised 7-30-25).pdf

Greg,

On March 26, 2025, Mark Mackey sent an email to us and the Contractor regarding a Kurita site visit to address ongoing pressure differential alarms and sticky valves. It is our understanding that during this visit, the Kurita start up tech, Jarred Close, had two (2) recommended action items:

1. Modify the air/vacuum relief valve piping from 1" to 2".
2. Add sludge blow down options to the piping between the detention tanks.

When we received this email, we worked with the Contractors and the Village to request the official start up reports from all of Kurita's start up visits, including the March 25th visit, to try and better understand what the issues were based on the recommended action items. When these reports were received on April 16, 2025, we reviewed them and were still uncertain as to how the smaller diameter air/vacuum relief valve piping would have an effect on the filter backwash (Simul-Wash) process as our own calculations did not show there would be an issue. We posed this question in an email to Kurita on May 5, 2025, and did not receive a response. We again tried posing this question to Kurita by setting up a meeting on June 17, 2025, with all parties including the Village, Ellis, William Reid (Kurita Representative), and Kurita. Unfortunately, after accepting the invite to the meeting, the Kurita project manager did not attend and the only person William Reid was able to get a hold of was Jarred Close, the start up tech. who we believe did not provide any supportive information to answer our questions. On June 18, Becher Hoppe met with the Village on site to observe a full backwash sequence with one of the chambers (chamber 1) 1" air/vacuum relief piping removed from the 2" air/vacuum relief valve. During this backwash sequence, no alarms pertaining to the air/relief valves were triggered (only alarm observed was due to a sticking valve during chamber 1 back wash sequence) and no adverse effects were observed by Becher Hoppe. The Village did however mention that they noticed a difference in the sound of the blower when the piping was removed and believe it is best to replace this piping. At this time, Becher Hoppe does not believe we will receive an answer from Kurita fully explaining their design of using a 2" air/vacuum relief valve and how 1" air/vacuum relief piping would affect the backwash process but want to keep things moving forward with the Village's best interest in mind. As mentioned at the July 1, 2025, Village UC Meeting, Becher Hoppe has been working directly with Rhode Brothers (the project mechanical contractor) on a solution for the air/vacuum release valve piping and are proposing to replace the 1" air/vacuum relief valve piping with 2" piping at no additional cost to the Village. This offer is being made solely in the interest of compromise and resolution and should not be construed as an admission of fault or liability on the part of Becher Hoppe.

Regarding the sludge blowdown options (drains) on the piping between the detention tanks, we sent an email to Kurita on July 2, 2025, at the request of the Village, to inquire if they recommend the installation of the drains and if they have seen issues of accumulating sludge in the past. In their response dated July 10, 2025, and attached in pdf form to this email for reference, Kurita recommended the installation of the drains on the piping for ease in maintaining and cleaning the system in the future but stated it was also not required to be done. Also in this correspondence, Kurita

stated that "As is, should there be build up that requires piping to be flushed and cleaned the detention tanks will need to be drained for someone to access from above through the manway, or you will need to drop the lower elbow and piping to clear out". It should be noted that this is not necessarily the case in this situation as there is also a manway located on the bottom of each of the four detention tanks that would facilitate easier internal access to the piping in question as well as a drain on the bottom of each tank. The sludge blowdown options were not planned for this piping. The additional materials and work to install these would be considered a modification to the construction Contract price (Change Order). At the request of the Village, Becher Hoppe requested a proposal (RFP 07) from the Contractor to perform this work. It is up to the Village to decide if they would like to move ahead with the Contractor provided proposal which I have attached to this email. It should be noted that the Village still has \$66,656.00 of unexpended contingency remaining on the loan amount for this project (not including the deduct Change Order No. 05 of - \$12,797.05).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thanks,

Joe Kafczynski, PE
Project Engineer

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