

WWTF NPDES Permit & Water Softener Rebate Updates

February 27, 2024



NPDES Permit Update: New Limits

Sulfates

- * New limit of 968 mg/L which we cannot currently reach.
- * The City asked for and received a 15-year schedule of compliance (SOC) to allow time to work on source reduction.
- * The SOC will require reduction work, benchmark goals, & annual reports to be submitted.



NPDES Permit Update: New Limits

Phosphorus

- * New more stringent limits will need to be reached June through September.
- * Currently the City can just meet the proposed limit but will need to make upgrades to the failing effluent filter system, probably as soon as 2027.
- * A facility plan will need to be done to find the most cost-effective way of meeting this future limit.



NPDES Permit Update: New Limits

Chlorides

- * Because the City is unable to meet the 261 mg/l chloride limit, we applied for a 10-year variance.
- * The variance will require reduction work, benchmark goals, & annual reports to be submitted.



NPDES Permit Update: Current Stage

- * The EPA needed to approve our request for a variance before the MPCA could issue our new NPDES permit.
- * On February 1, the MPCA received EPA approval and is currently working on issuing our permit.
- * The new permit will become effective on March 1, 2024.
- * Because of the new limits we are currently updating all Significant Industrial agreements.



Water Softener Rebate Program: Work Done

- * **Advertising:** Marshall Independent, Marshall Radio, Chamber of Commerce, Social Media, & Utility Bill Inserts.
- * **Mailings:** 140 letters mailed to business property owners.
- * **Emails:** All industries, schools, churches, and the hospital were contacted.
- * **Door Knocking:** Apartment complexes, hotels, car washes, restaurants, SMSU, & retailers were contacted.



Water Softener Rebate Program: Participation

- * Optimizations: 82
- * Contractor Replacements: 85
- * DIY Replacements: 10
- * Removals: 107

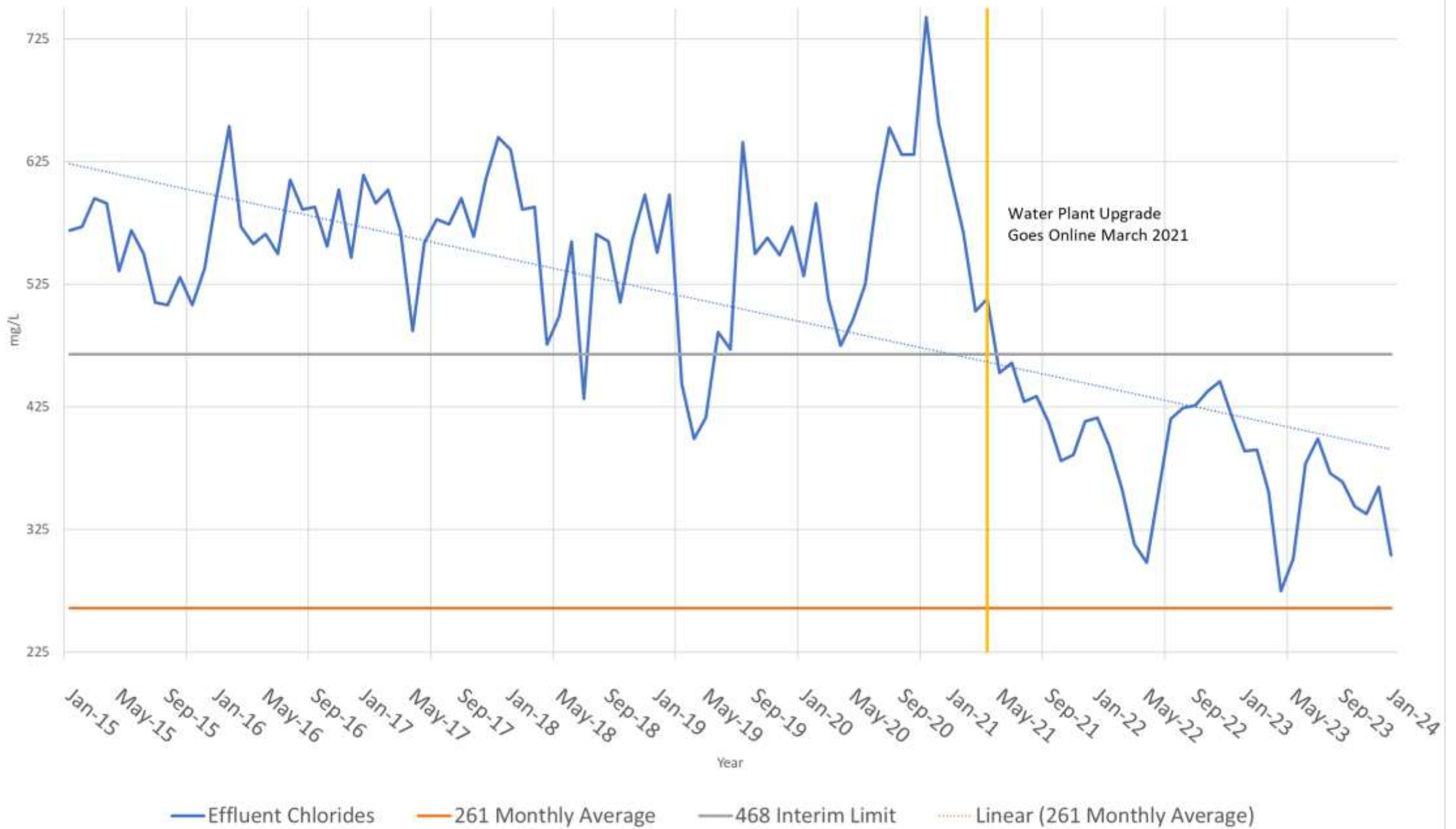


Has the program solved our chloride problem?

Not yet but we're getting closer.



Chloride Concentration (mg/L) 2015 - Present



Water Softener Rebate Program: Continue?

- * The current program has been funded mainly by a MPCA grant with some matching funds from the wastewater budget.
- * The program started on July 5th, 2022, and ends on June 30th of 2024 or when grant funds run out: currently \$5,200 left.
- * Once the grant funds are depleted, we plan to continue the program utilizing dedicated funds currently in the wastewater budget.
- * The program could continue in future years as a more limited wastewater budgeted item.



Questions?

