

Date: January 13, 2022
To: City of Mills, Mayor Seth Coleman
From: Matt Williams, P.E.
Subject: Replacements Wells

In the spring of 2021, we began the process of replacing two wells at the water treatment plant, wells #2 and #9. This is a two-part permitting process with WDEQ. The first being obtaining a permit to drill the wells and the second permit would be submitted after the wells are constructed. We received the first permit in July of 2021. Once the first permit was obtained, we immediately began soliciting drilling contractors capable of completing the project.

Ben Jordan, with Weston Engineering, has been assisting us with this project. Ben is a licensed Geologist in the State of Wyoming and has been assisting municipalities across the state with similar projects for 25+ years. In doing so, Ben has created working relationships with numerous contractors with significant experience in drilling municipal wells like ours. We immediately began reaching out to this specific list of drillers. With little to no responses from these drillers, the group of drillers had to be expanded to ones that may not have as much experience in drilling larger municipal wells. In all, more than a dozen drillers have been solicited.

All the responses we received back indicated that not a single driller would be able to get to the Mills wells until late fall, early winter. With the volatile construction material market in 2021, this only complicated the situation and made drillers less willing to provide a cost/schedule to do the work. In January 2022, we finally received a single price back which exceeded the \$35,000 statutory limit for being able to hire a contractor directly.

Currently, I am considering this situation an emergency for the City of Mills. Given the timing of drilling the wells and obtaining our second WDEQ permit to place the wells online, it could be 60 days after the wells are drilled. In March 2021, Mills saw an increased water usage due to the above average temperatures. If we experience similar weather patterns this year, water restrictions could be in place early spring. It is critical the new wells are completed and placed in use as soon as possible.