

Saxman Water Report December 2023

December wraps up a successful year for the City of Saxman Water Plant and our staff. We got our violations down to one or two correctable violations due to weather which was out of our hands. This year the City of Saxman Water Treatment Plant got an award for the Water Treatment Plant of the year for 2023 according to Alaska Rural Water Association (ARWA) representative Sara Ramey. She will present our award to us in person here in Saxman, and we will let the council, and public, know as soon as we know a date for the award.

All the monthly Total Coliform tests for the year were good except for one where we had to do a retake of the sample at which time we got an acceptable reading, and no violation was issued. Also, all the Lead and copper tests came back normal for the year. The quality of our water for the year has been 100% because the problems, issues, obstacles we face do not affect the quality of our water, only the timeliness. One of the issues we faced recently was with the CL17 that takes the Chlorine Residual Sample of the treated water, somehow the company (USA Bluebook) got our order mixed up for the Buffer and Analyzer solution, so we made the decision to shut the plant down at night to conserve testing solution while waiting on our shipment of solution. After exhausting all our options locally, we got ahold of Sara Ramey (ARWA) and she was able to find us some CL17 solution from the Water Treatment Plant in Craig, AK that we can replace when our shipment gets sorted out.

We have also, in conjunction with the Borough and the South Tongass fire Dept. been able to test all the fire hydrants in Saxman to get Residual pressure, and flow pressure information the fire dept. uses to determine how adequate they will be in time of emergency. We have been building good relationships with outside entities such as the Borough and their Water Treatment facility and, Wastewater facility, throughout the year they have helped us several times when we as The City of Saxman were in a bind, whether it be something as big as a fire hydrant (Three Bears), down to a training manual (Waste Water 1), or helping us clear a blocked sewage line (Killer Whale Ave.) (South Tongass Hwy) We can count on them to help form solutions to problems as they arise.

Also, the new storage building for the Water Treatment Plant is getting wrapped up with the finishing touches. It will bring dry storage for our sand (Roads), and other equipment and trucks, as well as storage for all our inventory pipe fittings and hardware. As we have been more active in repairing all our own small engine equipment such as the MQ cement mixer, the snow blower, and the water pumps (2) all of which were not running previously and will now have dry storage.

The Water Treatment Plant aside we also have been working on the roads, preparing the end of Dog Salmon Rd. for blacktop we are extending existing water shutoff valves (5 in total) to the height of the new blacktop that will extend from South Tongass Hwy to the gate of the WTP. We are also working on patching the blacktop throughout Saxman starting on Eagle Ave. (worst case), and we will also begin work on sealing the roads wherever there is a seam mostly in the centers we will apply sealant to keep the water out from underneath the road preventing future washouts, and potholes .

Water Operator, Robert Sero



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