

July 15, 2024
City of Sweeny
Infrastructure Repairs Needed

As part of the task that I was Hired by the City of Sweeny to perform was to evaluate the utilities that are owned and operated by the City. Since my time here, a great deal of time has been spent on the Natural Gas system to clear up some old violations dating back to 2021. As of today we are caught up on those compliance issues with the exception of the 8% annual replacement program. The Mayor has received a request for a detailed plan of action of how the City of Sweeny is going to address this issue. That plan of action is due to the RailRoad Commission no later than August 8, 2024. Keep in mind that Sweeny has not even started a replacement program and the required start date was 2021.

I have recently looked at every Sanitary Sewer lift station in town. Unfortunately, I have found the same issue in this area as we are seeing in the other utilities. Poor or no maintenance being performed and little to no repairs when something breaks. I will list what I found by location.

Calvie Brown Lift Station:

Lift station designed to have 2 pumps that would operate in alternate rotation to allow for service if one pump failed.

1. This lift station has no backup power feed and is not wired to readily hook up to a generator.
2. Only 1 pump is wired in to operate could not tell if second pump was even in the wet well.
3. High level alarms are disconnected to prevent operation.

Powell Street Lift Station

Lift Station is designed to have 2 pumps that would operate in alternating rotation to allow for service if one pump failed.

1. Lift station has a permanent Generator with an automatic switch but Generator is not functioning.
2. All of the controls have been stripped out of the control box and pumps are running strictly off of floats.

3. Lift station has one submersible pump and one Gorman Rupp above ground pump. The electrical breaker operating the Gorman Rupp pump is bad and cannot be reset.
4. Does not have a high level alarm set up.

Shady Lane Lift Station:

Lift Station is designed to have 2 pumps that would operate in alternating rotation to allow for service if one pump failed.

1. Lift Station has a permanent Generator that appears to be functioning properly
2. Lift Station has 1 submersible pump and 1 Gorman Rupp above ground pump.
3. Fitting on the suction line of the Gorman Rupp pump is broken preventing it to prime and operate.
4. High Level alarms are disconnected.

1459 at Milian Circle Lift Station:

Lift Station is designed to have 2 pumps that would operate in alternating rotation to allow for service if one pump failed.

1. Lift Station does not have Alternative power and is not prewired for generator connections.
2. Lift Station currently only has one pump in it and showing a seal failure in the controls for that pump
3. High level alarms have been by passed.

Cedar Street Lift Station

Lift Station is designed to have 2 pumps that would operate in alternating rotation to allow for service if one pump failed.

1. Lift Station has a permanent generator with an automatic switch. The generator is not functioning.
2. Lift Station has 2 above ground Gorman Rupp pumps and both are functioning. One pump has a leaking check valve that needs replaced or repaired.
3. Lift Station has no external high level alarms
4. Lift Station is equipped with a remote notification system but does not appear to be monitored off site.

San Bernard Street Lift Station:

Lift Station is designed to have 2 pumps that would operate in alternating rotation to allow for service if one pump failed.

1. Lift Station has a permanent generator with automated switch gear. The Generator is not functioning.
2. Lift Station has 2 above ground Gorman Rupp pumps. 1 pump is locked up and non-functional.
3. Lift Station does not have High level alarms

Pecan Street Lift Station:

Lift Station is designed to have 2 pumps that would operate in alternating rotation to allow for service if one pump failed.

1. Lift Station has a permanent Generator with an automated switch gear. Alarm on generator shows battery charger failure. The generator will function as long as the batteries are charged for it to start.
2. Lift Station has 2 above ground Gorman Rupp pumps. One pump is non- functional.
3. Lift Station does not appear to have high level alarms.

Should the City of Sweeny receive a details evaluation form the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, most if not all of these would be considered a potential violation. Some of these items can be repaired with in house labor and some will require professional assistance.

As I get a little time from the storm recovery I will tour the Water and WasteWater plants and give my opinions there