

Wastewater and Water Plant Improvements

July 25, 2014

The City's major wastewater and water plant improvements project continues to progress at a quick pace thanks, in part, to nearly ideal weather for construction.

The most noticeable construction feature at the time is the foundation of the future solids handling building which is located in place of the former outdated sludge drying beds. The heavily reinforced concrete foundation walls have been installed and will eventually support masonry walls which will enclose the building. This building represents the hub of the WWTP improvement as can be seen in the amount of electrical, plumbing and other piping being installed in what will eventually be encased in concrete beneath the floor. In the background the square concrete footings can be seen.



These footings will support a canopy over a separate concrete floor which will be used to store dewatered plant residuals following the dewatering processes. Approximately 6 weeks remain in this portion of the building preparation. Afterwards the walls will begin to go up and we anticipate the building portion to be complete before the end of the year. Once the building is "dried in" then process equipment and electrical equipment installation can start.



Other portions of the project are under various stages of construction as well. The structure to the left is the beginning stages of the future air handling building. As part of the project, the existing surface aerators in the aeration basins will be eliminated and replaced with a subsurface diffused air system. The advantages are better control over the air supplied to the bacteria that breaks down the wastewater and the elimination of ice formation on equipment in the winter months due to splashing. Air is also needed in the new digesters being constructed. The digesters are used to breakdown wastewater sludge into atmospheric gases and inert biological byproducts prior to being dewatered and land applied on area agricultural fields.

One aspect of the construction that is difficult to appreciate is the underground electrical work in process. Literally thousands of feet of bundled PVC conduit has been assembled and installed in trenches all over the WWTP site. The bundles are being encased in concrete that is tinted red. The concrete protects the electrical cables from future digging operations and the red tint serves to let future workers know that the concrete contains electrical wires in the event it is ever uncovered.

Visitors are welcome anytime. Anyone desiring to visit the project may do so by contacting Kevin Eason, Director of Public Works at 349-1070 to arrange an appointment.