

He said that a favorable byproduct of this new tertiary treatment process for removing total phosphorus was the discovery that the TP clarifier also pulled out coliforms such as E. coli, cutting in half the number of ultraviolet bulbs that were needed to disinfect the treated effluent before it was discharged into Monument Creek. The new phosphorus clarifier expansion is also reducing effluent turbidity levels, he said.

Burks said that while the new TP chemical removal clarifier expansion is undergoing operational testing/evaluation, two construction items are not complete: the fire sprinkler alarm system for the chemical storage room and some warranty work for adjusting feed rates for the chemicals.

After many months of research, Burks reported that the new monitoring equipment the facility needed to notify operators of any problems, such as electrical outages or malfunctions of specific equipment, would be installed by Feb. 17. The equipment will be tailored to alert operators about nine different systems within the facility.

Burks said he does not have baseline test results yet for radium coming into the facility in the effluent because of a miscommunication with the lab doing the analysis. MSD Environmental Compliance Coordinator Jim Kendrick recommended that the samples be split and analyzed by two different labs. See [www.ocn.me/v17n2.htm#tlwtf](http://www.ocn.me/v17n2.htm#tlwtf).

Burks said he has given several tours of the facility recently and that a group of schoolchildren would be visiting on March 6. See related TLWTF tour photos on page 26.

**Discussions with the Town of Monument**

Wicklund said he and Burks had met informally on Jan. 13 with Town of Monument Public Works Director Tom Tharnish and Water Superintendent Steve Sheffield to discuss E. coli testing, which the town saw the value of continuing at least until the end of 2017.

Wicklund said that on Jan. 13, Tharnish indicated that the town would use blending (dilution from other wells) to deal with slightly elevated radium levels in water from one of its wells. However, at the Jan. 30 Upper Monument Water Quality Management Association meeting, Tharnish indicated they planned to do some kind of (chemical) treatment, as has also been discussed several times before. See [www.ocn.me/v16n11.htm#mbot1017](http://www.ocn.me/v16n11.htm#mbot1017), [www.ocn.me/v17n1.htm#mbot](http://www.ocn.me/v17n1.htm#mbot).

No joint meeting between MSD, the Town of Monument, Forsgren Associates (the consulting engineers hired by the town), and Tetra Tech (TLWTF's engineers), to discuss town radium discharges to the MSD collection system and TLWTF, has yet occurred, Wicklund said.

(Continued on page 15)





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