

Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility Joint Use Committee, Sept. 10

Budget planning begins; testing talk continues

By Lisa Hatfield

The Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility (TLWWTF) Joint Use Committee (JUC) met on Sept. 10 to discuss the first draft of the 2020 budget and talk more about accomplishing important baseline testing for radium.

TLWWTF is owned in equal one-third shares by Monument Sanitation District (MSD), Palmer Lake Sanitation District (PLSD), and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD).

The three-member JUC acts as the board of the facility and consists of one director from each of the three owner districts' boards: PLSD Vice Chairman Patricia Smith, JUC vice president, who ran this meeting; MSD Director John Howe substituted for MSD board Chairman Ed DeLaney, JUC president; and WWSD board President Jim Taylor substituted for WWSD board Director Lee Hanson, JUC secretary/treasurer. Other board and staff members of the three owner districts also attended, including MSD District Manager Mike Wicklund, PLSD District Manager Becky Orcutt, and WWSD District Manager Jessie Shaffer.

2020 budget draft

Facility Manager Bill Burks presented the JUC with his ideas for the 2020 budget, which included:

- Purchasing a \$62,000 real-time phosphorus analyzer, which would reduce chemical costs and could pay for itself in savings in about four years.
- Sandblasting and re-coating all three clarifiers for \$75,000.
- Replacing exterior light fixtures to accept more heat-efficient bulbs.
- A 2% increase for plant operators and a step increase as operators advance.

Oct. 8 will be the public hearing for the 2020 budget.

Baseline radium

testing in wastewater
Last month, WWSD Assistant Manager Randy Gillette brought up questions about TENORM (technologically enhanced naturally occurring radioactive materials). See related WWSD article on page 12.

This month, Wicklund asked Burks if the JUC had ever gotten the baseline data on radium that it had requested from him in 2017 and 2018. See www.ocn.me/v17n4.htm#tlwfjuc, www.ocn.me/v18n4.htm#tlwtfjuc, www.ocn.me/v19n9.htm#tlwtf.

Burks said he had reported to the JUC last year that radium levels in the sludge were in the normal range. However, he said he did not collect baseline radium data on wastewater

influent from all three districts in 2018.

Wicklund said state Senate Bill 18-245, concerning the disposal of natural occurring radioactive materials (NORM), was approved in 2018. It required that TLWWTF complete a baseline survey by Dec. 7, 2018 on whether it tested for TENORM in any of its processes, if it currently accepted water treatment plant residuals, and if it had identified any of a specific list of radionuclides in its biosolids or residuals.

Burks said he thought he had sent the survey answers to the state but would check his records. "We are still trying to determine if we even have a problem." He said since last month's discussion, he had coordinated timing of influent sampling with the town of

Monument backwashing its potable water production filters. He is still talking to Shaffer about when to coordinate the same testing with WWSD's filter backwashing.

State regulations on TENORM are being written this year and, depending on the limits they set, could be very expensive for both water and wastewater treatment facilities. One concern is the possibility that TLWWTF might have to get special licensing to deal with TENORM in its system, Wicklund said.

Shaffer said all Denver and Arapahoe wells have some level of radionuclides and that when groundwater is treated to remove iron and manganese, naturally occurring radioactive materials come along and are concentrated in the backwash, creating TE-

NORM. "If plants do this informational survey and find they will have a real issue with disposal (of sludge or discharge),

they need to speak up, or say they won't accept backwash from water treatment facilities, and put it back on water treat-

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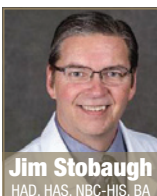
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