

Tri-Lakes Facility Joint Use Committee, July 14 New discharge permit takes effect

By Jim Kendrick

On July 14, Facility Manager Bill Burks reported on the first monthly discharge monitoring report results for May under the new five-year permit recently issued by the state for the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility to the Joint Use Coordinating Committee (JUC) that acts as the facility's board. Burks also gave an overview of the continuing excavation by Aslan Construction at the vacant south end of the facility property for the new chemical total phosphorus removal clarifier expansion.

Plant manager's report

Burks noted that the plant's May discharge monitoring report was the first report under the facility's new five-year discharge permit that became effective on May 1.

Discharge limits were dropped for copper, hydrogen sulfide, manganese, nitrate, and zinc.

Discharge reporting requirements were dropped for ammonia chloride, lead, selenium, and sulfate.

The daily discharge permit limit for E. coli was cut in half from 128 to 64 colonies per 100 milliliters.

New daily and monthly average discharge limits that vary from month to month were added to the discharge permit.

There are new discharge permit reporting requirements for dissolved iron, potentially dissolved copper, and total recoverable iron.

The new Control Regulation 85 running annual median limits in the new permit for total phosphorus and total inorganic nitrogen will not take effect until the end of the first 12 months of data.

The Tri-Lakes staff will continue to take a broad monthly array of samples for the ongoing Arkansas and Fountain Coalition for Rural/Urban River Evaluation (AF CURE) Monument Creek and Fountain Creek basin baseline characterization study to ensure that no needless discharge permit limits are imposed on Tri-Lakes by the state and/or EPA for these wastewater constituents in the future.

Burks reported that the facility's May Control Regulation 85 total phosphorus effluent testing result was 2.4 mg/l and 6.1 mg/l for total nitrogen. The nitrogen test results for samples taken upstream at Arnold Avenue, from the Tri-Lakes effluent discharge, and downstream at Baptist Road showed small amounts of non-point source total phosphorus and total nitrogen in Monument Creek from other tributaries and/or storm water runoff.

Average total wastewater flow through the Tri-Lakes treatment plant increased from 1.13 million gallons per day (MGD) in April to 2.39 MGD in May, due to increased rain. Likewise, the daily maximum flow also increased from 1.33 MGD to 3.42 MGD.

Burks stated that he was going to return to operating only one of the three aeration basins, instead of two, because of the plant's superior performance. This should save on energy costs for blowers and pumps.

Manager reports

Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District's Assistant District Manager Randy Gillette reported that Woodmoor's wastewater flows which "were up considerably" due to the heavy rain flows of early May had begun to "taper off" to normal. "We have had a lot of sump pumps running" but no water main failures, he said.

Financial reports

Burks reported that the Tri-Lakes facility had received its first nutrient expansion construction invoice from Aslan Construction Inc. for \$207,030. An invoice from Tetra Tech for \$7,565 was also received in June. There was a final 2014 facility audit invoice from John Cutler & Associates, for \$1,000. He passed out printed copies of the 2014 audit that was forwarded to the state.

Rich Strom, Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District's JUC representative, asked that reimbursements from the \$1 million state nutrient grant be divided by 19.79 percent to Monument Sanitation District, 33.33 percent to Palmer Lake Sanitation District, and 46.88 percent to Woodmoor.

Burks replied that all the nutrient construction bills and nutrient grant reimbursements have been divided by thirds so far for simplicity and the differences should be resolved with all the billings to the three owner districts after all the grant money has been received.

Monument District Manager Mike Wicklund noted that Burks had been billing Monument by thirds for all the nutrient expansion invoices to date, even though he had been directed by the board to bill by the capacity ownership percentages.

Since the Nov. 11, 2014 JUC meeting, Monument has formally requested at each JUC meeting that the grant reimbursements and billing percentages for Monument be 19.79 percent, the same as the percentage of the new expansion's total phosphorus constituent treatment capacity that Monument would own under the Joint Use of Facilities Agreement. (www.ocn.me/v14n12.htm#tlfjuc1111).

On April 14, 2015 the JUC unanimously approved a notice of construction award to Aslan for only the \$3.059 million base bid and the \$252,000 Tetra Tech construction management contract. This motion also approved a 10 percent contingency for both contracts for a total project cost of \$3.642 million. The motion also specified that Monument would pay 19.79 percent of the \$3.642 million, Palmer Lake would pay 33.33 percent, and Wood-



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