

Water Works



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Mary Massad,
Manager/CEO

Happy New Year to one and all. It is advantageous to welcome in the new year with good news for you, our customers and those still patiently waiting for water. This

past year saw the completion of the Zap Phase I and Zap Phase II Service Area. This completes most of Mercer County, and is presently providing water service to 636 customers. The Southwest Pipeline Project is also meeting the drinking water needs for the power plants in the county. Please note, if you are one of these new customers, check out the inside of this newsletter for additional information on hooking up to the Project once water service is available.

The eastern portion of Oliver County (East Center Service Area) has been bid and awarded; construction will start in the spring. The western portion of Oliver County (West Center Service Area) is under final design; the cultural resource report is complete. SWA will work on easement acquisition over the winter so it can be bid by early spring.

The Main Transmission Line (MTL) reaching west from the new OMND (Oliver, Mercer, North Dunn) Water Treatment Plant to north of Halliday had 14.5 miles installed prior to construction ceasing for the winter. This line is more than 50% complete. Easement work is ongoing for the rest of this MTL to

reach northwest of Killdeer. The State Water Commission (SWC), the Project owner, is ready to bid this line, but easements are needed prior to bidding. Many of those signed up for water want to know when it will reach their home. The best answer is: the funding is in place and we have the money to build, we just need your easement so it can be bid and constructed.

The North Dunn (County) Service Area will be bid in 2014 and construction will begin as soon as the landowners have returned their easements. If you or someone you know is interested in water service, please contact our office. If you have questions on easements, please contact our office. You can also find many answers to your signup and easement questions on our website: www.swwater.com.

It is the intention to build all of the OMND Service Area in this biennium. It is amazing the funding in place for the SWPP for the 2013-2015 biennium. Thank you to the state of North Dakota for your steadfast support. The Project is in the Governor's Budget for the SWC for \$79 million.

We currently have 14 contracts under construction and more under design. Phase II of the OMND Water Treatment Plant alone is five contracts. This will increase the capacity to 5.5 million gallons/day (MGD) to serve the OMND Regional Service Area.

There are four potable water reservoirs under construction. They include: the Zap II reservoir, the New

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Why Residents Provide Easements

Property owners all across southwestern North Dakota are championing the next frontier in water quality. Replacing substandard groundwater, high in sodium and other undesirable minerals, to quality surface water has become an option many property owners are excited to have. For Wes Gunsch, a semi-retired former shift supervisor at Dakota Westmoreland Coal and his wife Jane, securing future quality water is important. They live in Country Club Estates south of Beulah. Each also owns substantial acreage of family farmland.

"We believe water is a precious resource, so if you let these opportunities go by, you never may get them again. We felt it was best to invest now to give our properties higher resale values long-term," said Wes adding, "people really should reconsider about waiting for a later date to sign-up; yes, it's another bill to pay, but once you get the water, you'll never regret it."



Lowest Rural Rate Increase Approved



The SWA Board of Directors approved a modest rate increase for SWA customers effective January 1, 2014. The rural monthly minimum will be decreasing and the charge for water will be increasing 10 cents per thousand. The minimum will no longer include 2,000 gallons of water. In effect, customers using 6,000 gallons/month will see their water bill increase by \$3.77 per month.

Communities and other contract customers served by the SWPP will see an 11-cent increase in the cost per thousand gallons of water. The increases are for Capital Repayment and the Replacement for Extraordinary Maintenance (REM) Fund. The REM Fund is needed to grow for replacement of the 12-MGD Water Treatment Plant in Dickinson in the future.

It is necessary for operating costs to be borne by the users. SWA serves both rural customers and cities. Both pay transmission costs of water. The rural customers must also pay the distribution costs. By providing these services over a larger area and serving more customers on a regional basis, SWA can achieve economies of scale.

Manager's Message cont'd

Hradec tank, the Dunn Center elevated tank and the Killdeer Mountain elevated tank. These have all been bid and awarded this past year. Tanks, treatment and MTLs are the foundation to bring service to you. These are needed prior to or in conjunction with construction of the rural areas.

The second intake for additional capacity to serve you and our growing region has been bid and awarded. An additional Finished Water Pump Station in Dickinson to increase capacity for the SWPP and the city is currently under design and will be bid this coming year. Work is ongoing for additional treatment for the Water Treatment Plant located in Dickinson to meet the growing needs.

Everyone is working diligently to build OMND Regional Service Area and to expand to meet the growing needs in the region. But in order to succeed, we need your help. If you are contacted by SWA or the SWC or our representatives regarding easements, please help us out and sign and notarize them. We can't build this Project without you.



**More than a Pipeline, it's
a Lifeline. Serving high
quality water year-round.**

Our Vision:
People and Business
Succeeding with
Quality Water

Our Mission:
Quality Water for
Southwest
North Dakota

Water Works is the
Official Publication of the
Southwest Water Authority and
the Southwest Pipeline Project.

Visit our new website...from job
postings to the latest pipeline and
water news, it's all online!

www.SWwater.com

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Southwest Water Authority does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, marital status or disability in employment or the provision of services.

“Vision is the Art of Seeing Things that are Invisible”

Six great reasons to provide easement permission:

1. Quality of life.
2. Increases value to your land and property.
3. Future needs cost less today to install a waterline.
4. Improves economic value for community as a whole.
5. Good citizenship to help neighbors minimize costs.
6. For your children, grandchildren, and future generations.

Collaborations often result in great accomplishments. If you have been approached by Southwest Water Authority, the SWC, or their representatives to provide easements, your consent provides direct as well as indirect, long-term advantages for the continued development of the Southwest Pipeline Project. The time to sign-up is before construction begins in your area. What will be realized now, and in the future, will benefit residents and businesses for generations to come.

When We Know About It... We Fix It

Settlement of rural water pipelines is a common occurrence. It happens over time or right after construction. With more than 4,000 miles of pipeline in southwest North Dakota, it is difficult for SWA to know where this is occurring. If you have settlement which you are unable to take care of or wish for SWA to fix, please contact the SWA Dickinson office.

Contractors and Construction Observers are cognizant of taking care of the land and putting it back the way it was after construction. Sometimes, things are missed. If something was missed in your area following construction please let us know. Please note seeding will depend on time of year and weather conditions. If you have settlement or construction issues, call Bruce Koppinger in the Dickinson office or email him at BKoppinger@SWwater.com.



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New Customer Hookups

Once a new customer receives their official notice of water availability from SWA, what's next? For rural customers the procedure for hooking up to the newly constructed pipeline is as follows:

- Hire a qualified installer to install the pipeline from the meter pit or curb stop.
- Installers must be licensed plumbers, or licensed water and sewer contractors in the state of North Dakota.
 - A list of approved installers is available upon request.
 - The list is also available on our website.
 - Licensed water and sewer installers are able to complete connections up to the first joint in the house.
- Your installer must complete a Verification of Rural Water Service Connection Form which is to be returned to SWA before water will be turned on.
- Once installation is complete, ONLY an authorized SWA representative is allowed to turn on your water.
- SWA requires a 72-hour notice prior to the time you wish to have your water turned on.

If you have any questions about hooking up to service, or plumber's requirements, please feel free to stop by our office located in the West Industrial Park, west of Dickinson.

Customers who were turned over for water service prior to October 1 will be billed for water in 30 days whether you are hooked up or not. Those turned over for water service after the October 1 deadline will receive your first bill in May.