

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS ... DECEMBER 2017

Water Plant Updates from Spicer ...

DEC 1 ... Evoqua was onsite this week working on testing the system. John E Green and Countyline were onsite coordinating with Evoqua. Evoqua put water to the system yesterday and John E Green has been addressing some leaks in the system. The painter was onsite this week working on painting the ceiling and piping. We sent the monthly operating reporting forms to MDEQ for approval which is needed before plant start up. Lawrence from our office will be onsite when the new computers are onsite. Midland Glass removed the window screens yesterday after the board walkthrough and their supplier is working on the new screens as discussed. The bulk water sales station was installed.

Pipe collars/extensions are needed on the filtrate exhaust where the reducers are. John E Green had to build a shelf that Evoqua was supposed to provide. Both of these items will be added to John E Green's contract and deducted from Evoqua's contract. Keith requested two additional electrical receptacles for the air system. We have requested pricing from Countyline for the additional work.

There was a concern brought up this week about the pond freezing and the operators having to chip ice off around the flap valve in the seepage pond like they have had to with the existing treatment system. We believe that the seepage pond is not going to have the same issue with the new treatment system because the backwash cycle runs after every 30 minutes of filtering instead of days with the existing treatment system. Given this frequency, the pond will not be stagnant for days at a time where it has a chance to freeze.

DEC 7 ... Evoqua was onsite this week continuing to test the new treatment system. There was excessive sand in the raw water pipe that caused the strainers to become plugged. During installation the line was flushed, but there seemed to be more sand in the line from installation. RCL flushed the line yesterday and today and removed additional sand from the line. Evoqua does not have all of the parts onsite. There is a problem with a pH sensor, there is a part on a valve that needs to be replaced, there is an undersized breaker in the citric acid pump control panel that needs to be replaced, a turbidimeter panel is missing, and the foot valve from the citric acid pump is still missing. Evoqua may get some of these by next week, but it is more likely that they won't have everything until the week of January 8th. Obviously with the missing parts, the new treatment system can't be put online and the schedule is being delayed. Evoqua will be chlorinating the filters today/tomorrow and letting them sit over the weekend. The system will be flushed and bacterial testing will be completed next week. Operator training will also be next week as well as additional chlorination. Evoqua's last day onsite will be December 15th and they won't return until the week of January 8th. They will bring the rest of the parts to complete the installation of the system, complete operator training and turn over operation to Sims Whitney. Evoqua will continue to be onsite through the week of January 15th to oversee operation of the plant and be available to provide assistance and training.

Dec 15 ... Evoqua was on site to continue testing. Two issues were identified in the plant concerning floor drains that need a gas tight connection such that they don't slash and that the discharge line from the plant needs to maintain 7' of pressure to ensure that the turbidity meters read accurately. These issues will be coordinated with RCL and John E Green to be corrected.

The seepage pond levels continue to be high enough to fill the discharge pipe from the new plant. Spicer is looking into solutions to this to allow the new plant to operate. A possible solution could be a small pump station for the line to discharge into and the pump into the pond. This would make sure this line

was empty. The amount of water in the pond is excessive as there is more water going into the pond and it appears that the water table is higher than anticipated and the pond is not draining at the most conservative rate that was tested for. We will be vetting the pump station design option with RCL and MDEQ next week and hope to present our findings at the next board meeting on the 21st.

Cal and Evoqua finished up most testing and left the filters in a "sleep mode" with chlorine concentrated water setting in them. The filters had bacteria testing done on them, which they passed.

We will be coordinating with Evoqua on when to come back out to finalize everything once these issues have been resolved. In the meantime, the plan is to run the old plant.

The interior of the new plant is scheduled to have the floors epoxy painted next week and then final interior work can commence.

Dec 15 - Bob's Response to Darrick on behalf of Sim's Township ...

Darrick ...

It would seem that the solution that makes the most sense would be to enlarge the retention pond and not by going deeper as the ground water level is too high? If the size in square feet for the pond were doubled, it stands to reason, the water level would be half of what it is now? If the pond size was tripled, that would give more relief by an additional 1/3rd? It would seem, in our case, that bigger is better regarding the pond size?

As I recall, earlier conversations with Keith and Duane wanted to have a much larger pond and probably for these reasons. The problem with a pumping station, crocks or auxiliary tanks is there is additional maintenance for main and back-up sump pumps and basically, it's more stuff to break. This fix is a bandaid and does in no way resolve the main issue which, I believe, is pond sizing. This plant is supposed to be so glitzy and up-scale, that Keith should never have to get his hands dirty again! At least, I thought that's where the train was supposed to be going?

Your line that I do not comprehend is "*gas right connection suck that they don't slash*" ... what the heck does that mean? Is "right" supposed to be "tight" ? Is "slash" supposed to be "splash?" I suspect that might mean those drains probably have a trap? But those drains are connected to the main discharge line and the head pressure of that submerged line - even with or without a trap - forces drain water to back up through the floor drains? It's not clear what's happening with that statement.

Another non-clear statement is the phrase "*needs to maintain 7' of pressure to ensure ...*" Is that actually 7 feet or is it 7 inches water column? If it is 7', does that make it some type of positive pressure vent that's attached to the wall vertically? I guess it would be helpful if there is some type of graphic that you could provide at the next meeting that would help us neophytes understand what's happening or what is supposed to happen for the meters to work properly.

All projects have events/hiccups and this one is no different, but it would seem that these particular issues are Basic M.E. 101 stuff that should have been figured out at the outset of the project? We have no interest in additional overcharges and I doubt the board would ever again approve any additional overcharges. We continue to suffer PTSD with the previous \$72K overcharge that was no fault of our own and to date, is not resolved to our satisfaction.

I appreciate the updates as they help in a big way to communicate the info to our residents and this critique is only intended to help me understand some things I do not understand so I can tell the story to my friends. Bottom line, don't take it personal, but just get the job done right. Do right, be right and everything will be all right!

Bob ...

Huff, Darrick W. <darrickh@spicergroup.com>

To: Bobber Max

Cc: Inman, Jean M., simswhitney@outlook.com, simstwpsupervisor@gmail.com, Judy Mackie, Kimberly Anderson and 5 more...

Dec 15 at 8:33 PM

Sorry about my typos. I wrote the update on my phone.

The pond size is something that we will be looking at. I will provide additional info and clarification.

John Gehris jmgnumbers@att.net

To: Huff, Darrick W., Bobber Max

Cc: Inman, Jean M., simswhitney@outlook.com, simstwpsupervisor@gmail.com, Judy Mackie, Kimberly Anderson and 4 more...

Dec 16 at 9:14 AM

Just a question. How can they epoxy the floor next week with all the water leaks that are occurring?

Huff, Darrick W. <darrickh@spicergroup.com>

To: John Gehris

Cc: Bobber Max, Inman, Jean

M., simswhitney@outlook.com, simstwpsupervisor@gmail.com, Judy Mackie and 5 more...

Dec 16 at 9:24 AM

With the plant not making water there is no water splashing on the floor from drains.

To summarize, the discharge pipe to the retention pond is under water and needs to be above the water. The pipe being under water creates a head pressure of water that backs up through the floor drains in the new plant and causes standing water throughout the plant. Simple solution seems to be increase the pond size so the pipe is not under water. The pond size issue will delay start-up and water distribution from the new plant by possibly two months. Continued testing of the equipment has been put on hold until January 8, 2018. Operator training is on hold also until all matters are resolved.

New Generator ... Sam and myself installed and leveled the cement generator pad and anchored the generator to the pad on 12/9 and we are waiting on Goyette from Oscoda to hook up the gas line and electrical on 12/21.

Final Thought ...

“Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.” — Calvin Coolidge

“He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree.” — Roy L. Smith

