

Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility Joint Use Committee, Aug. 8

# Tetra Tech water reuse study discussed

By Lisa Hatfield

On Aug. 8, the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility (TLWWTF) Joint Use Committee (JUC) discussed the recent Tetra Tech potable water reuse study it did for the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) and heard updates about several facility maintenance issues and some more potential changes to state regulations for permitted dischargers.

TLWWTF operates as a separate joint venture public utility and is owned in equal one-third shares by Monument Sanitation District (MSD), Palmer Lake Sanitation District (PLSD), and 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: WWSD board Director at Large Rich Strom, president; MSD board Chairman Ed DeLaney, vice president; and PLSD board Director Pat Smith, treasurer/secretary. Other board and staff members of the three owner districts also attended, includ-

ing MSD District Manager Mike Wicklund, PLSD District Manager Becky Orcutt, and WWSD Assistant District Manager Randy Gillette.

**Tetra Tech reuse study discussed**  
Wicklund said that at the Aug. 7 Monument Board of Trustees meeting, a potable water reuse study by the Tetra Tech engineering firm was mentioned by Town Manager Chris Lowe. Wicklund asked Gillette to tell the JUC about the status of this water reuse engineering study that Woodmoor had commissioned.

Gillette said that the Tetra Tech study completed in late July presented different indirect potable water reuse concepts and related cost analyses to see if they were worth pursuing. "It's pretty expensive; the numbers are pretty outrageous," he said. "It's not a question of if you can do it, but if you can afford to do it." Estimates are in the \$20 million-plus range. "I think that will be a (WWSD) board discussion," he said. "The numbers were jaw-dropping," Strom said, "and you would need a

huge public relations plan."

Gillette said that WWSD and the Town of Monument did not make any decisions and have not talked about any specific plant locations or water sources yet, but only discussed the different technologies and levels of processes available to make water safe. He said it was all just conceptual ideas, and so far, WWSD did not have any specific plans determined.

Strom said a representative from the town was at the meeting with Tetra Tech but asked only a few questions about the study.

Gillette said even though the technology is "out there" and in use at the Town of Parker, "right now there are no regulations, so that's part of the problem."

However, MSD Environmental Compliance Coordinator Jim Kendrick reported that at the Colorado Wastewater Utility Council (WWUC) meeting on July 12, PE John Rehring of Carollo Engineers presented an update on the long-term WaterReuse Colorado Direct Potable Reuse. Rehring said he does not expect any type of potable water reuse project, either direct or indirect, to happen in Colorado for at least 10 years, because there is no path for approval through the Colorado Water Quality Control Division or Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 8 yet.

Gillette said the Water Reuse Council is trying to push for legislation in Washington, D.C., and get lawmakers to reconsider water reuse because of issues with water scarcity.

See related Aug. 7 Monument Board of Trustees article on page 1.

**WET testing protocols changing**  
Burks reviewed all the results for the monthly discharge monitoring report. The only aberration was that in the second-quarter Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) compliance test, there was one area of failure with respect to the proper percentage of larval survival and growth of Pimephales promelas (fathead minnows), but as long as that result did not happen again in the third quarter, it would be OK, he said.

Kendrick said that during his recent A-level water operator continuing education training school session in Leadville, he learned more about proposed changes by the EPA for WET tests. He said Shannon Phelps and Kira Grissom of Seacrest Group said that the EPA is considering a nationwide procedural revision to re-

quire a facility that fails one quarterly WET test, to conduct three WET tests per month for a year or more. It is not clearly defined how long the intensive testing would be required then. Burks commented that TLWWTF had gone 18 years without one WET test failure, but that the test has already been changed, making it more likely that the facility would fail a WET test.

Kendrick said he requested that the Wastewater Utility Council (WWUC) include an agenda item for Seacrest to make the same presentation so that Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Clean Water Program Manager Nicole Rowan could then hear how facility operators would respond to the proposed new system, since she attends those stakeholder meetings.

### Hazardous material incident

Wicklund said the EPA will be setting up a meeting with the managers of Johnson & Johnson's DePuy Synthes surgical orthopedic appliances manufacturing plant on Synthes Avenue. In June, one of Synthes' subcontractors apparently dumped a tanker full of used gearbox oil into a Synthes private sampling manhole. This toxic flammable hazardous material then flowed through Synthes' private service line into the MSD sanitary sewer collection system and downstream to TLWWTF.

Burks said the TLWWTF aeration basins and clarifiers were covered in oil that day, but the plant did not end up having an aerobic treatment upset or a permit violation. Wicklund said he took photos showing the truck draining into the Synthes manhole and a dark stain inside the manhole that showed how high the oil had filled the area before it drained down to TLWWTF. "This is a flammable substance, and it put our employees at risk," Burks said.

### Secondary clarifier replacements

Burks asked the JUC about options related to rebuilding or replacing secondary Clarifier B's entire set of three gear boxes, which are now 25 years old. The consensus was instead of rebuilding one section of it this year, he would order a whole new set of three gear boxes for about \$62,800, and wait until next year for installation and factory training of TLWWTF operators at a cost of about \$27,000 per clarifier. Burks said the facility would then rebuild Clarifier B's original three sets of gears to be installed as the replacements for Secondary Clarifier A, since they are identical.

Clarifier A's three gear boxes are also eligible for rebuilding and would cost about \$35,600 each.

Burks' other comments in the facility manager's report included:

- Aslan Construction is close to sending the final payout paperwork for the total phosphorus (TP) chemical removal clarifier expansion.
- The TP chemical removal clarifier has passed all Fire Department inspections.
- Veris Environmental LLC is performing removal and dewatering of about 300 dry tons of accumulated sludge from the facility's sludge lagoon, which is done every two years at TLWWTF; Veris tractor-trailers haul away this Class B sludge cake fertilizer for recycling via agricultural land application.
- The state's Discharge Monitoring Report Quality Assurance Study tested all of our TLWWTF in-house and contractor labs, and every one passed.



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