

MONTHLY STAFF REPORT

DATE:	April 1, 2010
TO:	Rocky Mount Town Council
FROM:	Bob Deitrich, Superintendent
DEPARTMENT:	Water Department
MONTH:	March 2010

Operation and Production Summary:

The plant continues to be staffed for 12 hours on weekdays and 10 hours on weekends. Actual water production time (filtering of water) averaged 10.6 hours based on water demand. On 15 days out of the month we produced water for the full shift.

Water production averaged 0.85 MGD for the entire month.

Total Raw Water Pumped:	27.3 million gallons
Total Drinking Water Produced:	26.5 million gallons
Average Daily Production:	0.85 million gallons per day
Ave Percent of Production Capacity:	43%
Flushing Mains/Tanks by Water Dept:	3000 gallons – Diamond Ave dead end
In-house (Metered) Gallons Used:	637,000 gallons
Bulk Purchases:	None

Operational Issues:

- All routine monthly bacteriological samples were negative (no bacteria detected).
- When practical, we delay starting the plant when river conditions are poor. This saves on chemicals since it is common to nearly double our use of coagulant and chlorine with extremely muddy water. We had one opportunity to delay production in March and we used the time to remove a pump motor for service.
- We evaluated a new brand of chemical coagulant over a period of two days. The product performed well. At a savings of \$2,500 per truck load, we will be switching to the new supplier with our next order, probably by the end of April.
- Plant staff viewed a training video for Lockout/Tag-out procedures.

Repairs/Maintenance/Leaks:

- The Streaming Current Monitor was repaired by plant staff. This device helps dial in the chemical dosage to improve performance and reduce chemical usage.
- We are filling deep cracks in our drive way, parking area, and loading dock area with sand washed up by recent floods. Filling the cracks will help with the application of crack sealer which we plan to apply before next winter.
- Plant staff cleaned debris and mud and repaired the fence along the river bank that had been damaged by floods.

(Repairs/Maintenance/Leaks (cont)):

- A number of our pump and motor combinations are showing signs of significant wear (vibration, shaft wobble, noisy bearings). There has not been a routine schedule for evaluation/repair of our pumps and motors in the recent years. Motor and pump repair can be costly if parts are worn beyond their useful life. Routine service can reduce the long term costs of operation, just as our ongoing maintenance contract on our water storage tanks has kept them in top shape. Three companies' representatives have offered quotes for a variety of services. We are evaluating our options; however, to keep our Water Plant reliable, staff has removed one of our raw water pump motors for service. Lloyd Electric of Roanoke is replacing bearings and testing the motor for proper operation. By removing the motor ourselves, we saved \$900.

Upcoming Activities for April:

- Reinstall raw water pump motor.
- Pull pump and motor at lower Grassy Hill Pump Station (tentative).
- Selected staff will attend comprehensive training on fluoride treatment in Salem, VA (free course).
- Last fall, plant staff rehabbed isolation valves that will allow us to drain and clean one side of the settling basins while running the Water Plant at half speed instead of losing an entire day of water production as has been the practice. We will proceed with the semi-annual cleanout in April.
- Plant staff will be handling grounds keeping duties and our tanks and pump stations.

Attachment(s): No