



Passaic Valley Water Commission

Executive Director Report by Jim Mueller

March 22, 2023

Board Meeting

1) Operational Issues

Project Highlight: During the week of **February 27th**, work began to replace a section of the 51" transmission main at Valley Road & Robin Hood Road in Clifton, as well as excavating and repairing a 48" gate valve near our Great Notch pump station (Woodland Park). PVWC's 330 gradient was back on our system **March 6th**. Thank you to the Engineering, Pumping, and Distribution Departments and to PVWC employees *Ron Umstead, Mario Cucuzzella, Emilio Cesario, Chris Cummings, Jr., Florian Stoica, Jeff Holmes, Jr., Andra Shearn and Bradley Sermond* for their tireless work over 16 hours days to successfully complete the work.

ODHR

- Commencement of Beta Testing for Time & Labor tracking through Paylocity (with a "Go Live" on April 2nd).
- Roll-Out of Self-Service Portal through Paylocity ("Go Live" on April 2nd).
- Postings, Interviews Scheduled and/or begun for SCADA Engineer, Water Sample Collector and Senior Accountant.

EH&S

- Training currently being setup/conducted: FEMA ICS/NIMS for all dept. heads and key staff (deadline of April 28th), OSHA 3115 Fall Protection, Disaster Site Worker Training (in-house through Joey A.), Fast Track to Safety for all Operators, Maintenance/Janitorial staff, and Lab staff (encompasses about 8 different courses into one session), and HAZCOMM/GHS for all staff.
- Stop Work Authority Program has been rolled out (softly), reviewing the new program and getting feedback at the department specific meetings held (Maintenance, distribution, etc) and speaking about the program in the field during EHS inspections. Positive feedback has been given to EHS and once the design of the stop work authority cards is finalized and printed, they will be distributed to all PVWC staff and a formal rollout and training in the program will ensue.

Pump Station

- PVWC's contractor, Siemens, has started the second round of the inspection, testing, calibration, and maintenance of the electrical systems at the Little Falls site. Equipment tested this month includes additional work in the Ozone Substation including the motor control centers and the switchgear in the Actiflo Building including the main switchboard and the motor control centers. This work required hydraulic outages of the filter Plant.
- The rebuilt Great Notch Pump No.1 was returned and installed at the Great Notch Pump Station.

Engineering

- The Engineering Department is starting up various professional services contracts which will provide the Commission on-call engineering services which include the following Work:
 - Planning short-term and long-term water main replacement programs based on pipe criticality, quality of service and need for the replacement of outdated assets.
 - Performing condition assessment on transmission mains and critical mains at the LFWTP.
 - Performing condition assessment of PVWC's facilities.
 - On-call engineering services for the rehabilitation or upgrade of Water Treatment Processes at the LFWTP.
 - On-call engineering services for assisting with the development of Standard Operating Procedures, performing site plan reviews and managing the Commission's Master Permit with the NJDEP.



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- The Advanced Work for the Levine Tanks Project is underway. The contractor, Grade Construction, has performed all required test pitting and will proceed with transmission main work starting in mid-April 2023.
- The Lead Service Line Replacement Program is underway. The contractor, Pacific Construction, has replaced over 700 lead service lines since the beginning of the project.

Customer Service

- Continue cross training staff for different duties in order to proactively keep tasks from being delayed if someone is out.
- In an effort to be more proactive engaging with customers a business process is being created so specific customer service representatives can be assigned the task to call the customer back with testing results.
- Continuing to inform customers of the LIHWAP program and when not applicable, enrolling them into interest free payment plans within a manageable timeframe for the customer to minimize the risk of default.

Purification

- Working with our consultant Process Applications - created a monthly state report on the new NJ Area-Wide Optimization Program (AWOP) data submission of individual filter effluent (IFE) and combined filter effluent (CFE).
- Working with our consultant Cornwell – developing a pilot study to help PVWC determine the best GAC configuration to comply with the new PFAS regulation.

Purchasing

- In order to address PVWC's growing needs, the purchasing department is now responsible for all areas of procurement including the preparation of all bid documents, particularly specifications.
- HTE access has been granted to members of several departments, who previously did not have access, in order to exercise consistency between department responsibilities and to assist these departments to more easily procure the goods they require. Training on the HTE system is being provided to these departments by the Purchasing team.
- In response to the new challenges to procurement resulting from high prices and supply chain shortages that are consequences of the pandemic, the purchasing department is reevaluating the length of certain contracts to best serve PVWC's needs and to ensure that we are procuring the quantity and quality required to operate for the lowest possible price.

IT

- CMMS Testing nearly complete – system rollout schedule to be finalized.
- PVWC has deployed an enterprise backup solution that is fully NJCCIC, NJMEL compliant.
- PVWC migrating to AT&T FirstNet, avoiding substantial recurring communication costs.

Communications & Intergovernmental Coordination

- Continuing to inform public officials of anticipated work to be done, resulting in a positive Facebook post by North Arlington Mayor Pronti
- Working together with our municipal fire departments, resulting in a positive Facebook post from Paterson Councilman Uddin (he gave PVWC a shoutout on his page)
- Clifton City Council Meeting 03/07/2023 – resulted in a positive article from Clifton Times

2) Organizational Highlights – Performance and Succession Planning

- Performance evaluations were sent to each of the Department Heads for their self-assessment of performance for the 1st quarter of 2023.
- Continuing to work on PVWC’s Strategic Plan and developing organizational charts for each Department.
- Town Hall meetings have been held with various groups within PVWC including Distribution – Main Gang (3/3/23); Little Falls shift work staff in Purification and Pumping and Power (3/9/23); and Distribution: Meters and Mark Outs (3/17/23) to discuss and present PVWC’s Organizational Vision.

New Hires: The following staff have joined PVWC over the last month. These new hires will be introduced at next week’s Board meeting.

<u>Names</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Department</u>
Arnelly Sanquintin	2/27/23	Commercial
Lendel Jones	3/6/23	Communications

The Director positions approved by the Board in 2022 have all been filled.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Status</u>
Director, Organizational Development and Human Resources (ODHR)	The top candidate, Otto Garcia , started July 5, 2022.
Director, Laboratory and Water Quality (LWQ)	The top candidate Jennifer Loudon , started August 1, 2022.
Director, Environmental Health and Safety (EHS)	The top candidate Brandon Fuld , started September 12, 2022.
Director, Information Technology (IT)	The top candidate, Landy Ducheine , started September 6, 2022.
Director, Communications and Intergovernmental Coordination (CIC)	The top candidate, Lendel Jones , started March 6, 2023.
General Supervisor Water Distribution	Interviews concluded – Mike Marotta , promoted to Chief Operations Officer overseeing Distribution as of February 22, 2023.

3) Regulatory Issues

Lead Service Line Replacement Status:

The contract with Pacific Construction (Contract 22-B-8) started in July 2022 and the contract with CDM-Smith for CM and service line inspections began in the Spring. The overall program is estimated at \$36M and we have received 77% principal forgiveness (\$27M) from the NJ I-Bank. Work has begun on replacement of lead line in all cities with a summary listed below as of March 7, 2023.



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Passaic Valley Water Commission Lead Service Line Tracking Summary

	CLIFTON	PASSAIC	PATERSON	PROSPECT PARK	TOTAL
Inspections					
Remaining Unknowns LSLR Program ⁽¹⁾	717	553	997	15	2,282
Total Inspection Completed	527	341	270	33	1,171
LSLR Inspection Lead Verified ⁽²⁾	53	12	22	9	96
LSLR Inspection Unable to Verify ⁽³⁾	40	16	30	1	87
LSLR Inspection, Non Lead Verified	434	313	218	23	988
Submitted Photo Inspection	2	1	1	-	4
Total Inspections Attempted by Address	1,640	931	888	130	3,589
Test Pit Program, Non Lead Verified	1,931	723	1,737	43	4,434
Test Pit Program, Lead Verified	48	21	73	1	143
% Found to Be Lead	10%	4%	8%	27%	8%
Replacements					
Contract 22-B-8 Remaining ⁽⁴⁾	1,771	904	2,897	64	5,636
Replaced Lead Service Lines	148	230	200	98	676
Verified Non Lead by Test Pit	19	52	56	29	156
% Complete	9%	24%	8%	66%	13%
Completed Pavement Restoration	8	4	5	8	25
Pending Pavement Restoration	15	9	6	9	39
Completed Sidewalk Restoration	9	57	32	38	136
Pending Sidewalk Restoration	9	31	153	15	208
Completed Lawn Restoration	83	142	1	134	360
Pending Lawn Restoration	89	97	92	20	298
Completed Interior Restoration	20	68	89	2	179
Pending Interior Restoration	3	8	8	2	21
NON LEAD	20,402	7,085	19,994	1,094	48,575
Total	22,890	8,542	23,888	1,173	56,493

PFAS

On March 14, 2023, EPA announced the proposed National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for six PFAS including perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA, commonly known as GenX Chemicals), perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), and perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS). The proposed PFAS NPDWR does not require any actions until it is finalized. EPA anticipates finalizing the regulation by the end of 2023.

EPA is proposing a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) to establish legally enforceable levels, called Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), for six PFAS in drinking water. PFOA and PFOS as individual contaminants, and PFHxS, PFNA, PFBS, and HFPO-DA (commonly referred to as GenX Chemicals) as a PFAS mixture. EPA is also proposing health-based, non-enforceable Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs) for these six PFAS.

Compound	Proposed MCLG	Proposed MCL (enforceable levels)
PFOA	Zero	4.0 parts per trillion (also expressed as ng/L)
PFOS	Zero	4.0 ppt
PFNA	1.0 (unitless) Hazard Index	1.0 (unitless) Hazard Index
PFHxS		
PFBS		
HFPO-DA (commonly referred to as GenX Chemicals)		

The proposed rule would also require public water systems to:

- **Monitor for these PFAS**
- **Notify the public of the levels of these PFAS**
- **Reduce the levels of these PFAS in drinking water if they exceed the proposed standards.**

PVWC is actively developing a pilot program to evaluate various filter media configurations to determine the best path forward to compliance for PVWC. We are also engaging the Water Research Foundation (WRF) to collaborate on peer review and knowledge-sharing opportunities.

Lead and Copper

NJDEP came out with new rules for lead and copper that go into effect in 2024. These rules impact sampling methodologies and public notification policies that require optimizing and modifying internal PVWC business processes and resources. We have established an internal working group comprised of Executive, Laboratory, Engineering, Distribution, Communications, and Purification staff to develop workflows, identify needed resources and prepare a plan for compliance that will be in place when the new rules take effect.

Consent Orders

To be discussed in closed session.

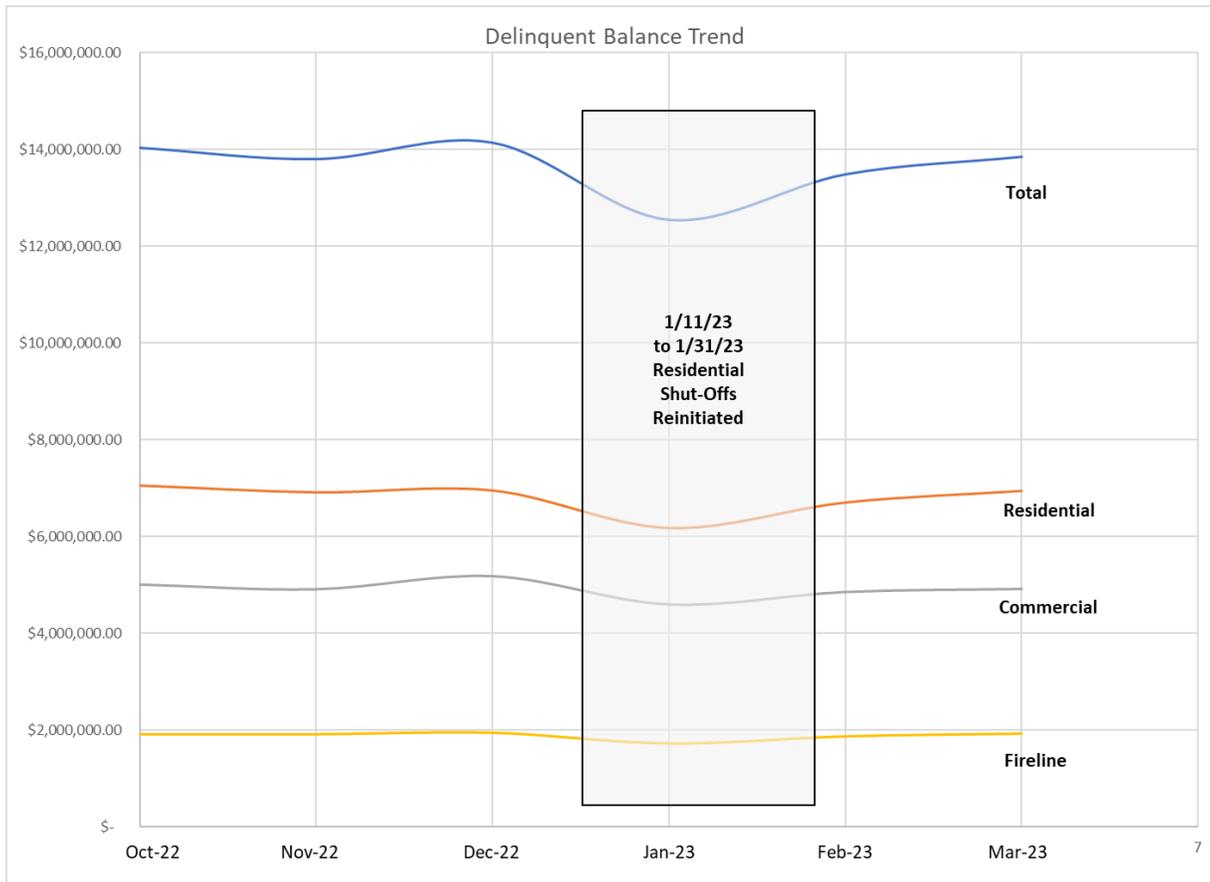
4) Delinquent Accounts

As of January 30, 2023, PVWC ceased shut-offs due to the cold weather. We continue to work with the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program and the NJ Winter Termination Program. The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) maintained a written policy known as the Winter Termination Program (WTP) by which regulated electric or gas utility companies could not discontinue service to certain household which ended on March 15, 2023. We will start to notify customers that we will begin shut offs on April 3, 2023.

A summary table of delinquent accounts and the associated trends are provided on the next page.



Retail System - Delinquent Account Summary					
Account Type	\$	% \$	# Accounts	% Accounts	\$/Account
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Residential	\$ 6,944,961	50%	6,971	77%	\$ 996.26
Small Commercial-< 2'	\$ 3,062,595	22%	1,490	16%	\$ 2,055.43
Fireline	\$ 1,916,049	14%	257	3%	\$ 7,455.44
Commercial-up to 6" mtr	\$ 954,198	7%	256	3%	\$ 3,727.34
Industrial- 6" & above	\$ 902,961	7%	59	1%	\$15,304.42
Municipal	\$ 65,929	0.5%	38	0.4%	\$ 1,734.97
Total	\$ 13,846,693	100%	9,071	100%	\$ 1,526.48



5) Communications and Intergovernmental Coordination

- a) Quarterly status meetings have been held with the Mayors and/or key staff from the following retail system:
The meeting agenda covered the lead service line replacement program status, unauthorized hydrant access/misuse, LIHWAP and shutoffs.
 - a. Clifton 1/11/23



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- b. Passaic Scheduled for 4/11/23
 - c. Paterson 2/9/23
 - d. North Arlington 3/6/23
 - e. Prospect Park 2/27/23
 - f. Lodi 2/16/23
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- b) PVWC coordinated hydrant training with our owner city fire departments to be held on March 30th.
 - c) PVWC attended the Clifton Council meeting on 3/7/23 to present an overview of the new PVWC organization and mission, vision, core values; short-term and long-term water main replacement plans; status of the lead service line replacement program; and delinquent accounts.
 - d) Our new Director of Communications, Lendel Jones has instituted a new monthly newsletter called "PVWC Proud!" that is meant to highlight PVWC staff who are out-and-about in the community
 - e) We are finalizing new bill inserts for "Get the Lead Out" program to continue to increase customer awareness regarding the replacement of customer lead service lines for FREE!